

# Year 5/6 Newsletter

Fenstanton and Hilton  
Primary School



Spring 2 2023

What we are learning about:

## Our topic/theme this half term is:

**Why is Earth called the Blue Planet?**

## We will be learning:

In Topic, we will be learning about rivers with a particular focus on our local area and flooding. We will also be walking along Hall Green Brook and a short section of the Great Ouse surveying the area and suggesting what natural flood defences could be used to minimise the risk of flooding. We will conclude our learning by comparing flooding in the local area with flooding in Bangladesh. In Art, we will explore the work of Katsushika Hokusai and develop our lino printing skills.

In Science, we will be thinking about growing up and growing old. We will be learning about the changes that happen as humans develop to old age and learning about the development of a foetus during pregnancy.

## Key Vocabulary:

**Maths** – triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon, hexagon, acute, obtuse, reflex, straight, square, rectangle, isosceles, scalene, right-triangle, equilateral, cube, cuboid, prism, pyramid, x-axis, y-axis, translate, rotate, symmetry, coordinate, degree, squared, cubed

**English** – beginning, rising action, dilemma, falling action, resolution, ending suspense, atmosphere shift, perspective, dialogue, action, characterisation, figurative language, natural disaster, tornado, landscape, cityscape, rhetorical question, register, formal, colloquial, point of view, persuasion

**Topic** – source, river mouth, tributary, confluence, meander, flood plain, erosion, deposition, delta, estuary, pregnant, gestation period, adolescence, puberty, arthritis, life expectancy, birth, foetus, womb

## English:

In English, we will be exploring atmosphere shift. Linking to our big question, 'Why is Earth called the 'Blue Planet'?'. We will be considering how a natural disaster may impact a character, and how quickly a setting may change. We will continue to practise using dialogue effectively, considering how it affects characterisation and advances action.

Following on from narrative writing, we will practise the art of persuasion through formal letter writing. After reviewing the impact of water and flooding in our local area, we will persuade local government not to build new housing on flood plains. Using a range of strategies such as emotive language, presenting facts and figures, and outlining possible consequences and impact, we hope to prevent the 'theoretical' building from going ahead!

## Mathematics:

There is a strong geometry and measurement focus this half term, in maths. We have begun the term by looking at measuring and calculating area and perimeter in polygons. This has then been stretched to calculating these for compound shapes. The children have taken this learning and their understanding of 2D shapes to begin considering volume and capacity in 3D shapes.

We will also learn about measuring angles, using protractors and the total of degrees on a straight line, around a point and in a range of shapes (i.e. triangles and quadrilaterals).

Another point of study this half-term will be the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and working on the four quadrants of a grid to translate, reflect and rotate shapes using coordinates.