



Fleet Primary School

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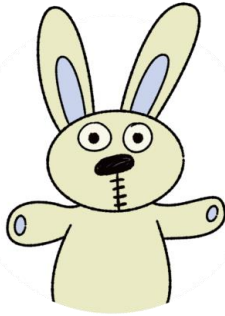
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Year 1 Topic Letter – Autumn Term 2022

The Adventures of Knuffle Bunny

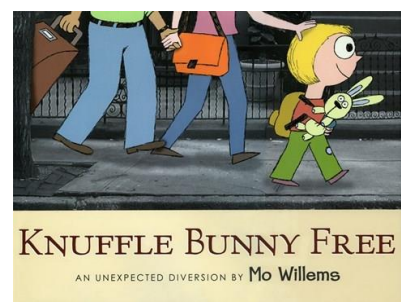
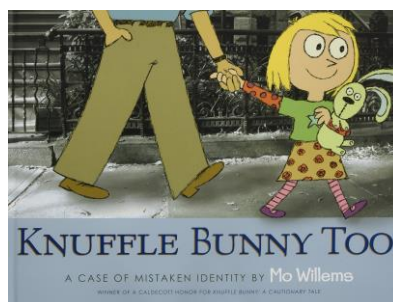
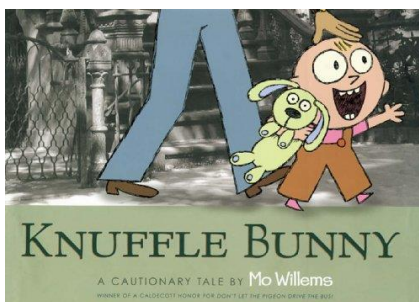


Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school and to Y1! I hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays. The children have settled into our new class routines exceptionally well since they returned – the adults have all been very impressed! Our lovely Teaching Assistants this year are Shami, Joanne, Rosa and Mae. Rhian Mulji will cover my Planning, Preparation and Assessment time on Wednesday afternoons, during which she will teach Science.

We aim to make the transition to Key Stage 1 as smooth as possible by running Year 1 along similar lines as Reception, using the Integrated Learning approach, which is strongly supported by the broad and balanced creative curriculum integral to Fleet. This approach supports the social, emotional and developmental needs of the children. This means the children will still have opportunity to learn through play throughout the day as well as having directed teaching and learning time. A typical day consists of a writing lesson, phonics, guided reading, maths and then a topic based activity. We also have assemblies, PE, singing and music sessions throughout the week.

We are all very excited about our topic - *The Adventures of Knuffle Bunny*. This Geography based topic is inspired by the Knuffle Bunny trilogy by Mo Willems. In the first story, the main character, Trixie, loses her favourite toy. The second story has a friendship theme and overcoming a dilemma. In the third story, Trixie leaves Knuffle Bunny on an aeroplane and imagines it going around the world.



We will follow the themes of the stories by first sharing and talking about our own favourite toys. We have a toy shop role-play area in the classroom. We will then use the second story to discuss the areas of wellbeing and friendship. Here we will set our class charter. Then we will launch into the Geography aspects of the topic where Knuffle Bunny travels around the world.

Geography

First we will pretend Knuffle Bunny is in the UK and learn about the countries, capital cities and flags of the United Kingdom, as well as national seasonal weather patterns. Knuffle Bunny will then go on an adventure and we will learn about hot and cold areas around the world.

Writing

For writing, we will build on the excellent work in Reception, encouraging and supporting the children to write independently. Writing will be linked to our topic and other high quality texts. It will include activities such as writing speech bubbles, poems, fact files, instructions, recounts and narratives. The children will be encouraged to say out loud what they are going to write, composing a sentence orally before they begin. They will begin to sequence sentences to build up a longer narrative. Re-reading their writing is also a key skill we focus on in Year 1. The children will also regularly engage in news writing where they will record personal experiences. We will help children to remember basic punctuation and spellings. We will also have separate handwriting activities throughout the week.

Science

In Science, we will learn about materials, using toys as a motivator for this. The children will learn to identify and name different materials, as well as describing simple physical properties. They will compare and group different materials. We will also learn about the seasons this term.

History

In History, we will look at popular toys throughout history as well as aviation history including key figures involved in this.



Art and Design

For Art and Design, we will create cityscapes, including famous London landmarks. A trip to Parliament Hill will help us with this. We will also look at traditional art from the different countries we 'visit' and use these to motivate our own art making. Our key areas of learning will include drawing, painting and printmaking.

Design Technology

For Design Technology, we will make sock rabbits. If you have any odd socks at home, please send them in for us to use. The children will have the opportunity to develop their cutting, sticking and sewing skills. We will also make our own instruments and Chinese dragon puppets. Towards the end of the term, closer to Christmas, we will set up an Elves Workshop role-play areas where the children can make other simple toys.

As we learn about different counties, we will also incorporate food technology and make some traditional dishes. If this is something you think you might be able to help us with, please let me know.

