



Fleet Primary School

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Welcome back - key Information for tomorrow's return to school and this term

15th April 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a good break. To those of you who were fasting and celebrated Eid during the break, I hope you had a wonderful celebration with family and friends. The staff and I have been busy in school today preparing to welcome back your children tomorrow.

Topics and Curriculum:

The new topic letters and topic snapshots will be sent out next week via Parent Hub (with a hard copy of the Topic Snapshot going home with your child). Please ensure you keep the Topic Snapshot to support your child with their Topic learning for this term. It represents the key factual data the children need to have absorbed by the end of the topic and will be referred to throughout the term in class and for home learning.

Communication:

We will continue to use Parent Hub for all our parent communications. This has saved us a large amount of money over the last few years by avoiding paper and photocopying costs as well as the large cost associated with sending communications by text message. With the additional financial constraints facing us this year in terms of energy costs and cost of living increases, it is more important than ever that we are not wasting money. If you have not yet got the Parent Hub app installed please do so we can continue to make savings on text messages. Also, ensure that your phone has notifications switched **ON** for the app so you are alerted when we send a message (the same way you would be if it came by text). Please make sure you have registered your child and not just added the app/school to ensure you get child/class specific messages and not just whole school messages. **Instructions on how to install are in the weekly Wednesday Community Notices Newsletter or you can call Lisa in the office for support.**

Attendance:

Regular attendance is vital to your child making progress. Please ensure your children are in school every day and on time. Children should be in their class ready to start the day by 9am – not arriving onto site at this time. If your child is unwell, please ensure you phone the school as soon as possible to inform us. **You need to do this every day they are absent, not just the first day.**

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment please request that it be out of school hours. If this is not possible, they should come into school before and/or after depending on the timing. It is rare an appointment would require a full day to be missed. Thank you for your continued support in maximising the time your child has to learn in school and in helping them build resilience and a positive learning attitude.

With this in mind we would also remind you that children should not be taken out of school during term time for holidays. While we recognise there may, from time to time, be emergency situations that arise requiring time off – funerals, family illness etc. a holiday is not a valid reason to take time out of school as described in terms of 'exceptional circumstances' laid out by the Department for Education. We understand the intrinsic value gained from holidays and that costs during school holidays can be prohibitive, but that in itself does not make them justified. In the majority of situations, holidays during term time will be marked as unauthorised absence and risk a fine. If you are in an emergency situation and need to request time off for your child please contact the office as soon as possible to complete the request for leave form providing evidence of the need. Thank you for your ongoing support in this.

Punctuality is also a vital life skill children need to learn. Lessons begin at 9am and that means children should be seated in class at this time. Please do all you can to help your child to achieve this so as to avoid missing vital information/teaching at the start of the day as well as not disrupting the learning of their classmates who have made it in to class on time.

As we did last term, we will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality and from time to time you may receive a letter highlighting any concerns we may have or an invitation to a meeting to discuss these concerns. We want to work with you to achieve the best outcomes for your child and we appreciate your support with this.

Lunches:

If you plan to change your child's lunch – either from packed lunch to school dinner or the other way round please do communicate any change straight away to the school office to avoid there not being enough or any excess waste. The kitchen prepare fresh meals for children each day based on the information we have. Remember, all children from Reception to Year 6 are now entitled to a free school meal thanks to the Mayor or London's current scheme.

Free School Meals

Even though your child is receiving their free school meals automatically, it is still vitally important – if you have not done so already – to complete a short registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth over £1,300 per year. That's more money for extracurricular activities, teacher development and support for children who need it most. This will ensure you'll also receive any other benefits you may be entitled to, like food vouchers during the holidays, discounts on clubs and residential trips. Please apply here:

<https://accountforms.camden.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals/>

Equipment and things needed to be brought in:

- **Clothing:** This term the weather is likely to be very changeable. Please ensure the children are prepared for wet and cold weather. We endeavour to get the children outside for playtimes as much as possible so they need to come to school prepared to be outside.
- **Water:** Please send your child in to school with a water bottle (put their name on it) so that they have access to water throughout the day. They will be able to refill their bottles throughout the day. We know hydration is very important to support attention.
- **Stationary:** As is usual, all writing equipment and exercise books are provided by the school. If children do want to bring in their own pencil case and stationary items they are free to do so but it is not required.
- **Bags:** Space in classrooms, especially around coat/bag areas is restricted. We would encourage children to bring in book bags rather than large rucksacks. Not only do they keep books in better condition they also take up less space in the classroom. Packed lunches are not taken up to class but left on the trolley in the hall.
- **PE Kit:** Children need to have PE kit to wear on the PE day. Coach Keeley's sessions with Y1-Y6 will continue to be Mondays. Up to Year 4 are free to wear PE kit to school rather than need to change if they prefer. Year 5 and 6 need to bring in a change of clothes for hygiene reasons.
- **Swimming:** The class going swimming this term will be Year 6. They will go every day for a two week period from the 17th – 28th June. More details will be provided to Year 6 families closer to the time.
- **Brass – trumpets and trombones:** Year 4 and 5 will be continuing with their brass lessons this term. They should be taking their instrument home with them to practice in between sessions. Their sessions with Rod the brass teacher happen on Thursday mornings so please ensure they bring in their instruments on a Thursday.

Homework and Home learning:

In Year 1-6 we are now using 'Google Classroom' for homework. Instructions should have come home with your child, along with their login, last term. We also continue to use 'Mathletics' and 'Times Table Rockstars' to support learning in school and for children to practice key skills at home. Obviously to access these online learning resources children will need access to the internet and a suitable device (not a phone!). If you have any problems in this area please speak to us and we can try to arrange support so the children do not miss out through lack of access. If your child is unsure of their individual login details for any of the online learning resources please consult their class teacher via the office.

