



Fleet Primary School

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Year 5 Topic Letter – Autumn Term 2020

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 5! It's such a shame to not be able to meet you all in person as we work within the restrictions needed due to Covid-19. However, I'll be calling home during the week beginning 28th September to touch base with you all. For more information on this year, please watch this presentation: <https://vimeo.com/456278273/41227ce9ea>. The children have made a great start to the year: they've settled well in to our 'new normal' and have shown amazing positivity and enthusiasm for learning. I'm sure we're going to have a great year.

I understand many of you will have concerns about your child's learning as we return to school. The school has given a lot of thought to how we will support children to regain their independence, resilience and stamina for learning, as well as ensuring we cover the curriculum and support every child to make the progress they should. Of course, we are also keen to continue our creative approach to learning and promote well-being. We understand some children will find it harder to settle back into school and regain focus with their learning, whilst others will have been very productive at home and eager to learn. As always, we will strive to ensure every child has their needs met, whether that be extra support or stretch and challenge.

Our topic this term is 'Planets & Palettes' – we will be learning about key events/movements and important developments in the fields of space and art. We will focus somewhat on significant women in these areas and discuss how women's roles have changed over time.

Our science focus this term is Earth and space: the solar system, the Earth's rotation and how this results in day, night and seasons. We'll learn the phases of the moon: what they are and how they occur. This fascinating subject will provide a stimulus for much of our English for the term – we'll research the life and achievements of Valentina Tereshkova, writing a diary in role as her during her time in space. Of course, we'll learn about the 1969 moon landing, presenting our learning in a newspaper report on the event and write a sci-fi story set on a fictional planet designed by the children. Connecting with our art focus, the children will write poems inspired by Van Gogh's *Starry Night* painting and create their own 'Starry Night' art.

Throughout the term, we will be learning about different art styles throughout history. The children will learn about art movements such as Surrealism, Impressionism, Expressionism and Pop Art. As part of this, we will explore the life and work of artists such as Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo and Jean-Michel Basquiat, creating our own artistic pieces and writing a biography of Frida Kahlo. We'll end the term by looking at the work of street artists such as Banksy and debating if graffiti should be considered art. A trip to Hampstead Heath will enable us to view and sketch Henry Moore's sculpture at Kenwood House.

We'll 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 in to 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! A workshop on Hampstead Heath will aid our Geography learning on map-reading and using compasses; we'll also learn about lines of latitude and longitude, linking with the space theme of satellites. Christianity will be our focus in R.E.

The children will continue to learn brass in Year 5. Please encourage them to practise regularly at home and they must remember their instrument and music folder every Thursday once lessons start.

In maths, we will follow the National Curriculum, focusing on the objectives below. Along with securing calculation skills, the development of reasoning and problem-solving skills will be embedded in to lessons. By the beginning of Year 5, **children are expected to know all multiplication and related division facts up to 12 x 12**. We work on these in school, but if your child is unsure on them, please support them to practise these facts at home too to ensure they can access the Year 5 curriculum.

Autumn term objectives:

- Place value in numbers up to 1,000,000 and with up to 3 decimal places
- Rounding numbers to the nearest given amount e.g. nearest tenth, nearest thousand
- Addition and subtraction using mental methods and the compact columnar method
- Use times table knowledge to identify multiples and factors, recognise prime numbers
- Multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000
- Use short and long multiplication, and short division
- Compare and order fractions, identify equivalent fractions, add and subtract fractions, convert between mixed numbers and improper fractions

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 and there will be a weekly task set for them to complete in their reading diary.

Home learning will be set every Friday and due in the following Thursday. It will usually cover a maths objective reflecting that week's learning. 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:

- Practice key maths skills, spelling, grammar and punctuation using www.discoveryeducation.com. Go to 'log in' in the top right-hand corner, select 'espresso' and log in with the details: **Username: student21013; password: fleetp**. From the home page you can navigate to a range of activities under the 'Key Stage 2' tab. The children have used this in school so should be familiar with it!
- Use www.mathletics.com to access activities and explanatory videos of all areas of the maths curriculum. Their log in details are stuck in the front cover of their Home Learning Journals. Again, we use this in school so children should be familiar with it.
- Ensure your child is reading every day and that they read a range of genres. Discuss the characters, plots and language used in their books. Reading does really support writing and help to expand their vocabulary and range of ideas.
- Test your child on their spellings (found in their home learning journals) a few times every week and go over previously learnt ones regularly. If you notice your child struggling with particular words, focus on practising these too.

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,

Holly Kingham



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