



Fleet Primary School

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Year 4 Topic Letter –Spring Term 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing break. Our new topic this term is called 'Hope and Heroes' and is science based. We will be exploring different aspects of being human, with an emphasis on what it means to be heroic. What qualities make someone a hero? We will explore this idea through looking at real people from the past and through fictional characters. The children will think about their own personal goals and consider what it means to be resilient and to persevere!

To begin our topic learning, we will focus on some inspirational, amazing humans: the children in Year 4!

In English, we will begin by writing our own 'If I Were A Superhero' poem. We will then look at Mac Barnett's retelling of the traditional tale 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children will write their own autobiographies. After half term, we will read Matt de la Peña's 'Milo imagines the world', which explores identity and stereotypes. The children will take part in a debate and will use their imaginations to create their own picture book. During Writing Week, we will use David Roberts' 'Suffragette – the Battle for Equality'. Following that, we will read 'Ted Hughes' 'The Iron Man' and write a newspaper report.



In Whole Class Reading, we will be reading 'The Girl of Ink and Stars'. We will continue with our visits to Keats Library – if your child does not have a Keats Library card and you would like them to, please let me know!

In Geography, we will look at different types of settlements, contrasting cities, towns and villages in the UK. The children will study maps and use their knowledge to design their own settlement. This will be supported by an orienteering workshop on the Heath.

In History, we will look at heroic people from the 17th to the 21st century – please see the topic snapshot for more information.

In Science, we will complete the unit 'States of Matter' before moving on to 'Electricity'. We will look at inventors, including Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. The children will make electrical circuits and will conduct experiments to find out which materials are conductors and insulators.

In RE we will be looking at Islam, looking at the concepts of 'ritual' and 'community'.

In Art, we will look at inspirational artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Eric Joyner and Zaha Hadid, and look at superhero comic art. We will start by designing superhero costumes for ourselves! In D.T, we will make our own wire sculptures.

In Maths the children will continue to follow the National Curriculum. The objectives that we will cover this term are:

Multiplication and division:

- Identify factors pairs
- Multiply and divide by 10 and 100
- Multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers (short multiplication)
- Divide 3 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers

Length and perimeter

- Measure length
- Calculate perimeter of rectilinear shapes

Fractions

- Compare and order mixed number fractions
- Convert fractions
- Add and subtract fractions

Decimals

- Recognise decimals as fractions

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in!

PE this term is on **Mondays and Wednesdays**. Coach Keeley will teach the lesson on Monday. Please ensure that your child comes to school on those days in trainers and loose fitting clothing so that they are comfortable and can join in. If they would like to bring in a change of clothes they may, but it is not compulsory.

The children will be continuing trumpet and trombone lessons on **Thursday** so please remind them to bring their instrument on those days. It is important that they practise for around 5 minutes most days - this will help them make progress and make the lessons more enjoyable.

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

2nd February – Maths Open Morning

6th February – trip to ZSL (Endangered Animals Workshop)

29th February - Y4 Class Tea (Parent Led)

1st March - Y4 Assembly

1st March – International Food Evening

TBC – Orienteering Workshop

TBC – trip to East London Mosque

Other trip dates to be confirmed. I will send letters out with more details nearer the time. 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 baking, buying or helping organise. Class teas are really important as they help to fund all the wonderful trips and visitors which we have.

Home learning is continuing as it was last term. Seesaw (Reading and Spelling), Times Tables Rockstars and Mathletics will be updated with new work to complete **every week**, on a **Friday**. Please support your child to ensure they complete their tasks. Thank you for the support you've given the home learning so far; it really helps your child make progress.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please email: admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk or come and see me in my classroom before or after school.

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 be fluent in all their times table and division facts by the time they leave Year 4. Encourage them to go on Times Table Rockstars regularly and test them on the times table they are working on.
- 2) Counting games – practise counting in varying steps (e.g. fives, tens or hundreds) from any given three or four digit number. Bridging tens can be tricky for children (e.g. 89, 99, 109...) so that's a good area to focus. In Year 4, children are expected to be able to write and read 4-digit numbers.
- 4) Please continue to support your child learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital clocks. 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. You could also look at reading 24 hour times.

Literacy

- 1) Your child should also be confident spelling the first hundred high frequency words (a list of these can be found online at <http://www.highfrequencywords.org/first-100-high-frequency-word-lists.html> or we can print you one if needed). If you notice your child misspelling any of these, then please practise them. Additionally, if you notice any words in your child's reading diary or home learning which they are frequently misspelling, please feel free to practise these also.
- 2) Please continue to read with your child **every night** for **at least 15 minutes**.
- 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.