

# Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton  
Primary School



Spring 2 2025

What we are learning about:

**Our topic/theme this half term is:**

**What did the Greeks do for us?**

**We will be learning:**

For history this half term we will be traveling back to Ancient Greece to answer the question: What did the Greeks do for us? We will be exploring ancient Greece and why it developed in the form of separate city-states that were independently ruled. We will also explore what gods they believed in and how Greek democracy and philosophy still impacts our world today, approximately 2000 years after their civilisation was conquered by the Romans.

In Science, we will learn about the classification of living things, including microorganisms. We will learn the names and characteristics of the main groups used to classify animals, plants and microorganisms, use a classification key and create our own key using yes/no questions. We will conduct an experiment involving the respiration of yeast and to conclude the unit we will learn about the life and work of Linnaeus and understand the importance of his standard classification system.

**Key Vocabulary:**

**Maths** – triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon, hexagon, acute, obtuse, reflex, straight, square, rectangle, isosceles, scalene, right-triangle, equilateral, cube, cuboid, prism, pyramid, x-axis, y-axis, translate, rotate, symmetry, coordinate, degree, squared, cubed

**Science** – Classify, vertebrate, invertebrate, exoskeleton, vascular, non-vascular, taxonomy

**Topic** – assembly, constitutional monarchy, democracy, direct democracy, ethics, government, period, philosophy, oligarchy, representative democracy

**English:**

In English, we will use Journey to Jo'Burg by Beverley Naidoo as our inspiration for several writing outcomes. Firstly, we will write a diary in role as Naledi, one of the main characters. Our focus will be on expressing Naledi's thoughts and feelings. Then, focusing on using dialogue to move the action on or express character we will create our own version of one of the chapters for our narrative writing. We will return to our diary writing to express how Naledi has changed her outlook on life by the end of the book, before writing a biography about Nelson Mandela to complete the term.

**Mathematics:**

There is a strong geometry and measurement focus this half term, in maths. We have begun the term by looking at measuring and calculating area and perimeter in polygons. This has then been stretched to calculating these for compound shapes. The children have taken this learning and their understanding of 2D shapes to then begin considering volume and capacity in 3D shapes.

We will also learn about measuring angles using protractors and the total of degrees on a straight line, around a point and in a range of shapes (i.e. triangles and quadrilaterals).

Another point of study this half-term will be the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and working on the four quadrants of a grid to translate, reflect and rotate shapes using coordinates.