



Fleet Primary School

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Welcome back - key information for Tuesday's return to school and this term

6th January 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a good break over the Christmas and New Year period. The staff and I are 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). You should receive these on Tuesday 13th. 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 homework.

Communication:

We will continue to use Parent Hub for all our parent communications. This saves us a large amount of money by avoiding paper and photocopying costs as well as the large cost associated with sending communications by text message. 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 the office for support.**

Attendance:

Thank you for all your continued support in ensuring children are in school as often as possible. Last term showed a great improvement on the last two years where attendance levels were far too low. Good school attendance is crucial to ensuring a child reaches their potential and maximising the learning opportunities afforded them in school and that gaps in learning do not appear. Regular attendance supports not just academic learning but fosters the forming and maintaining of friendships and social and emotional development.

Missing a few days here and there may not seem like much, however, over the course of a year it does have an impact on their progress and can lead to lots of gaps in the foundations of their reading, writing and mathematical skills. While we recognise there are times when children are too unwell to attend school, and last term we do know there were lots of bugs going around, we do also want to encourage resilience – that ability for children to be able to push through even when feeling a little bit under the weather. After all, it is a vital life skill required of them throughout their life.

Our target for children's attendance is 96%. We know the vast majority of children can manage this and this pays dividends in terms of their learning and future life prospects. If you have any concerns over your child's attendance or any related issues/barriers in meeting this target, please do speak to your child's class teacher.

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, a holiday is not a valid reason to take time out of school as described in terms of

'exceptional circumstances' as set 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. Holidays during term time will be marked as an unauthorised absence and you will be fined. 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 – last term punctuality was vastly improved – thank you! 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.

Illness: If your child is unwell, please ensure you call the school by 9am to let us know what is wrong with them if they are not able to come in. You can leave a message on the answer machine if calling before 8am. You should call the school each day your child is not in attendance, not just on the first day.

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 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.

If you decide not to take up this offer and are going to provide your child with a packed lunch, please ensure it meets the criteria of a 'healthy' packed lunch as laid out in Appendix 1 of our Whole School Food Policy. This can be found on our website at:

<https://www.fleet.camden.sch.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Policies/Food%20Policy%20including%20Packed%20Lunch%20-%20Jan%202022.pdf>

Free School Meals:

PLEASE NOTE: Although all children from Reception-Year 6 qualify for a free school meal under the Mayor's Universal Free School Meals programme, this is not the same as being eligible for Free School Meals. If you receive certain state benefits, Camden also provide every child who is eligible and signed up to the free school meals scheme with extra support with food worth £500 a year – including:

- Free breakfast club
- Discounted afterschool clubs
- Food vouchers in the holidays

APPLY HERE: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Much of the school's funding is determined by the number of children eligible for free school meals (not universal) and so we would encourage you to apply if you think you meet the criteria, even though your child, for this year at least, if in Reception-Year 6, they will get a free lunch regardless of outcome. This will enable the school to get the funding we need to run the school as well as avoiding you being charged for meals should the 'universal' entitlement be withdrawn at any point in the future.

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 stationery 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 with EYFS on Fridays. 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 4. They will go every day for a two week period from the 24th February – 7th March. More details will be provided to Year 4 families closer to the time.

Homework and Home learning:

Homework for classes will continue to be delivered via Google Classroom. Please make sure you are able to access this at home. If you/they are having problems logging in, please speak to the class teacher.

We continue to use 'Mathletics' (Y3-6) and 'Times Table Rockstars (and Numbots)' (Y1-Y6) to support maths learning in school and for children to practice key skills in this area at home. They will be expected as part of their weekly homework to log into these online resources and complete work.

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, such as not having a suitable device, 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 does not remember any of their login details, please let the teacher know as soon as possible so that they can get them a copy of the missing details.

Book Bags:

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. that could be in a rucksack or holdall. 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 and are perfect for carrying these books.

Clubs:

Clubs will start from Monday 13th January. You will be should have received a link to a 'google form' today to request places in this term's clubs. Please ensure that you complete this by Thursday so that we can inform all families on Friday what places have been allocated.

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 next one is the last week of this half term with Year 6 kicking us off. 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:

- **Year 6** – Friday 14th February
- **Year 5** – Friday 28th February
- **Year 4** – Friday 7th March
- **Year 3** – Friday 14th March
- **Year 2** – Friday 21st March
- **Year 1** – Friday 28th March

Parents Meetings:

This term's meetings will be held across 2 days. For most classes these will be **Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27st March** after school (some classes may differ on one of the days due to individual circumstances for the class teacher's availability but all will be that week).

In this meeting as well as an update on how your child is doing there will be a discussion around the progress towards the targets discussed in last term's meeting and what the targets will be moving forward in Maths and English. Closer to the date we will send out a link to sign up to a meeting slot.

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 last term. 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. We also have access to various avenues of support on an individual level too so if there is anything specific you would like/need please do come and speak with us.

Whole school events:

- **Friday 31st January** – Y1-Y6 Maths Open Morning @ 9-9.30am
- **Tuesday 11th & 12th February** – Safer Internet Day activities – internet safety workshops/assemblies for children and focus on internet safety
- **Thursday 6th March** - World Book Day – Dressing up as your favourite book character – more info nearer the time

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. The two weekly newsletters (Wednesday and Friday) also both have dates/events separated out by year group to make things easy to find. Please make sure you check the newsletters regularly and ParentHub as for some trips there may be clothing or lunch requirements to be aware of. 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 years and next year's term 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 7th January 2025

	(Nursery – Wednesday 8 th January 2025)
Half term (inclusive)	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February 2025
Last day of term	Friday 4 th April 2025 – finish at 2pm

Home School Liaison Worker:

Lisa Tan continues to work as our Home School Liaison Worker. Those of you who have worked with her already since taking up this position 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, finance and funding, 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.

Funding and payments:

If you are having any problems accessing the online payment portal on ScoPay.com —or are not yet setup and would like to be, please do speak to Kelly or June 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. You now also have the ability to pay for a term of clubs without having to remember each week. Please note, the app version will not show the donation tab without there being a balance so we have put £2 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. Thank you.

Office:

June and Kelly continue this term to run the office. They are available throughout the school day to deal with any enquiries you may have. Most enquiries can be dealt with either over the phone or via email (admin@fleet.camden.sch.uk). Please bear in mind that the beginning of the day and the end of the day are the busiest times for them and therefore maybe not the best time to go in and ask a question or complete a task that could be done over the phone or via email at a more convenient time.

If wanting to get a last minute message to us about a change of pickup or something the teacher needs to know before pickup, it is best to phone rather than email if it’s already late in the day – that way you can ensure the office get the message to pass it on in time.

Myself, or another member of the school Senior Leadership team are on hand at drop off or pick up on the front gate and can also pass on any messages you might have for the office or a class teacher.

I’d like to thank you for your continued support and trust as we prepare for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow when we welcome back the children.

Yours Sincerely,



Don M^cGibbon - Head Teacher