Maths

In Maths we will be following the National Curriculum using a programme called White Rose Maths. We will focus on key big ideas and the children will have lots of opportunities to apply and develop their mathematical language, fluency and understanding as well as to solve problems and extend their reasoning skills. Our Maths focuses this term will be place value within 10 and 20,

addition and subtraction and shapes for geometry. We will focus on: mathematical language, where children will be encouraged to explain their maths thinking, understanding objects and pictures before moving on to symbols, signs, and problem solving.

Reading

We read daily, with a combination of whole-class, shared, guided and individual reading. I will read formally with your child three times a week and their books will be changed once a week. Each reading session I have with your child will have a different focus. The first session focus on decoding the text. The second on reading with fluency, expression and intonation. The third lesson focuses on comprehension of the text. Once we have had our three sessions, your child will bring the book home to read to you. By which point, they will know it well. We know that re-reading a text develops reading fluency and confidence. Along with the guided reading book, they will take home two 'real' books from the book corner.



Please note that the children must have their book bags in school every day. It is crucial at this stage in your child's development that they read regularly, at school and at home. It is the best thing you can do at home to help with their learning so please read to and with your child on a daily basis. The reading log is there for you to write any questions or comments. Please also note that the guided reading books cost £5.75 each so please take good care of them. If a book goes missing, it means we do not have the correct number for the next group.

Phonics

Phonics will be taught in class on a daily basis. We will carry on with the same phonics programme taught in Reception so the children will be very familiar with the language and skills taught. This systematic programme is very snappy with the children learning 4 sounds a week. We then have a day to consolidate learning. Please come along to our phonics morning on Wednesday the 12th of October to see the types of things we do in phonics and how you can help at home.

P.E.

This term we have PE every Monday with Coach Keeley and our own lesson on Tuesday. On these days especially, children should wear trainers and comfortable clothing in which they can easily move. It's a good idea to do this every day anyway. The children in Key Stage 1 do not need a PE kit.

Forest School

This half term we will have Forest School sessions every Thursday afternoon. We will be able to incorporate many of the Year 1 learning objects into this time in a really fun and exciting way. More information will follow separately about this.

House Keeping



Water Bottles

We ask you to provide your child with a water bottle with their name written on it, which they should bring to school every day full with water for the day ahead. If needed, the children can refill their bottles during breaks.

Clothing

Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. If it looks like it is going to rain, please send a raincoat as the children will sometimes still go outside in light drizzle.



Topic Snapshot

The Topic Snapshot attached to this letter is an introduction to the key learning throughout the term. Please read and discuss this with your child and help them to become familiar with the

vocabulary.



Class Trips

We have some lovely class trips this term to link with our Topic. We will need adult volunteers to help support us on these trips so if you have the time then please do let me know.

There is a sign up sheet for all of our trips beside the classroom door.

Important Dates

Y1 Class Meeting – Thursday 15th September at 6.30pm

Hampstead Heath Trip, morning only – Friday 23rd September

China Town Trip – Tuesday 11th October. **Packed lunch required**

Phonics and reading open morning – Wednesday 12th October

CLC to visit us at school – Friday 21st October

Class Tea – Thursday 10th November

Class Assembly – Friday 11th November

Cinema Trip to see Encanto – Wednesday 16th November. **Packed lunch required**

Parent Evenings – Tuesday 22nd November and Thursday 24th November

Infant Christmas Show – Friday 2rd December

Belsize Synagogue Hanukkah outing – Monday 12th December

Infant Christmas Party – Wednesday 14th December – We will need help with setting this up please.

National Gallery trip, all day, TBC. **Packed lunch required**

Supporting Your Child at Home

Literacy

- Read every night to and/or with your child.
- Encourage writing wherever possible. A special writing book and pens can help with motivation as can writing for real-life purposes (eg: shopping lists, postcards, lists etc.) Whilst still keeping it fun, please help your child to write in clear sentences with a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.



- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.phonicsbloom.com
- www.lovelybooks.co.uk

- www.childrens.poetryarchive.org
- <https://teachhandwriting.co.uk/parents.html>
- <https://www.busythings.co.uk> (There is a special login for this that will be given out)

Maths

- Help your child to learn all Number Bonds to 10. $5+5=10$, $8+2=10$ etc
- Help your child to tell the time by knowing o'clock and half past and to relate this to your daily routines.
- Help your child to add small totals of money and calculate change.
- Measure ingredients when cooking or baking.



- www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks
- https://mathsathome.lgfl.org.uk/y1_subject.html
- www.ictgames.co.uk
- www.primarygames.com
- www.topmarks.co.uk
- <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/> (There is a special login for this that will be given out)
- <https://www.busythings.co.uk> (There is a special login for this that will be given out)

I'm looking forward to the term ahead.

Thank you for your support thus far and please do ask if you have any questions.

Beth Cleine
Year 1 Class Teacher