



Fleet Primary School

Fleet Road Hampstead London NW3 2QT
Tel: 020 7485 2028 Fax: 020 7485 5177
E-mail: admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk
Headteacher: Don McGibbon



Year 5 Topic Letter – Spring Term 2023

January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our topic this term is 'Just Beyond the Stars' – we will be learning about key events and important developments in the field of space. Part of our focus will be on significant women in these areas and we will discuss how women's roles have changed over time.

Our science focus this term is 'Earth and Space'. We will focus on 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. We also have a 'Flying Into Physics' project from the 16th-20th January – a two hour session on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with an assembly on the Friday. The children will learn aerial skills and about the physics involved in those skills!

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. We will look at books including 'Cakes in Space', 'What We See in the Stars' and 'Lighter than Air'. Connecting with our art focus, the children will write poems inspired by the song 'Just Beyond The Stars' and Van Gogh's Starry Night painting and create their own 'Starry Night' art.

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!

As part of our Geography, we will look at how the constellations have been used for navigation throughout history.

Throughout the term, we will be learning about different art styles throughout history. We will start the term with a Lunar Art workshop with Burgh House. 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 and creating our own artistic pieces. We will end the term by looking at the work of street artists and will debate whether graffiti should be considered art.

Our R.E focus will be on Judaism and we will be learning about Hanukkah, Passover and Purim. In French, we will continue building on talking, reading and writing about family and pets!

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 P.E. this term, the children will continue to have sessions with Coach Keeley on Mondays. They should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit (trainers, a suitable T-shirt, sports shorts/leggings/tracksuit



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bottoms) and can bring a change of clothes for afterwards if they wish. They will also have a fortnight's block of afternoon swimming sessions at Kentish Town Better Leisure Centre, starting on Monday 20th March.

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

- Fractions
- Multiplication and division
- Decimals
- Percentages
- Perimeter and area
- Statistics

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.

Adult Support

Year 5 continue to have great adult support this term, with no changes from last term. Anna will be with us all day and we have Shae in the mornings and Emma in the afternoons. Rhian will be teaching Monday afternoons, and Betsy and Tammy will also be supporting in class on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Reading and Home Learning

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.** They are expected to record their reading at least four times a week in the log in their Reading diary.

Home learning will be set every Friday and is usually due in the following Thursday. This will be assigned on SeeSaw and Mathletics. The children are also expected to use Bug Club twice weekly and Times Tables Rockstars four times a week for at least five minutes. Your child should be able to complete their home learning independently.

Upcoming Dates

Friday 6th January – Lunar Art Workshop with Burgh House

Tuesday 16th-Friday 20th January – 'Flying Into Physics' project – P.E. kit required

Tuesday 31st January – 'West End In Schools' Dance Workshop – P.E. kit required

Friday 3rd February – Maths Open Morning in Year 6 for parents and carers @9am – 9.30

Thursday 23rd February – Year 5 Class Tea

Friday 24th February – Year 5 Class Assembly @10 – 10.30



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Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day

Tuesday 7th March – Planetarium Show at Royal Observatory Greenwich

Tuesday 14th March – Trip to Science Museum

Monday 20th March – Swimming begins!

Tuesday 28th March – Music Assembly

Thursday 30th March – International Food Evening

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,

Sinead Costelloe

Y5 Class Teacher



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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>



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