



Fleet Primary School

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Reception Topic Letter - Autumn Term 2025

Once Upon a Time



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday!

It has been lovely meeting all of you and getting to know the children over the last week. I'm truly impressed with how well the children are settling in and forming friendships already. I'm excited for the busy term ahead! Thank you for your support during the transition period. It really helps the children adjust and allows us to spend more time with them on an individual basis. We are very lucky to have a wonderful team in Reception this year. Shami, Fatema and May will be working closely with the children each day, supporting them in their learning and play. The children who have come from Fleet Nursery will be happy to hear that Margaret will be covering my planning and preparation time on Wednesdays.

Autumn Term Topic

As many of you know, at Fleet, each term we have a main topic that is the focus of our activities. From this central theme, we plan activities across the different areas of learning and incorporate the children's particular interests and enthusiasms into our planning as we go.

The prime areas of learning that take priority when planning are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Additional areas include:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

This term, our topic is ***Once Upon a Time***. Each week, we will have a favourite story to hang our learning on. We will look at more traditional tales, such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and *The Gingerbread Man*, as well as exploring stories that have twists on these traditional tales.

A big focus of this topic will be promoting language development. For each story we focus on, we will develop a story map with lots of visuals. We will use this story map to talk about the story and to retell it together. Ample opportunities for talking about the stories will feed into the children's language, writing and play.

Role-play will be a strong component of this topic. We already have *Grandma's cottage/ Home corner* (Little Red Riding Hood) and will make a gingerbread bakery and a bridge/farm yard for the 3 Billy Goats Gruff. The outdoor learning spaces will be utilised as different areas too, depending on what the children are most interested in.

Daily Routine

The Early Years Curriculum promotes learning through the children's interests and their 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-led activities such as maths games, writing tasks, phonics games and art activities. A typical day starts with a phonics session, then guided reading. We then have a fruit snack and a break. After morning break, we have another carpet session and a writing activity. 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 have the freedom to choose their activities both indoors and outdoors.

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 resources on this page, <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> will help you support your child with saying the sounds and writing letters. There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are taught at school and feel confident about supporting their reading at home.

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, the schedule is quite structured. To ensure your child benefits fully from the learning opportunities, it's really important to maintain high attendance so they don't miss out. As well as reading words using these sounds, the children also learn 'tricky words' each week. These are words that cannot be easily decoded, such as I, 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

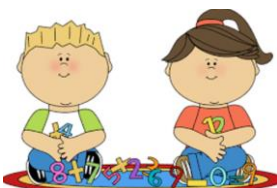
During our daily guided reading sessions, I will work with a small group of children and we will share the same text together. The children will read their book three times over the week before sharing it with you. Each reading session will have a different focus: the first is for decoding the text, the second for developing expression and fluency, and the third for enhancing comprehension.

If you haven't already, please purchase a bookbag from the school office so the children can continue practising their reading at home.

Each week, the children will bring home three books:

One reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonics stage for your child. They should be able to read this with a high level of fluency. This book will be matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

Two sharing books. These are books chosen by the child which they may not be able to read on their own. These books are for you both to read and enjoy together.



Mathematics

In maths, the children will be learning to count, recognise and order numbers to 10. The children will learn how to add small sets and take away. We will also look at sorting objects, comparing amounts and exploring patterns. This will be introduced in meaningful ways, often through their play.

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 welcome! If you have old boxes, egg cartons, yoghurt pots, etc, please bring them in. We will be learning plenty of songs as well as using percussion instruments alongside our singing.



Physical Education

The children will have a weekly PE session on **Tuesdays** in the school hall. This term, we will have a focus on group games and different types of movement. 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!
- Please let a member of the team know if someone different is collecting your child.
- At the end of the day, we try to tidy our garden for the next day. Please do not play out there at the end of the day.
- Please have a spare clothes bag that can be kept at school in case your child has an accident or gets mucky.
- 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.
- 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.

Important Dates

- Autumn walk to Hamstead Heath – TBC
- Infant Christmas Show – Friday 5th December
- Christmas Lunch – Friday 12th December
- Infant Christmas party – Tuesday 16th December
- Last day of term – Friday 19th December – Finish at 2.00



I'm currently sorting out potential dates for class trips. I will send a message out on Parent Hub as soon as I have these confirmed!

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,

Abida Tanjum and EYFS team