



Fleet Primary School

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Year 3 Topic Letter

Year 3: Summer 2020

The Enchanted Forest

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone had as happy and restful an Easter break as possible. I have outlined below what will happen as we continue with distance learning – if/when we return to school this term, there will be changes to this and you will receive an update regarding those changes.

Our new topic this term is Science based and is called 'The Enchanted Forest'. We will be 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 haikus and then write our own based on different woodland animals. Our fiction units this term will be 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. 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.

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. In our second Science unit, we will focus on muscles, skeletons and the circulatory and digestive systems.

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 there will be a focus on 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. 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 and research some notable local residents and places. In Art, we will look at the work done by Walt Disney and Thomas Kinkade and use it to inspire our own art. In RE, we will be looking at Judaism – focusing on Hannukah, the Torah and Purim.

Please continue to support your child with updating their reading diary this term. Thank you for your support with this!

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to e-mail me using admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk with 'FAO Ms Costelloe' as the subject

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes,
Sinead Costelloe

General ways to continue helping:

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) 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.
- 2) 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.