



Fleet Primary School

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Year 3 Spring Term Topic Letter 2022



Topic: The Fire Within

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! Our new topic this term is 'The Fire Within', a Geography based topic. It will be exploring lots of exciting aspects of the country, focussing on earthquakes and volcanoes, while also incorporating fireworks and dragons!

In English we are starting with a fantasy basis. Our fiction work this term will be focussed on the books 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson, 'Where The Mountain Meets the Moon' by Grace Lin, and 'Bronze and Sunflower' by Cao Wenxuan. We will do lots of creative writing around these texts. We will also look at poetry about dragons and write our own poems describing our imaginary dragons. Our non-fiction work will be information texts about natural disasters and some instructional writing linked to our DT. We will also do some writing linked to our History unit, looking at the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura.

In Geography, we will learn about how volcanoes and earthquakes are caused and look at some different types of volcanoes. In DT, we will make models of volcanoes. Our computing will be linked to the topic and be supported by a trip to the CLC.

Our Science topic for this term is about rocks. We will link this learning to our topic by studying igneous rocks which are formed as the result of a volcano. We will also look at other types of rock found around us, as well as fossils and soil.

Our History learning will be focussed on the Stone Age. The children will be finding out about how Stone Age people lived, ate and communicated and studying some of the fierce animals which were alive during Stone Age times.

In RE, we will be studying Hinduism this term – in particular, looking at the festivals of Diwali and Holi. In French, we will be covering colours and numbers.

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 and subtraction (numbers up to 999), data, fractions (including finding fractions of an amount) and mental multiplication and division.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in! If you have any other connections with our topic and can offer any support, I would love to hear from you!

PE this term is on **Mondays** (with Coach Keely) and **Wednesdays**. The children will need to make sure they wear clothes suitable for P.E on these days (shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt/top and trainers).

We will continue learning the recorder this term. Please ensure that the children bring their instruments in on **Thursdays** for our music lesson.

It would be useful for you to send your child in with a **labelled** water bottle for school to allow them to get drinks during the day.

Important dates for Year 3 this term:

Wednesday 19th January: Trip to Hampstead Education Centre – Stone Age Survivors Workshop

Thursday 3rd February: Trip to London Zoo

Friday 4th February: Chinese Dragon Dance Workshop (in school) – please wear clothing suitable for dance

Thursday 10th February: Theatre trip to Rose Theatre, Kingston to see 'Zog and the Flying Doctors'

Thursday 10th March: Y3 Class Tea

Friday 11th March: Y3 Class Assembly

Wednesday 16th March: Trip to Science Museum

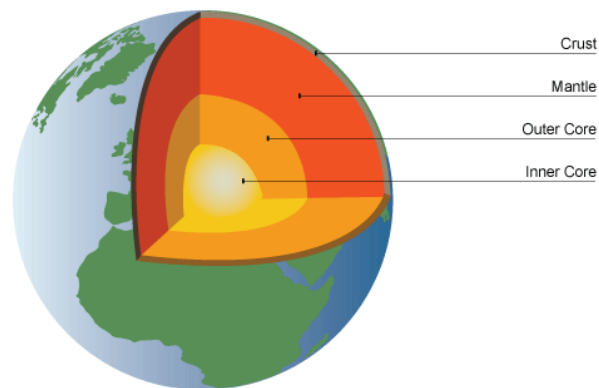
Thursday 31st March: International Food Evening (T.B.C. - covid restrictions allowing)

TBC: Trip to Natural History Museum

I will send trip letters out with more details nearer the time. Any offers of help on trips are greatly appreciated as it is extremely difficult to run trips without extra adult support. Thank you to all the parents who helped us last term! If you are able, please make sure your child brings in their voluntary contribution of **£2** for each trip and support our class tea by contributing food and drink. Thank you to the parents who have helped with this so far. Class teas are really important since they help to fund all the wonderful trips and visitors which we have at school.

Home learning is continuing as it was last term. The Reading tasks are due on **Thursdays** and new tasks are uploaded to SeeSaw on **Fridays**. Please ensure your child brings their Reading Journal to school **daily** so they can stay up to date. Thank you for the support you've given the home learning so far, it really helps your child make progress in their learning.

Year 3 will continue to have great support from other adults this term. Lara, Temian and Rose will be working with us during the day. Ms. Wood will be teaching the children on Tuesday afternoons. Ms. Benbetka will continue to teach the children Singing and Recorders.



If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or to grab me for an informal chat after school. I am also available to talk to parents between 8.45 and 9am.

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 now be familiar with both times tables and division facts for the 2s, 5s and 10s and should now be working on learning 3s, 4s, 6s and 8s. If you would like any suggestions for how you can help your child learn their times tables, please feel free to speak to me at any time.

2) It's important for children to familiarise themselves with money and different coin denominations. When shopping, ask children what coins they could use to buy a certain item. What different ways are there to make up a certain amount? Ask children to count the different coins in your purse – it's good practise counting in different steps: 2s, 5s, 10s and 20s.

3) Counting games – practise counting in varying steps (e.g. fives, tens or hundreds) from any given two digit or three digit number. Bridging tens can be tricky for children (e.g. 89, 99, 109...) so that's a good area to focus. As we move through Year 3, children should be more familiar with counting around three-digit numbers.

4) Please continue to support your child learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital. Children should be able to read times on an analogue clock by the time they leave Year 3. 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.

Literacy

1) We are continuing to teach spelling on a roughly two week cycle. Please support your child with learning the words on their Spelling list. Once they have passed a Spelling Quiz, they will move onto the next list. Your child should also be confident spelling the first hundred high frequency words (a list of these can be found online or I can print you one if needed). If you notice any words in your child's reading diary work which they are frequently misspelling, please feel free to add these to their lists.

2) Please continue to read with your child **every night** for at least 15 minutes. Children should be filling in their reading diary **every day** with a record of which book they were reading and how many pages and then leaving a short comment about once a week. Feel free to add any additional comments if you wish. Children are also given new follow up tasks **weekly** on SeeSaw which follow their reading session with me in class. Please remind your child to complete these! The information supplied in reading diaries is a very useful record for us about your child's reading so your support in keeping the diaries up to date is much appreciated.

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.