

Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School



What we are learning about:

Summer 1 2026

Our topic/theme this half term is:

Why does population change?

We will be learning:

In Topic, we will be learning about population and how it can be affected by a range of factors. We will explore how global population has changed in the past five hundred years and look at how medical changes have seen a dramatic rise in the global population in the past sixty years. Following this, we will look into birth and death rates and how these contribute, along with other factors, to a countries population. We will use our findings to consider how over population can impact an area.

In Science, we will be exploring forces where the children will build on their learning done in year 3 and deepen their understanding of how forces act on objects. We will learn about contact and non-contact forces and how these can change motion, shape or direction.

The children will revisit gravity and friction and then extend their understanding to include air resistance, water resistance and the role of surface texture and shape. They will plan and carry out various forms of testing, analysing results to identify patterns and draw conclusions.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths – Statistics, line-graph, bar chart, pie-chart, timetable, pictograph, axis, interpret, percentage, whole, half, quarter.

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.

Topic/Science – population, population density, sparsely populated, densely populated, overpopulation, gravity, resistance, attract, pull, push, balance.

English:

In English, we will be learning about writing balanced arguments. We will be looking at how to use formal and objective language to make our writing sound more impartial. Additionally, we will explore how to create for and against arguments for a balanced argument to explore both sides. To do this we will be looking at a model text on whether animals should be kept in zoos. We will finish the unit off by writing our own balanced arguments on whether children should wear school uniforms.

In the second half of the half-term, we will be looking at persuasive writing. We will use texts about gadgets to explore how persuasive writing is used to encourage people to buy products. We will end our unit of work writing a persuasive advert for a new gadget.

Mathematics:

This half-term in maths, we will be focusing on revising core concepts and methods for the whole class. Additionally, we will be looking at presenting and reading statistics from data presented in bar, line and pictographs.

Additionally, we will be looking at finding percentage of amount and recapping fractions along with other areas from the maths curriculum. This is largely in preparation for the SATs for year 6, however it will also be beneficial for the year 5 students to revise learning that was covered in Autumn term and during the Spring.