

Year 2 Newsletter

How have people helped us?

Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School



What we are learning about:

Spring 2 2026

Our topic/ theme this half term is: How have people helped us?

History: In History we will be learning about how people have helped us in the past, and their impact on the lives of many in present day. We will specifically learning about the work of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We will learn about the important role they played towards hygiene in medical settings and why this was so important for patients to get better.

Art and Design: In art and design, we will be delving into our 'Painting and Mixed Media: Painting' unit. Within this unit, we will firstly be recapping our knowledge of primary and secondary colours. We will have many opportunities to learn about famous painters, and be inspired to paint in the style of their work.

Music: Our topic in Music is called 'Learning to Listen'. We will learn that music is made up of high and low sounds, long and short sounds, and loud and quiet sounds. Throughout the unit we will refer to the question 'How does music help us to understand our neighbours?'. Singing and listening will be at the heart of each lesson and we will play, improvise and compose using a selection of these notes: C, D, E, F, F#, G, A.

Computing: In Computing we will be covering a coding unit. This includes travelling, rolling, balancing jumping and using equipment.

P.E: In P.E we will be covering the Gymnastics unit of work =

PSHE: In PSHE we our focus will be on Drug Education. This unit aims to develop the children's understanding of medical drugs (e.g. ibuprofen, inhalers, calpol etc) and non-medical drugs (e.g. caffeine, nicotine, substances, cleaning products etc).

R.E: In R.E we will learn from different religious and spiritual ways of life about what it means to have a sense of belonging. We will discuss what this means for our sense of belonging to our school community, family, friendship groups and activity clubs. We will also discuss the feelings that surround this sense of belonging. Additionally, we will identify religious symbols that are associated with a sense of belonging to a religious faith.

Science: In Science we will be learning about plants. We will dissect parts of a plant to understand their structure, plant our own seeds to watch them grow and name, identify and categorise a variety of plants.

English:

Reading: This half term, we will be continuing to read our Little Wandle or Fluency books. We have again been working really hard on our reading over the last half term. Our aim is to be able to read with prosody and fluency. We will continue to draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand the texts we read, identify and explain the sequence of events in texts, make inferences from the text and predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far.

Writing: Our first model text this half term is called What We'll Build by Oliver Jeffers. A father and daughter set about laying the foundations for their life together. Using their own special tools, they get to work; building memories to cherish, a home to keep them safe and love to keep them warm. We will continue to apply our phonic knowledge for sounding out words, use conjunctions, write with correct formation and use a range of sentence types to write our own version of the narrative. We will then move onto our next model text, which is a Florence Nightingale Fact file. This will link nicely to our History topic where we will have been learning about Florence Nightingale as a significant historical figure.

Maths: In Maths this half term, we will focus on measurement. In this unit we will begin by looking at length and height and then move onto mass, capacity and temperature. We will learn about centimetres and metres and how to use a ruler accurately to measure objects. We will learn how to use and read different types of scales and we will use language like 'heavier' and 'lighter', 'longer' and 'shorter' and inequalities (<,>=) to compare measurements. We will also continue to learn and consolidate our 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths: tens, ones, times tables, compare, inequalities, measurement, millimetres (mm), centimetres (cm), metres (m), grams (g), kilograms (kg), scales, scale, intervals, temperature, degrees celsius, millilitres (ml), litres (l)

English: grapheme phoneme correspondence (GPC), grapheme, phoneme, digraph, trigraph, blend, segment, capital letter, full stop, conjunction, expanded noun phrase, story map, fiction, non-fiction, narrative, description, fact file, sub-headings, questions, commands, exclamation, statements, suffixes

Science: plants, roots, stem, leaves, leaf, petal, seeds, fruit, vegetables, tree, trunk, soil, plant pot, water, observation.

Topic: History, past, people who helped us, Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole, Jamaican, hospitals, London, nurse, hygiene, compare, change, care, helped.