



Fleet Primary School

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Year 5 Topic Letter – Summer Term

April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a really enjoyable Spring holiday.

Our topic this term is 'Waterway Wonder'. This is a geography based topic which will involve us learning about a range of countries around the world, with a focus on Egypt, India and links with the Suez Canal! We will learn about the human and physical geography of Egypt and India and explore the significance of landmarks, both natural and manmade, in Indian and Egyptian culture. We will learn about music, and food and we will be cooking some delicious dishes! We will consider the impact of the 2004 tsunami on India, and will be designing and building bridges able to withstand a tsunami. We will also be looking at Fair Trade.

In history, we will be learning about the British Empire and looking at its impact on people living in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

Throughout the term in English, we will be reading traditional tales and stories inspired by India and Egypt, which will inspire our writing. We will write poems encompassing the energy and brilliance of an Indian sunrise, and do fictional writing story based around Bali Rai's 'Tales from India'. Sheetal Sheth's 'Bravo Anjali!', Jasbinder Bilan's 'Asha and the Spirit Bird', Julia Jarman's 'The Time-Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess' and Shakespeare's 'Antony and Cleopatra'. The famous Indian elephants will inspire some research on the ivory trade and how this is affecting the elephants and farmers of India and write a persuasive piece on the subject. We will also write non-chronological reports about the Egyptian pyramids.

In Science, we will be learning about the process of reproduction in plants and the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. A trip to London Zoo will support our learning. We will also learn about the changes a human experiences from infancy to old age.

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

- Shape
- Position and Direction
- Decimals
- Negative Numbers
- Converting units
- Volume

We will also do a range of problem-solving activities to develop the children's skills in these areas 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 and encourage them to go on to Times Table Rock stars for 5 minutes at least four times a week.

In R.E, our primary focus this term will be Sikhism and this will be supported by a trip to Central Gurdwara London.

The children will continue to have trumpets and trombones lessons with Rod every Thursday morning. Please remind them to bring their instrument to school every Thursday and to practise regularly at home. Excitingly, we have our performance at Royal Albert Hall this term!

The children will have P.E on Mondays and Wednesday, please ensure that they are wearing appropriate footwear and come dressed appropriately for P.E. They are welcome to bring a change of clothes to wear afterwards.

The children will have the opportunity to read every day in school, so they should ensure they bring in a suitable reading book and their reading diary every day.

Home Learning

Home learning will be given out on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday.

Maths will usually be set on Mathletics or SeeSaw and children are also expected to do at least 4 x 5 minute sessions on Times Tables Rockstars per week. Reading and Spelling will be set on SeeSaw. Reading diaries should be updated regularly – at least four times a week.

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. 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>

Some important dates:

- Tuesday 18th April – Royal Albert Hall rehearsal @ Regent’s High
- Monday 24th April – Royal Albert Hall rehearsal and performance
- Tuesday 16th May – Sports Day Morning @ Talacre

Tuesday 6th June – London Central Mosque
Wednesday 14th June – Trip to Central Gurdwara London
Wednesday 21st June – Petrie Museum
Friday 7th July – Sports Day
Wednesday 12th July – Hampstead Heath Outdoor Learning Centre
TBC – London Zoo
TBC - Horniman

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. Any help that you can give with our topic will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Sinead Costelloe