Book Bags:

Like last term, all children across the school take books home to support their reading development. In EYFS and KS1 as well as their reading for pleasure books there will also be phonics books that the children will be taking home. We have invested heavily in these books and it is really important that any books going home come back in to school **EVERYDAY**. They will usually be changed weekly. We would recommend a school book bag to hold books – this keeps them flat and in good condition and avoids them being damaged from spilled water bottles etc. For the phonics books, in the case of lost or damaged books we do ask for a £5 fee to replace them. Missing books means other children miss out. Fleet book bags can be purchased from the school office (can also be paid for online via ScoPay) and are perfect for carrying these books.

Clubs:

Clubs will start from Monday 22nd April. The link to the google form to sign your children up will be sent out shortly. Please ensure that you complete this by **Thursday** so that we can inform all families on Friday what places have been allocated. If your child is allocated a place, we would ask that you ensure they show commitment and attend regularly. Children dropping out can affect the viability of a club running and mean it has to be cancelled for others.

At Fleet we try to run as many of our clubs using volunteers and in school staff as possible so that we can continue to offer them at a low price and make them as accessible as possible. Thank you to those parents who already help to run clubs. Please contact the office if you are able to offer anything for future terms.

Class Assemblies:

These fantastic class performances continue this term. The first one this term is Reception. While we endeavour to stick to these dates, should any need to be changed we will inform you as soon as we can. Provisional dates for this term are below. As usual these will **all start at 10am** and are usually on Fridays (except the Y6 leaver's (a Tuesday @ 2pm)– see below):

- **Reception** – Friday 17th May
- **Year 5** – Friday 24th May
- **Year 4** – Friday 14th June
- **Year 3** – Friday 21st June
- **Year 2** – Friday 28th June
- **Year 1** – Friday 5th July
- **Year 6 – Leaver's Assembly** – Tuesday 23rd July (@2pm)

End of Year Reports and new class teacher announcement:

On **Tuesday 16th July** you will receive your child's end of year report. This will detail their work throughout the year and include targets for English and Maths moving forward into their next year. While we do not hold formal parent meetings this term in light of the report, should there be anything in the report you want to clarify or don't understand we would encourage you to drop in to discuss with the teacher. We will hold a teacher drop in after school on **Thursday 18th July from 3.45-5pm**. This is an opportunity to visit your current class teacher to ask any questions you have around the report or to introduce yourself to your child's class teacher for the following school year.

Parent Workshops and Support

We'd like to thank all of you who were able to attend some of the many parent workshops we have held this year already. We hope to offer more over the coming term – keep an eye on the newsletter and school communications as we will send out notices as these are arranged.

Lisa Tan continues to work 3 days a week as our Family Support Worker. Those of you who have been supported by her already this year will know how useful and effective her help has been. Anyone who has any concerns, be those around physical or mental health of you or your children, about work, housing, legal issues and many other areas please do contact her to see how she can help. Families experiencing difficulties in any of these areas, while outside traditional school remit, nonetheless can impact on a child's education or on a parents' ability to engage in their education the way they might want to. The support she offers could range from support with grant applications for funding, housing difficulties, accessing local services or being a listening ear and supporting interactions with school and other agencies. If you have any questions or want to access this service please do make contact.

Whole school events this term:

- **Date to be confirmed** – After School Eid Celebration
- **Thursday 25th April** – International Food Evening 5-7pm – bring a dish to share!
- **Monday 24th – Friday 28th June** – STEAM week
- **Monday 8th – Friday 12th July** – Wellbeing Week
- **Friday 12th July** – Sports Day for KS1 and KS2 on the Heath @ the running track

Trips and Visits:

Details of the trips for your child's class for those already booked will be shared in topic letter coming home next week. We will send reminders in advance of any trips via parent hub. As is usual, we are dependent on parent and carer support on trips to enable us to offer them. Let your child's teacher know if you are able to support on any upcoming trips.

Term Dates:

This year's dates are up on the school website at the following address. For your information I include the dates for this term below:

<https://www.fleet.camden.sch.uk/about-us/dates>

First day of term	Tuesday 16 th April 2024
May Day bank holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024 – school closed
Half term (inclusive)	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
INSET Day	Monday 10 th June – school closed
Last day of term	Wednesday 24 th July 2024 – finish at 2pm

Funding and payments:

If you are having any problems accessing the online payment portal on ScoPay—or are not yet setup and would like to be, please do speak to Lisa in the office. You can now make donations, pay for clubs, book bags and trips online without having to bring in cash via the office. Please note, the app version will not show the donation tab without there being a balance so we have put £1 here. This is not money you owe! It is simply there so it shows up allowing any who wish to make any size of donation to the school to be able to do so using the app - you are also able to make a gift aid declaration here which increases the value in real terms of any donation you make. Thank you.

Office:

Most enquiries can be dealt with either over the phone or via email (admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk). Myself, or other members of the school Senior Leadership team are on hand during drop offs and can also pass on any messages you might have for the class teachers. Please bear in mind that the busiest periods for the

office are the beginning and end of the day – dealing with enquiries either in person, or replying to emails/phone calls, may take longer at these times.

I'd like to thank you for your continued support and trust as we prepare for another successful term. I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow when we welcome back the children

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don McGibbon', written in a cursive style.

Don M^cGibbon - Head Teacher