



Fleet Primary School

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YEAR 4 TOPIC LETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2021



An Adventure through Time

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It's been lovely to see everyone after the summer holidays and hear about all the adventures you've been having. Our new topic this term is History based and is called An Adventure through Time. We will be going on a journey through history, exploring the Roman, Tudor and Victorian periods and focussing on our own wonderful city: London.

To kick off our new Topics, alongside our normal topic letter we will also be sending home a 'Topic snapshot'. This snapshot should be a useful introduction to the key learning throughout this term. It would be great if you could discuss the key facts with your child and help them to become familiar with the vocabulary etc. You could keep it on the fridge to refer back to throughout their learning this term!

In English we will start off by researching the Roman invasion of Britain and will write kenning poems. Then we will learn about Boudicca, doing some drama and writing in role. Next we'll move onto the Tudors, looking at Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and writing our own play scripts and also writing some reports on Henry VIII. When we look at the Victorians we will write some adventure stories about a Victorian street child, using Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist as inspiration and then nearer to Christmas we'll explore A Christmas Carol.

Our History will focus on the three historical periods we're looking at over our topics: looking at aspects of Roman, Tudor and Victorian life and significant events and people. Our Geography will link closely to our History, focussing on Europe and the UK. We will first study the expansion of the Roman Empire over Europe and then focus on how the Romans conquered Britain and how that affects some aspects of our Geography today. We will compare the Roman Empire with the rise of the British Empire in the Victorian times, doing some contrasting map work.

In Science, we will begin with a focus on changing sounds, which will involve finding out about about sound; how it travels, pitch and volume. After half term we will be looking at states of matter, including solids, liquids and gases.

In RE we will be looking at Christianity, focusing on the Bible and the Christmas story. In Art we will have a focus on portraits: first creating



some portraits of Boudicca to link with our writing in English, then studying some Tudor portraits. We will link our DT to this learning and will be designing and making picture frames. In Maths the children will continue to follow the National Curriculum and will continue to develop skills around place value, written and mental methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, handling data and statistics, time and measures and fractions.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in!

PE this term is on **Monday and Tuesday**. The children will need to make sure **they come into school wearing** shorts/ leggings/ tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and trainers. Please ensure they bring a bag of clothes to change into after PE. *It would be really helpful if clothes and PE kit bags are labelled!* Swimming will begin again this term. Year 4 will have their first session on Monday 27th September. We will be swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks at Kentish Town Baths. Further information will follow in a separate letter.

The children will be starting trumpet and trombone lessons on **Thursday** so please remind them to bring their instrument and music folder on those days. It is essential for you to send your child in with **a labelled water bottle** for school to allow them to get drinks during the day. This is really important because the drinking fountains are not in use.

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

Friday 17th September: Trip to Museum of London, Romans Gallery

Wednesday 3rd November: Trip to Hampton Court Palace

Thursday 11th November: Visit to Gospel Oak Church

Tuesday 16th November: Trip to Vue Cinema Finchley Road to see 'Horrible Histories: Rotten Romans'

CLC: date to be confirmed

Home learning is continuing as it was last year. Home learning will be set on Seesaw **every week**, on a **Friday**. Home learning needs to be completed by the end of Thursday of the following week. Maths will often be set on Mathletics. Please ensure your child brings their reading book, in a book bag, with them to school **daily**. We are continuing to use **Bug Club** (reading) and **Times Table Rockstars** websites. Please encourage your child to use both of these websites every day for 15 minutes.

Year 4 will have a great team of adults supporting them this year. Emma and Jo will be our Class TAs, plus we will have Temian with us in the mornings and May in the afternoons. Coach Keeley will be running our Monday PE lesson. Year 4 will be learning **Trumpets and Trombones** with Rod on **Thursdays**. I will be in class with Year 4 Monday to Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Whilst I'm teaching music across the school, Ms Mulji will be teaching Year 4 on Thursdays and Ms Wall will be in on Friday mornings.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please leave either leave a message in the office or email: admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes, Lynley Benbetka

Ways you can help your child at home:

Maths

1) Please continue to help your child with their times tables. The children should be fluent in all their times table and division facts by the time they leave Year 4. If you would like any suggestions for how you can help your child learn their times tables, please feel free to speak to me at any time.

2) Counting games – practise counting in varying steps (e.g. fives, tens or hundreds) from any given three or four digit number. Bridging tens can be tricky for children (e.g. 89, 99, 109...) so that's a good area to focus. In Year 4, children are expected to be able to write and read 4-digit numbers.

4) Please continue to support your child learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks. Start by looking at o'clock and half past, then work on quarter to and quarter past and next focus on filling in the other times. You could also look at reading 24 hour times.

Literacy

1) We are continuing to teach spelling on a roughly two week cycle. Your child's new spelling list will be updated on Seesaw; please support your child with learning these words.

Your child should also be confident spelling the first hundred high frequency words (a list of these can be found online at <http://www.highfrequencywords.org/first-100-high-frequency-word-lists.html> or we can print you one if needed). If you notice your child misspelling any of these, then please practise them. Additionally, if you notice any words in your child's reading diary or home learning which they are frequently misspelling, please feel free to practise these also.

2) Please continue to read with your child **every night** for at least 15 minutes. Children should be leaving a note on Seesaw **every day** with a record of which book they were reading and how many pages and then leaving a short comment **once a week**. Feel free to add any additional comments if you wish. Children are also given new follow up tasks **weekly** which follow their reading session with me in class. Please remind your child to complete these! The information supplied on Seesaw is a very useful record for us about your child's reading so your support in keeping this up to date is much appreciated.

3) Encourage writing wherever possible. Emails, shopping lists, diaries, postcards and comics are all fun ideas. Whilst keeping it fun, please encourage your child to write in clear sentences with capital letters, full stops and conjunctions such as with, but, so, while to link ideas together and stretch out sentences. We have been working on enriching sentences by looking at, for example, varied verb and adjective choices, adding adverbs and changing pronouns. Children should be familiar with recognising verbs, adjectives, nouns and adverbs but it can be helpful to reinforce this learning by looking for examples as you read or write together.