Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School

What we are learning about: WW2

Autumn 2 2026

Our topic/theme this half term is:

WW2: Cause and Consequence

We will be learning:

In Topic, we will be learning about World War 2 with a focus on the causes and consequences of the war and the Battle of Britain. We will start by thinking about the contributing factors, that caused the outbreak of the war, before moving on to learn about a pivotal moment in the war: the Battle of Britain. We will explore what happened and how the pilots were a small part of all the people involved in bringing victory.

In Art, we will explore the work of artists of the time and what they were trying to communicate.

In Science, we will learn the seven life processes that distinguish living form non-living things. We will consolidate and extend previous learning on the life-cycle of plants and animals, comparing and describing differences in the life-cycles of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and insects. We will learn how animals and plants reproduce; comparing differences and similarities between five different animal groups.

Key Vocabulary:

Topic – axis, allies, blitz, blitzkrieg, evacuation, evacuee, Luftwaffe, Nazi, RAF, rationing, refugee,

Science – movement, reproduction. fertilization, pollen, pollination, stigma, stamen, pistil, style, ovary, seed dispersal, sense, growth, respiration, excretion, nutrition

English

In English, we will use our topic work and class book – Letters from the Lighthouse - to create a portal story set in WW2. To help us, we will explore relative clauses, dialogue to show character and move the action on and prepositions in our grammar work. In our second unit of the term, we will be exploring informal letters and we will again use Letters from the Lighthouse for our inspiration. To help us we will look at idioms, parenthesis and adverbials of time.

Mathematics:

In Maths, we will begin the half term looking at multiplication and division. We will be recapping earlier learning about square and cube numbers. Then we will look at multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000.

Following our work on multiplication and division, we will look at fractions as a class. The class will be building on their understanding from Year 4 and will examine ideas such as recognising equivalent fractions, converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa, comparing and ordering fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions of varying types.

We will continue to practice our arithmetic and looking at maths mastery on Fridays.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths – Equivalent, unit, non-unit, mixed number, proper, improper, compare, convert, order, numerator, denominator.

English – setting, expanded noun phrases, adjectival phrases and participle phrases, informal, recount, parenthesis, relative clause, relative pronoun, bracket, dash, colon, semi-colon.