



# Fleet Primary School

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## Year 5 Topic Letter – Autumn Term 2022

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September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families had a restful and fun summer holiday. Our topic this term is 'Winter Wonderland'. In this history-based topic, we will be studying the life and times of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and comparing aspects of Great Britain and Scandinavia.

In English, we will begin by looking at 'Beowulf'. We will write our own versions of the start of the poem. We will then continue using Michael Morpugo's retelling of the tale and write our own versions of the Beowulf story. Later on this term, we will be writing Kenning Poems. We will also write newspaper reports about Viking raids. We will then use the 'Usborne Illustrated Norse Myths' to inform our creative writing and build up to writing our own 'Norse Myths'. We will also read 'Viking Boy' and link this with our history lessons. Finally, we will use Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' to explore Drama, writing in role as a character and writing our own scenes. Class reads will include Hannah Gold's 'The Last Bear' and Catherine Johnson's 'Race to the Frozen North'. We will also have a visit from a reading dog!

In Maths, we'll be looking at Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division and Fractions. Along with securing calculation skills, the development of reasoning and problem-solving skills will be embedded into lessons. Our Autumn Term objectives are:

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

In Science, our focus this term will be '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 History, we will start with looking at the Anglo-Saxons: when, where and how they lived, and their invasions of and settlements in Britain. We will then learn about the Vikings – their longships, raids on England, lifestyle, food, clothing, trades and religion. We will compare the Anglo-Saxon and Viking ways of life, as well as their lasting impact on Great Britain. As part of our work on 'Lifting Limits', we will look at how historians first interpreted the Birka female Viking warrior skeleton and at female warriors in other Viking Age sources. In Geography, we will be using maps

and atlases to locate the main countries in Europe. We will look at Scandinavia and describe its geographical features. We will use the eight points of a compass and four figure grid references to build our knowledge of the UK in the past and present – especially linking with our History and looking at land use over time (including types of settlements in Saxon and Viking Britain).

In Art, we will be inspired by the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We will paint illuminated letters and use Saxons Runes to make our own 'stained glass' effect names. We will continue to use sketch books to develop our drawing techniques and work towards detailed drawing of Longships. We will also look at colour mixing and use this to support our paintings of Saxon and Viking ships and sea scenes. We will look at use of Light and Dark with Macbeth inspired artwork. We will support our learning with a visit to the October Gallery and a workshop with History OffThe Page.

In Design Technology, we will make sculptures of birds, as well as cooking Saxon inspired cakes and making Saxon peg dolls. Later on this term, we will make Viking inspired soda bread, pea soup and berry pancakes! We will also make Viking longships, linking to our Science work on Materials.

In Religious Education, we will be learning about Christianity. We will be looking at Advent, the cross and the events of Holy Week. This will be supported by a workshop at Gospel Oak Methodist church.

In Music, Year 5 will continue learning to play either the trumpet or trombone with a specialist teacher. They will need to remember their instrument and music folder every Thursday. This year, we are taking part in the 'Windrush Project – Celebrating the Music of the Caribbean' with Camden Music and Kinetika Bloco – which will end with a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in Spring Term. We are one of just four schools taking part in this and the only school playing the trumpets/trombones! There will be additional rehearsals (dates listed in 'Key Dates' below) where the children will be required to bring in their trumpet/trombone. Please encourage them to practise regularly at home to make the most of this amazing opportunity!

P.E this term will be on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays**. Please ensure your child comes dressed in their PE kit on those days to enable them to fully participate in a vital part of the curriculum. On Mondays, they must bring a spare change of clothes to change into after. Tuesdays will be sessions with Arsenal Primary Stars and will be in the afternoon.

Rhian Mulji will be teaching the children on Monday afternoons during my PPA, covering French and ICT. Our ICT learning will be supported with a trip to the Camden Learning Centre this term. In class, we also have Shae, Emma and Anna supporting us. Betsy and Tammy will also be offering in class support on Tuesdays and Wednesdays respectively.

### School Journey – Sayers Croft

In just a few weeks' time, **Year 5 will be off on our school journey to Sayers Croft (Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 **Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September** to find out more about the trip and the coming year in general.

### Home Learning

Your child should be able to complete their home learning independently.

*Reading:* 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. **A reading task will be set on Seesaw on Friday and is due the following Thursday.** Please ensure that 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.

*Maths:* Activities will be assigned on Mathletics on Fridays and be due the following Thursday. 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 is expected 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. Fleet Facts quizzes will take place every Thursday. Once a quiz is passed, children move onto the next quiz. The order of the quizzes is: 2, 5, 10, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 times tables, before moving onto Challenge quizzes (mixed times tables, decimals and fractions!)

*Spelling:* The children will be given 10 spelling lists to work through, they will be quizzed every Thursday. If they get all words on the list correct, then they will move up to the next list. If they do not pass then they will need to repeat the quiz 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. Spelling activities will be assigned on SeeSaw on Fridays and be due the following Thursday.

*Other activities/resources:* Key maths skills, spelling, grammar and punctuation can be practised using [www.discoveryeducation.com](http://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.

### Key Dates for your diary

Trip to Go Ape – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
Class Meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Windrush Rehearsal – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September (trumpets and trombones needed)  
Trip to British Library – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
Windrush Rehearsal – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October (trumpets and trombones needed)  
Y5 Class Tea – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
Y5 Assembly – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
KS2 Reading Morning – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October  
Windrush Rehearsal – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October (trumpets and trombones needed)  
School Journey - Sayers Croft – Monday 17<sup>th</sup>- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Visit from Reading Dog – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
Trip to British Museum – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Trip to October Gallery – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November  
Windrush Rehearsal – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November (trumpets and trombones needed)  
Trip to 'The Bad Guys' at Vue Finchley Road – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
'Vikings' workshop at National Maritime Museum – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November  
Theatre Trip – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Trip to Gospel Oak Methodist Church – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Trip to Camden Learning Centre – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
Junior Show – 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Trip to Belsize Synagogue – 13<sup>th</sup> December  
History Off The Page – 14<sup>th</sup> December (four parent volunteers needed)

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](mailto:admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk). Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Sinead Costelloe  
Y5 Class Teacher