



Fleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Don McGibbon



Reception Autumn Term

Topic: 'Sue Hendra'

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

I hope you all had a lovely summer. It has been really nice coming back to a few familiar faces and meeting new families too. Already I am so amazed with how the children have settled in and are starting to gel as a group. There are lots of wonderful new friendships budding.

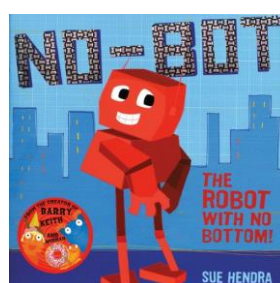
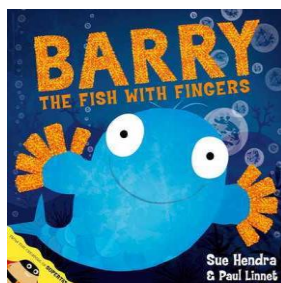
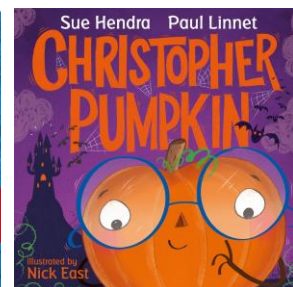
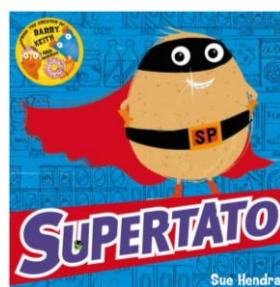
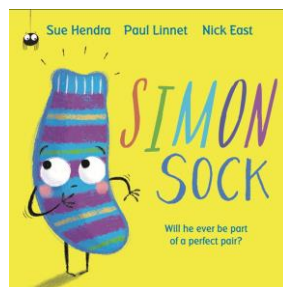
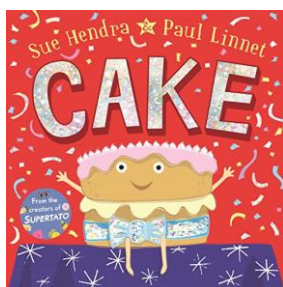
Thank you for your support with the transition period. It really does make a big difference to the way the children settle and allows us to spend more time with them on an individual basis.

Shami, Rukia, and Rosa will also be working in Reception this year. Margaret O'Sullivan will release me for my planning and preparation time on a Wednesday afternoon.

Autumn Term Topic

At Fleet, the Curriculum is enriched and taught through a termly topic.

This term our topic is **Super Stories by Sue Hendra**. Sue Hendra's stories have been a firm favourite of mine for a number of years. The children absolutely love them! We will match the stories to our learning themes and different celebrations throughout the term.



There will be lots of fun and creative activities linked to these stories.

Role-play will play a big part in this topic. We will have a *Supermarket*, *Super Hero School*, *Ice-Cream Shop* and *Bakery* as well as many more I'm sure that will crop up with the children's interests.

We know that role-play plays a really big part in supporting social and emotional development as well as language skills. The role-play areas will also be a tool for us to support their writing skills purposefully through their play.

Daily Routine

The Early Years Curriculum promotes learning through play.

The adults working in the class help to facilitate the children's ideas as well as extending them. We work individually with each child and in small groups, aiming to get alongside them and what they are interested in doing as much as possible. There are also times throughout the day where we will run adult lead activities such as; maths games, writing tasks, phonics sessions and art activities.

A typical day starts with a carpet session and writing activity. The children are offered a fruit snack around 10 and this is followed by a phonics carpet session and reading groups. We stop for lunch at midday then in the afternoon, we have a Maths carpet session and activity. When the children are not working with an adult, they choose what they would like to play with and do.

Phonics

Initially our focus in phonics will be on ensuring the children are secure with tuning in and listening to different sounds. Areas such as rhyme and alliteration will be a focus. We will ensure the children can notice words that rhyme such as *cat*, *hat* and *bat* and words that start with the same sound such as *blue* and *ball*. It is important that they can discriminate between different sounds and tune into these. After a week or two we will then dive into our phonics programme.

We follow a phonics programme called Little Wandle which the majority of Camden schools also use.

The children learn 4 sounds a week and then have a day to review and consolidate their learning. There is also time at the end of each half term to revise any sounds not learnt and to practise these.

The children will learn letters in the order that they are used most regularly in English.

The order is as follows –

Week 1 – s, a, t, p

Week 2 – i, n, m, d

Week 3 – g, o, c, k

Week 4 – ck, e, u, r

Week 5 – h, b, f, l

Then after half term we will learn;

Week 1 – ff, ll, ss, j

Week 2 – v, w, x, y

Week 3 – z, zz, qu, ch

Week 4 – sh, th, ng, nk

As you can see, it is quite rigorous. It is really very helpful if you try and keep attendance high so your children doesn't miss out on the learning.

