



Fleet Primary School

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Year 5 Topic Letter – Autumn Term 2021

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families had a restful and fun summer holiday. Our topic this term is 'Journey to Valhalla'. In this history-based topic, we will be studying the life and times of the Vikings.

First, we will become 'Viking Voyagers', learning about when and where the Vikings lived, why they decided to voyage to other countries and how they did so. We will learn about their impressive longships and imagine what it would have been like to travel on the turbulent North Sea, leading to us writing poems describing this. We'll also create some stormy sea collages depicting the voyage.

We will then become 'Raiders and Invaders', learning about famous Viking raids on England: how they attacked, the weapons they used and the impact of this on England. In particular, we'll learn about the raid at Lindisfarne and write in-role letters and a newspaper report on the event. However, it's not all blood and gore – we'll study how and where the Vikings settled in England and what their lifestyle was like. This will include studying Viking artefacts and learning about Viking longhouses, food, clothing, trades and religion. We will compare this with the Anglo-Saxon way of life. The epic poem Beowulf will be a key text, giving us an insight into life at that time, Anglo-Saxon myth writing and inspiring us in our writing. After this, we will learn about King Alfred the Great's impact on the Vikings, the Battle of Hastings and the decline of Viking rule as well as their lasting impact.

In just a few weeks' time, **Year 5 will be off on our school journey to Sayers Croft (Monday 11th - Friday 15th of October)**. This is a fantastic trip: the children will take part in a range of activities led by trained instructors, such as abseiling, archery, pond dipping, orienteering and night walks. The children love it and get so much out of the trip! You will receive a letter soon with more details; in the meantime, please come to the class meeting on **Tuesday the 14th of September** to find out more about the trip and the coming year in general.

Our first science focus this term is 'Properties and Changes of Materials', where we will be using our knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to compare, group together and separate everyday materials. We will be conducting exciting experiments to find out which materials dissolve in liquids and to explore reversible and irreversible changes.

In maths, we will follow the National Curriculum, focusing on the objectives below. Along with securing calculation skills, the development of reasoning and problem-solving skills will be embedded into lessons. By the beginning of Year 5, **children are expected to know all multiplication and related division facts up to 12 x 12**. We work on these in school, but if your child is unsure on them, please support them to practise these facts at home too to ensure they can access the Year 5 curriculum - we are subscribed to Times Table Rockstars which is a quick and fun way to practice at home.

Autumn term objectives:

- Place value in numbers up to 1,000,000 and with up to 3 decimal places
- Rounding numbers to the nearest given amount e.g. nearest tenth, nearest thousand

- Addition and subtraction using mental methods and the compact columnar method
- Use times table knowledge to identify multiples and factors, recognise prime numbers
- Multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000
- Use short and long multiplication, and short division
- Compare and order fractions, identify equivalent fractions, add and subtract fractions, convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions

This year, year 5 will begin learning to play either the trumpet or trombone with a specialist teacher. Please encourage them to practise regularly at home and they must remember their instrument and music folder every Thursday. We'll also have twice weekly P.E. sessions, on Monday and Friday. Please ensure your child brings in their PE kit on those days to enable them to fully participate in a vital part of the curriculum. If they would prefer to come to school dressed in their PE kits then they must have a spare change of clothes to change into after.

The children will have the opportunity to read every day at school, so it is essential that **they bring in a suitable reading book and their reading diary every day**. It is expected that your child reads for around 15 minutes at home every day and that their reading diary is signed off by an adult at home. **Home learning will be set on Seesaw on Friday and is due the following Thursday**. The home learning will be explained at school and will cover a maths objective (usually reflecting that week's learning). Your child should be able to complete their home learning independently. It is important that your child has a secure grasp of their times tables up to 12 x 12. To help with this, the school has signed up to **Times Table Rock stars and your child will need to complete a 5 minute session four times a week**. It has been found that practising regularly for a short amount of time is most effective. If your child does not have their log in details, please ask. The children will be given 10 spelling lists to work through, they will be tested every Friday. If they get all 10 correct then they will move up to the next list. If they do not pass then they will need to repeat the test each week until they do. It is important that your child practices their spellings regularly and understands the meaning of each word in context so that they can progress through the lists.

Here are some suggestions of activities and resources to support your child's learning at home:

- Practice key maths skills, spelling, grammar and punctuation using www.discoveryeducation.com. Go to 'log in' in the top right-hand corner, select 'espresso' and log in with the details: **Username: student21013; password: fleetp**. From the home page you can navigate to a range of activities under the 'Key Stage 2' tab.
- Use www.mathletics.com to access activities and explanatory videos of all areas of the maths curriculum. Their log in details are stuck in the front cover of their Home Learning Journals. Also, Times Table Rock Stars: <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school>
- Ensure your child is reading every day and that they read a range of genres. Discuss the characters, plots and language used in their books. Reading does really support writing and help to expand their vocabulary and range of ideas.
- Test your child on their spellings (found in their home learning journals) a few times every week and go over previously learnt ones regularly. If you notice your child struggling with particular words, focus on practising these too.



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If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school email: admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Asha Sale