

Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School



Autumn 1 2025

What we are learning about:

Our topic/theme this half term is:



We will be learning:

In Topic, we will join the school in exploring our local geography. In years 5 and 6 we will be looking at the city of Cambridge. We will learn about the physical geographic features of the city – the River Cam, Castle Hill – and some of the human geographic features, such as the population, universities, employment etc. Additionally, we will consider why this settlement has become one of the most important in our area and how it has grown through history.

In Science, we will be developing our working scientifically skills. We will learn about the different types of science investigation, research a famous scientist and plan and carry out a range of different types of science enquiry.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths – value, ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, ten thousand, hundred thousand, millions, ten millions, addition, plus, sum, subtraction, less than, difference.

English – noun, expanded noun phrase, relative clause, parenthesis, subordinate clause, brackets, dashes, colon, semi-colon, inverted commas, possessive apostrophe, coordinate clause, conjunction, adverbial, prepositional phrase, figurative language, simile, metaphor, alliteration

Topic – Settlement, village, town, city, university, river, meander, physical geography, human geography, population, employment, leisure

Science – scientist, enquiry, observe, pattern, identify, classify, group, characteristics, properties, secondary source, comparative test, fair test, variable, dependent variable, independent variable, analyse, evidence

English:

In English, we have started the year learning about writing setting descriptions. Our model text is a description of Whitby Abbey in Yorkshire. We will use this to explore ways we can describe setting to make it entertaining for the reader. Features such as relative clauses, that modify or give extra information about a noun and figurative language will be explored. Later, we will use these to build our own setting descriptions based on a video of Whitby Abbey from the Literacy Shed website.

Later in the term we will be linking to our local geography topic and creating an information text (a tourist guide): A walk in Cambridge. We will balance the need to inform (write formally) and the need to engage (write less formally and use some persuasion skills). The grammar skills we will focus on will be parenthesis, cohesion (linking) and technical language/generalisers (Y5) or passive voice (Y6).

Mathematics:

In Maths, we have begun the year looking at place value. We have considered the value of numbers to ten million and one million. We have used our understanding of this to compare and order them. We have worked on rounding numbers within one million and the year 6 children have worked to round integer numbers larger than a million, with accuracy. In addition, we have learnt about negative numbers and the children have built their understanding of how to calculate across zero. In this part of the half term, we will be looking at recapping and building on previous years' learning of addition and subtraction. The children will be learning to mentally calculate using adjusting and partitioning with larger numbers, estimating using rounding and using the formal methods to calculate increasingly larger numbers with accuracy. We will also use models to calculate problems that include multiple operations