



Fleet Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable Winter break. Our topic this term is 'To India and Beyond!' This is a geography-based topic which will involve us learning about a range of countries around the world, with a focus on India. We will learn about the geography – human and physical – of India and explore the significance of landmarks, both natural and manmade, in Indian culture. We will study the land use of India and compare this with other countries. Hinduism will be studied, with a focus on key beliefs, festivals and traditions; this learning will be supported by a trip to the Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden. Of course, no topic on India would be complete without learning about and cooking some authentic dishes!

Throughout the term, we will be reading traditional tales and stories from India, which will inspire our writing. We will write poems encompassing the energy and brilliance of an Indian sunrise and will create pieces based on Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and Mal Peet's book, *Cloud Tea Monkeys*. The famous Indian elephants will inspire some art printing and we will research the ivory trade and how this is affecting the elephants and farmers of India and write a persuasive piece on the subject.

We will consider the impact of the 2004 tsunami on India, then aim to design and build bridges able to withstand a tsunami.

In science, we will be learning about the process of reproduction in plants and the life cycles of mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. This will include learning about puberty and the physical changes that take place in both males and females during this stage. This area of the curriculum will be taught sensitively alongside PSHE, enabling children to discuss and learn about the hormonal changes that occur during puberty and how these can affect emotions.

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

- Fractions and percentages of amounts
- Decimals – ordering and comparing
- Negative numbers
- Solving problems involving multiplication, division, addition and subtraction
- Converting and calculating measures
- Geometry – 2D shapes

We will also do a range of problem-solving activities to develop the children's skills in this area 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.

The children will continue to **have trumpets and trombones lessons every Thursday morning**. Please remind them to bring their instrument to school every Thursday and to practise regularly at home.

This term, the children will have **swimming lessons every Monday afternoon** at Kentish Town swimming pool. Please ensure the children bring their swimming kit to school every Monday and it is a good idea for them to wear clothes / shoes they can get changed in to quickly! We will also have a class P.E. session on **Wednesday** which they need their P.E. kit for.

The children will have the opportunity to read every day in school, thus they should ensure they bring in a suitable **reading book and their reading diary every day. Home learning will be given out on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday.** The home learning will be explained at school and will cover a maths objective, with the addition of practising times tables if your child is not yet secure with these, and a fortnightly spelling list.

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.</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>
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 $24 \div 6 = 4$. They should also practise doubling and halving numbers.</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:

- Friday 24th January – Trip to CLC (TBC)
- Friday 31st January – Trip to Swaminarayan Temple
- Friday 7th February – KS1 & 2 open morning - maths
- Thursday 13th February - Year 5 class tea at 3.30pm
- Friday 14th February – Year 5 class assembly at 10am
- Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February – Half term
- Wednesday 26th February – Trip to October Gallery
- Wednesday 11th March – parents' meetings
- Tuesday 31st March – Music assembly
- Thursday 2nd April – International Food Evening
- Friday 3rd April – Last day of term, 2pm finish

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me or come in for a chat after school. Any help that you can give with our topic will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Holly Kingham