



# Fleet Primary School

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## YEAR 4 TOPIC LETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2023

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### Togas to Tunics

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday!

It has been lovely to meet this class and hear about all the adventures you've been having. Our new topic this term is history based and is called 'Togas to Tunics'. We will be exploring the Roman and Tudor periods and focusing on our own wonderful city: London.

In English, we will start off by researching the Romans and will write quatrain poems, using David Olusoga's 'Black and British: An Illustrated History' as inspiration! Then we will use 'The Thieves of Ostia' to write our own mystery stories. Next we will move onto the Tudors, exploring Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and writing our own play scripts. We will also use 'The Diver's Daughter' to write our own quests.

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.

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.

Our History lessons will focus on the two historical periods we're looking at over our topics: looking at aspects of Roman and Tudor 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 also be comparing Italy and the UK today. We'll then learn about the Tudor family tree and compare Tudor lives to UK lives today.

In RE, we will be looking at Christianity, focusing on the Bible and the Christmas story.

In Art, our main focus will be on painting. We will also make Roman mosaics. In DT, we will focus on 3D shell structures: making models of the Globe. We'll also make Roman bread and Tudor desserts!

Our French lessons will cover places, directions, classroom objects and time.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in!

PE this term is on **Mondays**. 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 30<sup>th</sup> October. We will be swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks at Kentish Town Leisure Centre. Further information will follow in a separate letter.

The children will be starting trumpet and trombone lessons, which take place on **Thursdays** 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. The children are also expected to do at least three 5 minute sessions a week on Times Tables Rockstars. Home learning needs to be completed by the Thursday of the following. 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. 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. The children will sit the Multiplication Times Tables Check in the summer term. 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 at least three times a week**. It has been found that practising regularly for a short amount of time is most effective.

The children will be given spelling lists to work through - they will be tested each week. If they get all 10 correct then they will move up to the next list. 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. Emma and Rakia will be our Class TAs. Tammy will be teaching the class French on Thursday mornings. 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:

**7<sup>th</sup> October – Trip to London Mithraeum (two parent volunteers needed)**

**19<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Run Class Tea**

**20<sup>th</sup> October - Class Assembly**

**21<sup>st</sup> November – Trip to Odeon Camden (one parent volunteer needed)**

**24<sup>th</sup> November – CLC Trip (one parent volunteer needed - just for journey there and back!)**

**14<sup>th</sup> December – Junior Christmas Show**

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please leave either leave 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,  
Sinead Costelloe

### **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-word-lists.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.