



# Fleet Primary School

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## Year 2 – Topic Letter

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# Seeds and Thneeds

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school, I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. The children have settled back into Year 2 really well and we are all very excited about our new topic. This term, our topic will be Science based and will focus on plants and habitats. We have already begun by planting seeds and setting up a classroom Wormery.

In **English**, the children have begun the topic by writing poems using descriptive language and alliteration. For the next few weeks we will use the book *The Lorax* as the inspiration for our own writing. We will find out what a **Thneed** is, write setting descriptions and learn about persuasive writing. After half term, we will be reading the story *Tidy*, by Emily Gravett, and writing stories based on the perspective of one of the characters in the book. These stories link nicely to our Science learning and will help the children consider local habitats and what animals need to survive.

We have started our **Science** learning this term by talking about habitats and micro-habitats. The children have been identifying habitats in the local environment and we will go on a walk to Hampstead Heath to look at some habitats in more detail. We will also be learning about plants this term. The children will observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants and we will be doing experiments to find out what plants need to grow and stay healthy.

In **Geography** and **History** this term, we will focus on our local environment. The children will find out how Hampstead has changed throughout history by studying maps and aerial photographs. We will visit Burgh House, where the children will have the opportunity to compare and discuss a variety of paintings in the museum's collection, focusing on human and physical geographical features of the local landscape.

We will also be delivering a **STEAM** project in the second half term. **STEAM** stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. This year the project links closely to our topic learning. The children will collect data about the plants currently growing in our playground and the wildlife regularly visiting our playground. We will then research and plan ways to try and attract more wildlife. The outcome of the project will come heavily from the children's ideas and the results of the data they compiled at the beginning of the project.

In **Maths**, we will continue to follow the National Curriculum using the Mastery approach to learn the most vital concepts. This means that we will be focusing on key Big Ideas and the children will have lots of opportunities to develop and apply their understanding of numbers, shapes, patterns and measures. The children will continue to work with numbers to 100. They will be adding and subtracting numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations, and mentally, and we will be spending more time recognising and using the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction. Children will continue learning to quickly recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables. I have been really impressed with the children's time telling skills and we will continue to refer to the clock throughout the day.

This term we will have PE sessions on Wednesdays with coach Keeley and Thursday afternoons with the Arsenal coaches. The children will be improving their ball and net skills. Children must wear or bring in trainers on these days. We will also be continuing the daily mile.

**Reading** - Please continue to read with your children daily and use the reading diary for any comments. The children will continue to change their books once a week, please be aware that some groups have changed days and an up to date list can be found on the classroom door. If your child would like to write comments about their books, whether they liked them or disliked them, something they found funny or enjoyed, please encourage them to do so.

### Home Learning

This term, children will continue to receive Home Learning every Thursday. It is essential that all children bring their Home Learning Journals to school every Wednesday, so that I can check them and they are then ready for the new Home Learning to be added for the following week.

### Important Dates

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Afternoon walk to the Heath

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Trip to Burgh House

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – KS1 Open Morning

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Whole school STEAM Week

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evening

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Year Two Class Tea

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year Two Class Assembly

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – International Food Evening

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Last day of term (2pm finish)

Kind regards,

Rachel Webb

