



# Fleet Primary School

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## Year 5 Topic Letter – Autumn Term 2023

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September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families had a restful and fun summer holiday. Our topic this term is 'Raiders and Invaders'. In this history-based topic, we will be studying the life and times of the Vikings.

In English, we will begin by reading the book 'Viking Boy' which is a historical fiction novel about a teenage boy who goes on a journey to Valhalla. This unit will support the children in strengthening their reading skills and will be a springboard for a number of written pieces such as, letters, diary entries and narratives. Next, we will study an adapted version of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. In this unit we will explore drama, write in role as a character and write our own scenes. After half term, we will learn about the famous Viking raid on Lindisfarne Monastery and we will write newspaper reports from both an Anglo-Saxon and a Viking perspective. Finally, we will read the epic poem 'Beowulf' which will give us an insight into Anglo-Saxon myth writing and will inspire the creation of our own monsters.

In history, we will build our knowledge of Viking life. We will learn about when and where the Vikings lived, why they voyaged to other countries and how they did so. We will learn about famous Viking raids on England: how they attacked, the weapons they used and the impact of this on England. We will then study the areas the Vikings settled in and find out more about their lifestyle, including, homes, diet, trade and religion. Throughout this term, the children will be encouraged to be critical, particularly when studying secondary sources, leading up to a final debate and piece of non-fiction writing.

In geography, we will learn about Scandinavia. We will study the weather and climate, physical features and make comparisons to Britain. Then, we will study an area in Britain that was invaded by the Vikings and compare land use then and now.

Our first science focus this term is 'Forces', where the children will be learning about the force of gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. They will then learn about mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears.

In maths, we will follow the National Curriculum, focusing on the objectives below. Along with securing calculation skills, the development of reasoning and problem-solving skills will be embedded into lessons. The class did fantastically well on the times table test last year, but will need to continue to practice regularly. Please encourage your child to go on Times Table Rockstars at least 3 times a week for 5-10 minutes a session.

Autumn term objectives:

- 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
- Compare and order fractions, identify equivalent fractions, add and subtract fractions, convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions

This year, year 5 will continue to learn the trumpet or trombone with a specialist teacher. Please encourage them to practise regularly at home and to bring in their instrument every Thursday morning and take it home on Thursday afternoon. As it is compulsory, if your child forgets to bring in their instrument more than twice in a term, they miss a lunch break. If there is a reason why your child cannot participate in a session, please let me know in the morning.

P.E. sessions will be on Monday and Wednesday. The children will need to make sure they come into school wearing shorts/ leggings/ tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt and trainers.

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 will be set on Seesaw on Friday and is due the following Friday.** The home learning will be explained at school and will cover a maths objective (usually reflecting that week's learning). Each week it will include:

- Spellings
- Reading
- Times Tables
- Athletics

Your child should be able to complete their home learning independently. The children have been given spelling lists to work through and they will be tested weekly. 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.

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 at least three times a week.

In just a few weeks' time, **Year 5 will be off on our school journey to Sayers Croft (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of October).** This is a fantastic trip: the children will take part in a range of activities led by trained instructors, such as, archery, pond dipping, orienteering, shelter building and night walks. The children love it and get so much out of the trip! You will receive a letter soon with more details.

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,

Asha Sale