



# Fleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Don McGibbon



## Year 4: Summer Term 2023

### Under the Canopy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful Easter break. I'm excited to announce our summer term topic: Under the Canopy! This is a Geography topic, largely based around South America, with a focus on the Amazon Rainforest.

In English, we will begin by reading the book 'Jemmy Button' by Alix Barzelay. This book is set on the island of Terra del Fuego and follows the journey of a young boy who travels to Victorian England. This book will inspire a range of fiction and nonfiction writing, including poems, a persuasive letter and a narrative. Next, a trip to London Zoo will allow the children to learn about rainforest animals and help them to write a fact file on their chosen animal. After half term, we will read 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry and write a persuasive piece around rainforest conservation. Finally, we will complete a unit on the book 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell which I will read to the children throughout the term.

In Geography, we will learn all about South America, starting with a general focus on countries, capital cities and flags and moving on to some more focused work around the Amazon Rainforest. We will visit Kew gardens to find out more about rainforest plants and complete some botanical sketches.

In History, we will explore the Inca Empire, learning about who the Incas were, what they wore, their beliefs and where they lived. This will inspire various art and DT lessons.

Science will continue to be taught by Ms Wall this term. They will complete two units which will link in with our topic – Living things and their habitats and Animals, including humans.

In RE, we will study Buddhism, focussing on the story of the Buddha and the eightfold path. This will be supported by a visit to The London Buddhist Centre.

In Art, we will explore rainforest plants and animals using different techniques, including pastels, chalks and paint. In DT, we will make tiles, masks and our own poison dart frogs out of felt. We will try some South American recipes in cooking.

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, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also work on decimals, money, time, shape, statistics and position and direction.

PE this term will be on **Mondays and Fridays**. Coach Keeley will teach the class on Monday and I will teach the children on Friday. The children will need to make sure they are wearing trainers

and comfortable clothes. As the weather gets nicer, PE may take place outside so it's especially important for the children to have correct footwear.

The children will continue trumpet and trombone lessons with Rod on **Thursday** so please remind them to bring in their instrument on those days. It's essential your child has a labelled water bottle for school to allow them to get drinks during the day, especially as the weather gets warmer.

We have the same team supporting Year 4. Ikram and Alem will be in class in the morning, and Lara and Jo during the afternoons.

Important dates for Year 4 this term:

09.5 – London Zoo  
16.5 – Talacre KS2 sports day  
8.6 – Year 4 class tea  
9.6 – Year 4 class assembly  
16.6 – The London Buddhist Centre  
27.6 – Kew Gardens  
03.7 – Fun Run  
7.3 – Sports day  
13.7 – London Central Mosque

I will send trip letters out with more details nearer the time. I have also attached a trip signup sheet. If you are able to come along and help out on any of the dates, please fill it in and hand it to myself or Lisa. Thank you to all the parents who helped us with our trips and visits last term, it's much appreciated! 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 contributing to the class reps. Class teas are really important since they help to fund all the wonderful trips and visitors which we have.

Home learning is continuing as it was last term. Seesaw and Mathletics are updated with new work to complete **every week**, on a **Friday**. Please ensure your child brings both their reading books with them to school **daily**. Thank you for the support you've given the home learning so far, it really helps your child make progress.

The national times table test is fast approaching, so please ensure that your child is practising their times tables **everyday** so that they are confident with their times tables up to 12 x12.

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

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. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,

Asha Sale

## **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.

3) 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.

## Trip Signup sheet

Please write your name in the 'parent volunteer' box for the trip you wish to attend and hand it in to myself or Lisa in the office.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Parent volunteer</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> of May	London Zoo <b>(3 volunteers needed)</b>	
16 <sup>th</sup> of June	London Buddhist Centre <b>(2 volunteers needed)</b>	
27 <sup>th</sup> of June	Kew Gardens <b>(3 volunteers needed)</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> of July	London Central Mosque <b>(2 volunteers needed)</b>	

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