

Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School



Summer 2 2026

What we are learning about:

Our topic/theme this half term is:

How did the achievements of the Maya impact their society and beyond?

We will be learning:

In Science, we will be learning about Evolution and Inheritance

In History, we will be learning about the Maya. We will consider the key periods of the Ancient Maya civilisation and identify periods that were happening in Britain at the same time. We will explain how the Ancient Maya settled in the rainforest and the challenges they faced. We will describe Ancient Maya beliefs and name the features of the Ancient Maya cities. There will be an evaluation of the reasons for the decline of the Maya civilisation and we will understand the importance of archaeologists, archivists and historians in constructing our understanding of the past.

In PSHE, we will be learning about relationships and studying sex education.

In Art, we will be investigating the built environment through drawing and printmaking, learning about the work of architect Zaha Hadid, creatively presenting research on artist Hundertwasser and exploring the symbolism of monument design.

Key Vocabulary:

English – noun, expanded noun phrase, relative clause, parenthesis, subordinate clause, brackets, dashes, colon, semi-colon, possessive apostrophe, coordinate clause, conjunction, adverbial

Topic – civilisation, Mesoamerica, decline, deforestation, drought, hieroglyphics, pyramid, slash and burn, tropical rainforest, irrigation.

Science – adaptation, environment, evolution, gene, natural selection, inheritance organism, species

English:

In English, we will start by looking at a short narrative based on the class book for this half term: *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. We will learn the text using actions and images to internalise the structure of the story then use this to write our own narratives with a similar theme.

Later in the half term, we will focus on newspaper writing. Considering how we can write more formally and include quotes to support the story. We will base our writing on the story of Phillippe Petit, who walked a tightrope between the World Trade Centre towers in 1974.

Mathematics:

In Maths, we will be revisiting areas of the curriculum we have covered this year. We will spend our time recapping areas like formal and mental multiplication, fractions, decimals and percentages. Additionally, we will be looking at investigations where we can work systematically to support understanding of how we can work in this way to answer mathematical problems.