



Fleet Primary School

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Parent's Guide to what you should see in your child's books

At parents' evenings, and during the soft start from 8.45am-9am, you are more than welcome to spend some time looking in your child's books in the classroom. Here is a list of things to look out for:

What to look for in your child's books:

- Is your child taking pride in their work? Is the presentation improving? Is their handwriting changing?
- Do you feel the things your child is writing shows their ideas and understanding?
- Can you see places where your child has corrected him or herself? Is there anything else that shows they are becoming more independent?
- Is your child's spelling and punctuation improving? Is your child using more complicated words?
- Is your child's work being marked regularly? Remember that staff will talk to your child about what they are doing, so not all feedback will be visible in their books
- Is your child being encouraged as well as corrected?
- Can you see a change in the amount of work e.g. number of sentences in literacy or the number of maths questions, your child is achieving?

Work in books

Fleet has a very varied and creative based curriculum. This means that children explore many different ways of learning as well as recording evidence of what they have done and learnt. For this reason you would not necessarily expect to see work in a book for every single lesson. Some lessons may have a practical focus and/or have a physical outcome not easily recorded in a book – often this may be recorded as a photograph with comment in the book. Trips can also mean there may be a gap between recorded work.

Marking

You should see evidence of regular marking – whether that be 'acknowledgement' marking (work ticked to show it has been seen) or more in depth 'success and improvement' marking (using highlighters and with comments and challenges from the teacher).

Editing Pen

You should also see from time to time that there will be work done in blue pen. This is where children have done 'edits'. This could be correcting work based on comments or discussions with the teacher, or it may be where they have noticed a mistake or improvement on their own and have edited it independently.

Self and Peer Assessment

This is where children mark their own or each others' work. A key part of the curriculum, especially in English, is the children becoming more and more confident in being able to assess their own work and improve it. To ensure they develop this crucial skill you should see evidence in their English books where this has happened. Obviously this is more in depth in upper KS2 as the children's ability increases but we do try and give even the KS1 children chances to do this, although for younger children this may be done more verbally and not seen in the books.

If, after you look at your child's books, you have any questions or are unsure about something, please do ask the teacher.

Don McGibbon
Head Teacher
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