



Fleet Primary School

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Year 5 Topic Letter – Spring Term 2022

Topic: Planets and Palettes

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our topic this term is 'Planets & Palettes' – we will be learning about key events/movements and important developments in the fields of space and art. We will focus somewhat on significant women in these areas and discuss how women's roles have changed over time.

Our science focus this term is Earth and space: the solar system, the Earth's rotation and how this results in day, night and seasons. We will learn the phases of the moon: what they are and how they occur. This fascinating subject will provide a stimulus for much of our English for the term – we will research the life and achievements of Valentina Tereshkova, writing a diary in role as her during her time in space. Of course, we will learn about the 1969 moon landing, present our learning in a newspaper report on the event and write a sci-fi story set on a fictional planet designed by the children. Connecting with our art focus, the children will write poems inspired by Van Gogh's *Starry Night* painting and create their own 'Starry Night' art.

Throughout the term, we will be learning about different art styles throughout history. The children will learn about art movements such as; Surrealism, Abstract and Neo Expressionism and the Black Art Movement. As part of this, we will explore the life and work of artists such as Frida Kahlo, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Lubaina Himid, creating our own artistic pieces and writing a biography on Frida Kahlo. We will end the term by looking at the work of street artists and will debate whether graffiti should be considered art. A trip to Hampstead Heath will enable us to view and sketch Henry Moore's sculpture at Kenwood House.

We will be learning about the advances in space exploration and understanding as part of our History learning, considering the impact of these advances over time. We will learn about early astronomy, the Space Race, sending animals into space, satellites, the moon landing and Mars exploration. Linked with this, the children will design, make and evaluate moon buggies using junk modelling, so later in the term your child may be rummaging in your recycling to gather materials for this!

In computing, we will be focusing on staying safe online – with experts coming in to run a workshop.

Our R.E focus will be on Judaism and we will be learning about Hanukkah, Passover and Purim.

The children will continue to learn brass in spring term. **They must bring their instrument in on Thursday morning and take it back home on Thursday afternoon.** It is vital that they practise regularly at home in order to progress.

In maths, we will follow the National Curriculum, focusing on:

- The number system: place value, negative numbers
- Multiplication and division
- Addition and subtraction
- Measure
- Fractions and percentages
- Geometry



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We will also do a range of problem-solving activities to develop the children's skills in this area and their ability to use and apply their knowledge in a variety of contexts. **Knowing their times tables facts up to 12 x 12 is invaluable** in enabling the children to quickly and confidently grasp many areas of the maths curriculum such as fractions, division, ratio and percentages; please continue to support their learning of their times tables at home.

Your child should bring their **reading diary** and a **suitable reading book** into school **every day** and take it home every evening so they can read at home and record it in their diary. **They should be reading for around 15 minutes at home every day.**

Home learning will be set every Friday and is due in the following Thursday. It will usually cover a maths objective reflecting that week's learning. Your child should be able to complete their home learning independently.

Here are some suggestions of activities and resources to support your child's learning at home:

English	<p>Reading: The children must be reading each evening at home, ideally for a minimum of 15 minutes. They should read a range of genres. Reading does really support writing and help to expand their vocabulary and range of ideas. Discuss the characters, plots and language used in their books.</p> <p>We are also signed up to Bug Club where they can read books I have set for them online.</p> <p>Spelling: Test your child on their spellings a few times every week and go over previously learnt ones or words they find tricky regularly.</p> <p>Writing: Keep a journal/diary. Write letters to family members and friends. Practice creative writing through stories/comics.</p>
Maths	<p>Mental maths: Please continue to support your child in learning and practising their times tables and finding division facts from these eg. $4 \times 6 = 24$ so $24 \div 6 = 4$. Encourage children to multiply larger numbers using facts they already know. For example: I know that $5 \times 4 = 20$ so $5 \times 400 = 2000$. They should also practise doubling and halving numbers.</p> <p>Time: Put an analogue clock in your child's bedroom and regularly ask them to tell you the time. Make a paper clock and test them – they should be confident using 'quarter past/to', 'half past' etc. Practise reading 24 hour digital clocks. Read train/bus timetables and plan journeys together.</p> <p>Money: Go shopping together and get your child to count out the money and work out how much change they will get back. Ask questions: How much will x and y cost? How many x can I get for £5? How much change will I get?</p> <p>Fractions, decimals, percentages: This is often an area which children feel unsure of. Try to use these terms in everyday settings to familiarise them with the language, concepts and relationship between them e.g. You can eat 50% now and the other half later!</p> <p>Useful maths websites: www.mathszone.co.uk, www.topmarks.co.uk, www.mathletics.com</p>

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. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,
Asha Sale