



# Fleet Primary School

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## YEAR 4 TOPIC LETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2022

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### An Adventure through Time

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families had a restful and fun summer holiday. It has been lovely to see everyone again 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 focusing on our own wonderful city: London.

In English we will start off by researching the Romans and will write kenning poems. Then we will learn about Boudicca, incorporating some drama and writing in role. Next we will move onto the Tudors, exploring Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and writing our own play scripts. We will visit Hampton Court Palace to research Henry the VIII and use our knowledge to write a report on Henry VIII. Finally, we will look at the Victorians, we will write adventure stories about a Victorian street child, using Charles Dickens' 'Oliver Twist' as inspiration and then nearer to Christmas we will explore 'A Christmas Carol'.

Our History lessons 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, focusing 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 portraits of Boudicca to link with our writing in English, then studying 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 Friday**. The children will need to make sure **they come into school wearing** shorts/ leggings/ tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and trainers. Swimming will begin again this

term. Year 4 will have their first session on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November. 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 without having to leave the classroom.

Home learning is continuing as it was last year. Home learning will be set on Seesaw **every week**, on a **Friday**. Maths will often be set on Mathletics and can be completed online. English homework will need to be completed in their home learning book. Home learning needs to be completed by the Thursday of the following week and their book must be brought in. Your child should be able to complete their home learning independently.

Please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading diary, in a book bag, with them to school **daily**. It is expected that your child reads for around 15 minutes a day, we are continuing to use **Bug Club** so they can choose to read on that if they'd prefer. They must write down what they have read at the back of their diary and bring it in to be signed.

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 five times a week**. It has been found that practising regularly for a short amount of time is most effective.

The children will be given 10 spelling lists to work through, they will be tested each week. They will do their test in their home learning book so that you can see which ones they need to practice. 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.

Year 4 will have a great team of adults supporting them this year. Jo, Lara and Alem will be our Class TAs. Becca (Ms Wall) will be teaching the class science and French on Thursday afternoons. Coach Keeley will be running our Monday PE lesson. Year 4 will be learning **Trumpets and Trombones** with Rod on **Thursdays**

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

**Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September:** Trip to GoApe

**Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September:** Trip to visit a Roman amphitheatre and the Museum of London (Romans)

**Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September:** Trip to Hampton Court Palace (Tudors)

**Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November – Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November:** Swimming

**Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October:** Year 4 Class Tea

**Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of October:** Year 4 Class Assembly

**Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November:** Gospel Oak Church

**Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December:** Belsize Synagogue  
**Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November:** CLC

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

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,  
Asha Sale

### **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.
- 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.
- 3) Please continue to support your child in 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) 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-words.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.
- 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.