



Fleet Primary School

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Year 3 Topic Letter



Year 3: Spring 2021

Hall of Flame

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! Our new topic this term is 'Hall of Flame', a Geography based topic. It will be focussing on earthquakes and volcanoes, while also incorporating fireworks and dragons!

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 and 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. We will do lots of creative writing around these texts. We will also look at haikus and write our own poems. 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 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, measures, fractions and written and mental methods for multiplication and division.

In Geography, we will learn about how volcanoes and earthquakes are caused. We will then look at some different types of 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 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.

Once we've finished Forces and Motion, our next 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.

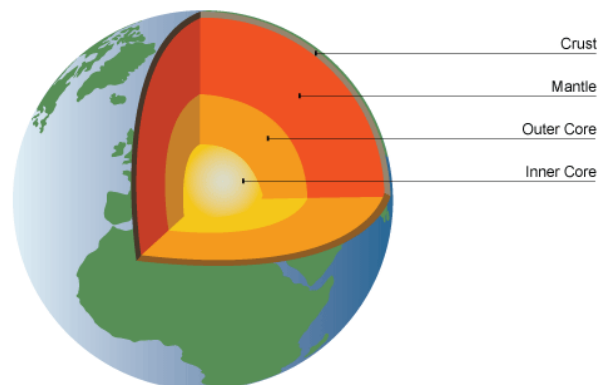
In RE, we will be looking at the Hindu festival of Holi and learning about why Christians celebrate Easter.

If you have any connections with our topic and can offer any support, I would love to hear from you!

We will continue learning the recorder this term.

Reminders for when we return:

- Please ensure that the children bring their instruments in on **Fridays** for our music lesson.
- P.E will continue to be on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** so please come dressed in suitable attire
- Please continue to bring a **labelled** water bottle to school



Once we return to school, home learning will continue 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 Alem 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. Mulji will be teaching the children on Monday afternoons. Coach Keeley will continue to teach our PE session and Ms. Benbetka will continue to teach Music.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. In the first two weeks of term, while we continue with virtual learning, I will be calling to speak to you weekly. Please contact the office if you would like to arrange an additional call.

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.