



Year 1 Newsletter

Why is our Planet so Active?

Fenstanton and Hilton
Primary School



What we are learning about:

Spring 1 2026

Our topic/ theme this half term is: Where have humans explored?

Geography: In Geography we will be learning about our wonderful world. We will learn to name and locate the seven continents on a world map, identify and locate characteristics of the UK on a map, identify human and physical features, locate human and physical features on a world map, explain the difference between oceans and seas, name and locate the five oceans on a world map, collect data by sketching findings on a map and completing a tally chart to present their findings in a bar chart.

DT: In DT we will learn about simple mechanisms by making a moving monster. We will identify and use the correct terms for levers, linkages and pivots, analyse popular toys with the correct terminology, create functional linkages that produce the desired input and output motions, design monsters suitable for children, which satisfy most of the design criteria, evaluate their two designs against the design criteria, using this information and the feedback of their peers to choose their best design, select and assemble materials to create their planned monster features and assemble the monster to their linkages without affecting their functionality.

Music: Our topic in Music is called 'Exploring Sounds'. We will learn that music is made up of high and low sounds, long and short sounds, and loud and quiet sounds. We will explore these sounds and create our very own simple melodies. Throughout the unit we will refer to the question 'How Does Music Make the World a Better Place?'. 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 learning how to create Animated Story Books using computer software through Purple Mash called '2Create A Story'.

P.E: In PE we will learn the benefit of persistence, resilience and trying our best. The unit also contains activities designed to develop and improve our footwork and agility, running, jumping and landing and skipping. We will also continue to have sessions with Mr Yeomans where we will focus on dance/gymnastics.

PSHE: In PSHE our focus will be on Diversity and Communities. This unit aims to develop the children's sense of personal identity and self-worth and teaches them to consider and respect the needs and views of others. They will learn about different groups and cultures within their class community and about the importance of identifying and challenging stereotypes.

R.E: In R.E we will learn from different religious and spiritual ways of life about caring for other people and for the world. Through studying Bible stories, the lives of believers such as Dr Barnardo, Mother Teresa or a local believer, the Jewish practice of Tzedakah and Sukkot celebrations we will learn about how beliefs turn into actions for many religious and non-religious people.

Science: In Science we will be learning about animals including humans. We will describe the basic needs of animals, recognise the important of food, water, air, shelter and describe how humans can lead healthy lives by looking at diet, exercise and hygiene.

English:

Reading: This half term, we will be continuing to read our Little Wandle books. We have been working really hard on our reading over the last half term. Our aim is to be able to read with prosody, where we read with expression to show how a character is feeling. 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 model text this half term is called Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett. It is an adventure story about a Meerkat that goes on an adventure to find something new. After learning and understanding our model text, we will make links to our Geography learning by writing about going on an adventure to different countries. We will continue to apply our phonics knowledge for sounding out words, joining word 'and', write with correct number formation and write within the line guides. During this half term, our focus will be to apply capital letters to proper nouns, including names of people, places and things. We will also be learning how to spell the days of the week and be able to write the word 'but' in a sentence. Towards the end of the half term, we will be using this book to begin letter writing.

Maths: In maths this half term we will be building on our knowledge of place value from Autumn 1. Previously, we focused on numbers 0-10. Now that we have a secure understanding of 1-10, we will be learning about the value of 11-20. This will include counting on and back from a number within 20, learning how to spell the number as a word, finding the number on a number line and comparing quantities to compare and order. We will also be building on our knowledge of addition and subtraction, this time completing equations up to 20.

Key Vocabulary:

Maths: place value- count, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, one more, one less, number line, estimate, compare, order, addition, subtraction, tens, ones, number bonds, doubles, difference, missing numbers.

English: grapheme phoneme correspondence (GPC), grapheme, phoneme, digraph, trigraph, blend, segment, capital letter, full stop, exclamation mark, question mark, joining words (and & but) story map, fiction, non-fiction, narrative, description, adventure, travel, journey, spellings.

Science: survive, survival, water, food, air, exercise, heartbeat, breathing, hygiene, germs, disease, food types (e.g. meat, fish, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta, dairy)

Topic: The Golden Rule, parable, Genesis, Tikkum olam, Tzedakah, Tu B'shevat, Humanism, Mother Theresa, country, continent, ocean, map, data, locate, scale, sea, fieldwork, key, Asia, North America, South American, Europe, Africa, Oceania, Antarctica, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, Southern, accurate, axle, axle holder, chassis, design, fix, mechanic, mechanism, model, test, wheel, evaluate