



Fleet Primary School

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Year 3 Topic Letter

Year 3: Summer 2021

Into The Woods

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a happy and restful Easter break. Our new topic this term is Science based and is called 'Into The Woods'. We will be exploring the great outdoors and learning lots about plants, animals and nature - as well as using our imaginations to think about forests as a fantasy setting.

In English, we will start off by looking at 'The Giving Tree'. We'll then look at stories set in imaginary worlds, looking at two beautifully written and illustrated books: Roald Dahl's 'The Minpins' and Carol Ann Duffy's 'The Lost Happy Endings'. The children will do some creative writing set in their own imaginative, magical forests thinking about who or what might live there, inspired by the books we have read and our trip into the woods. We will also be working on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Our non-fiction work will be persuasive writing about conservation and animal fact files linked to our Science unit. For our poetry, we will be looking at shape poems.

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 and subtraction, handling data, time and measures, fractions and mental multiplication and division. This term, we will be focussing on telling the time and using money.

Our Geography and History will be locally based this term. In Geography we will be looking at the features of our locality and doing some analysis of services in our local area. We will carry out some data collection to link to our Maths learning. After this we will do some mapping and think about possible ways to improve our locality. In History we will look at how our local area has changed and developed over time. *If anyone knows anyone who has lived in South End Green for a long time, please let me know as Y3 may want to interview them!*

In Art we will start by looking at leaves and woodland wildflowers, which will continue on some of our trips. We will also look at using watercolours and printmaking. The artists we will study include Walt Disney and Thomas Kinkade. In DT, we will make unicorn piñatas and models of trees.

Our two Science topics for this term are 'Plants' and 'Animals (including humans)'. In our first unit, we will look at parts of a plant, seed dispersal and pollination and processes such as photosynthesis. We will also grow our own plants, linking to all the gardening which is going on at Fleet at the moment. In our second Science unit we will focus on muscles, skeletons and the circulatory and digestive systems.

In RE, we will be looking at Judaism – focusing on Purim, Hanukah and the Torah.

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

PE this term is on **Monday** and **Wednesday**. The children will need to make sure they are wearing shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt/top and trainers for these days.

It would be useful for you to send your child in with a **labelled** water bottle for school to allow them to get drinks during the day.

Important dates for Year 3 this term:

Wednesday 21st April: Topic Launch – Unicorn visit!

Friday 14th May: Trip to Hampstead Heath

Monday 5th July: CLC Workshop

Home learning is continuing as it was last term – the work will be set on SeeSaw on Fridays and should be uploaded by the following Thursday. Please ensure your child brings their reading diary with them to school **daily** so they can stay up to date. They should continue to update the reading log at the back of the book. Thank you for the support you've given the home learning so far; it really helps your child make progress in their learning.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at school by e-mailing the office or to grab me for an informal chat after school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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 now be familiar with both times tables and division facts for the 2s, 5s and 10s and should now be working on learning 3s, 4s, 6s and 8s. If you would like any suggestions for how you can help your child learn their times tables, please feel free to speak to me at any time.
- 2) It's important for children to familiarise themselves with money and different coin denominations. When shopping, ask children what coins they could use to buy a certain item. What different ways are there to make up a certain amount? Ask children to count the different coins in your purse – it's good practise counting in different steps: 2s, 5s, 10s and 20s.
- 3) Counting games – practise counting in varying steps (e.g. fives, tens or hundreds) from any given two digit or three digit number. Bridging tens can be tricky for children (e.g. 89, 99, 109...) so that's a good area to focus. As we move through Year 3, children should be more familiar with counting around three-digit numbers.
- 4) Please continue to support your child learning how to tell the time using both analogue and digital. Children should be able to read times on an analogue clock by the time they leave Year 3. 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.

Literacy

1) We are continuing to teach spelling on a roughly two week cycle. Please support your child with learning the words on their spelling lists. Your child should also be confident spelling the first hundred high frequency words (a list of these can be found online or I can print you one if needed). If you notice any words in your child's reading diary work which they are frequently misspelling, please feel free to add these to their lists.

2) Please continue to read with your child **every night** for at least 15 minutes. Children should be filling in their reading diary **every day** with a record of which book they were reading and how many pages and then leaving a short comment about once a week. Feel free to add any additional comments if you wish. Children are also given new follow up tasks **weekly** which follow their reading session with me in class. Please remind your child to complete these! The information supplied in reading diaries is a very useful record for us about your child's reading so your support in keeping the diaries up to date is much appreciated.

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.