As well reading words using these sounds, the children also learn 'tricky words' each week. These are words that cannot be easily decoded such as *l*, *the*, *go*, *no*, *to*, *she*, *he*, *we*, *me* and *be*.

I will keep you updated about what we have been learning in phonics and ways you can support your child at home.



Reading

After half term, the children will start to bring home a reading book each week. The book will be matched to their phonic ability and be fully decodable.

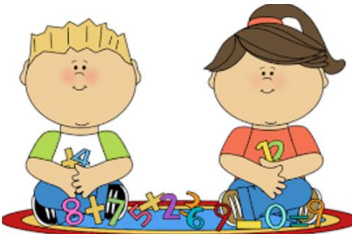
Meaning, they should be able to sound out and read every word.

The children will read their book three times over the week before bringing it home to share with you. Each time we read the book, there will be a different focus. The first read is all about decoding the book. The second read, we focus

on developing prosody, which means reading with expression. The third read focuses on developing their comprehension of the text. By the time they bring their books home to you, they should be able to read it fluently and confidently. We know that repeated reads of familiar texts helps support children's progress with reading significantly. Please read their book with them every day.

As well as their reading book, the children can also take home two picture books from the book corner. They are welcome to change these at any time. It's a good idea to bring books bags to school every day so book changes are not missed.

The children will also bring home a special book with a copy of our shared text of the week. This might be a non-fiction poster, poem, song or short story. Please read and share these with them.



Mathematics

In maths, the children will be learning to count reliably to 20, recognise and order numbers to 10 and then 20.

The children will learn how to add small sets and to take away. This will be introduced in meaningful ways, often through their play. We already have a few favourite maths games we play to help us with our number knowledge. We will also learn about 2D and 3D shapes using the story *Nobot*.

Creative Development

As well as activities linked to our topic, the children will have free access to resources for painting, collage and junk modelling. Junk modelling supplies are always welcomed! If you have old boxes, egg cartons and yoghurt pots etc, please bring them in.

We will be learning plenty of songs as well as using percussion instruments alongside our singing. The children are enjoying using our little stage in the garden.



Physical Education

The children will have two PE sessions each week. This term we will have a focus on group games and large ball skills. They don't need a PE kit but it is always a good idea to make sure your child is wearing comfy shoes to school.

House Keeping

- Please send your child in with a named water bottle. We can top these up throughout the day.
- Please make sure your child's clothing is named, especially jumpers. This makes it much easier to get clothing back to the right person! I always have a supply of some permanent markers if you ever need to borrow one.
- Please let a member of the team know if someone different is collecting your child.
- At the end of the day, we try and tidy our garden for the next day. Please do not play out there at the end of the day.
- Please send in a set of spare clothes in a named bag.
- We go outside in all weather. Please make sure your child is dressed for the elements. If they come in wellies, bringing a pair of shoes as well is helpful as they sometimes start to get sore feet.
- Please keep toys at home. It's not much fun if they go missing and there are lots of lovely things to play with at school. I am happy for the children to bring books in from home to share. We have a box they can put them in and I read them to the class.

- If you are interested in being a class rep, please let me know – it is a great way to get to know the school and other parents.

Forest School Sessions

We will have Forest School each week on Thursday. Each session will have a specific focus as well as allowing the children to play and connect with nature.

We have waterproof trousers for all of the children but please send them in with a waterproof jacket and shoes on a Thursday if it looks like it might rain.



Important Dates

- Parent meetings – Monday 18th September
- Parent meetings – Thursday 21st September
- Hampstead Heath Trip – Wednesday 27th September, morning only. 9.00-11.00
- London Zoo Trip – Friday 6th October, all day. 9.15-3.00. Packed lunch required
- Family stay and play session – Wednesday 18th October, 9.00-10.00
- Family stay and play session – Friday 10th November, 9.00-10.00
- Hampstead Heath Trip – Thursday 16th November, 9.00-11.00
- Reception class tea - Thursday 16th November, set up from 3.15.
- Little Angel Theatre trip – Friday 1st December, 9.15-1.30. Packed lunch required
- Infant Christmas Show – Friday 8th December, 10.00am
- Christmas party – Tuesday 19th December, set up from 1.30
- Last day of term – Thursday 21st December. 2.00pm finish

If there is anything that you would like further information about, please feel free to ask.

I am looking forward to supporting your child in what is sure to be an exciting and busy first term!

Best wishes,

Beth Cleine

Reception Class Teacher