



Fleet Primary School

Fleet Road Hampstead London NW3 2QT
Tel: 020 7485 2028 Fax: 020 7485 5177
E-mail: admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk
Headteacher: Don McGibbon



Year 3 Topic Letter



Year 3: Spring 2020

The Great School of China

Dear Parents/Carers,

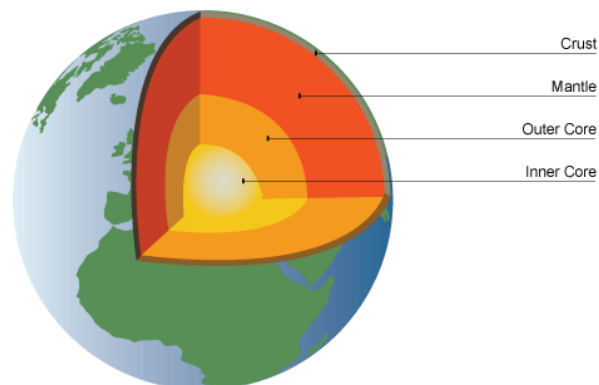
Welcome back! Our new topic this term is 'The Great School of China', a Geography based topic. It will be exploring lots of exciting aspects of the country, focussing on earthquakes and volcanoes.

In English we are starting with a fantasy basis. Our fiction work this term will be focussed on the books 'Where The Mountain Meets the Moon' by Grace Lin, 'The Race for the Chinese Zodiac' by Gabrielle Wang, and 'Bronze and Sunflower' by Cao Wenxuan. We will do lots of creative writing around these texts. We will also look at poetry about dragons and write our own poems describing our imaginary dragons. Our non-fiction work will be information texts about natural disasters and some instructional writing linked to our DT. We will also do some writing linked to our History unit, looking at the book 'Stone Age Boy'.

In Geography we will learn about how volcanoes and earthquakes are caused. We will then look at some different types of volcanoes and some famous Chinese volcanoes. Next, the children will link their learning to our life in the UK, looking at land features we have here such as Snowdon, Arthur's Seat, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis. In DT we will make models of volcanoes. Our computing will be linked to the topic and be supported by a trip to the CLC.

Our Science topic for this term is about rocks. We will link this learning to our topic by studying igneous rocks which are formed as the result of a volcano. We will also look at other types of rock found around us, as well as fossils and soil. Our History learning will be focussed on the Stone Age where the children will be finding out about how Stone Age people lived, ate and communicated and studying some of the fierce animals which were alive during Stone Age times. In RE, we will be looking at the Hindu festival of Holi and learning about why Christians celebrate Easter. 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, data, time and measures, fractions and mental multiplication and division.

If you have anything at home that relates to our topic, do feel free to bring it in! If you have any other connections with our topic and can offer any support, I would love to hear from you!



PE this term is on **Wednesday** (with Coach Keely). We will also have Swimming until half term. Next half term, we will have an additional PE session on Fridays. The children will need to make sure they have shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms, t-shirt/top and trainers for these days, although it is often easier for PE kit to be left at school for the duration of the half term. It would be really helpful if clothes and PE kit bags are labelled with names! The Wednesday P.E. lesson finishes at 3.30pm. Children will have the option to miss the final ten minutes of the lesson to change or, in order for them to participate in the full session, please provide a warm coat and/or tracksuit bottoms for them to travel home in.

We will continue learning the recorder this term. Please ensure that the children bring their instruments in on **Wednesdays** for our music lesson.

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:

- Friday 7th Feb:** Maths Open Morning
- Wednesday 11th March:** Parents' Meeting
- Thursday 12th March:** Y3 Class Tea
- Friday 13th March:** Y3 Class Assembly
- TBC:** Trip to Hampstead Heath Outdoor Learning Centre
- TBC:** Trip to Natural History Museum

I will send trip letters out with more details nearer the time. Any offers of help on trips are greatly appreciated as it is extremely difficult to run trips without extra adult support. Thank you to all the parents who helped us last term! 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 contributing food and drink. Thank you to the parents who have helped with this so far. Class teas are really important since they help to fund all the wonderful trips and visitors which we have at school.

Home learning is continuing as it was last term. Home learning journals and reading diaries are updated with new work to complete every week. The Reading tasks are due on **Thursdays** and new work is stuck in on **Friday**. Please ensure your child brings both these books with them to school **daily** so they can stay up to date. Thank you for the support you've given the home learning so far, it really helps your child make progress in their learning.

Year 3 will continue to have great support from other adults this term. Jo and Emma will be working with us during the day and the learning support team will be supporting the class at

different times during the week. Ms. Wall will be teaching the children on Monday afternoons. Coach Keeley will continue to teach our PE session.

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. I am also available to talk to parents between 8.45 and 9am.

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. New spelling lists are sent home at the end of a cycle; please support your child with learning these words. 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.