

Maples Autumn Newsletter 2026

September 2026



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to Maples Class and to Year six!

We hope that you have all had restful holidays and are ready to get back to school. We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year. Year six is a special year; it is the final year of primary school and also a statutory assessment year. Children will have more responsibilities and freedoms than ever before which will help them feel ready to take their next big step in education at the end of the year: the move to secondary school.

Mrs Bradbury and Mr Lea continue to job share in Year 6 with Mrs Bradbury in class Mondays to Wednesdays and Mr Lea on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Monger will be the class main TA each morning, along with Mrs Coombs on a Tuesday, Mrs Squire on a Wednesday and Mrs Bater every Friday.

We have three main aims for the year: that children should learn, feel safe and have fun. In order to achieve these aims we welcome your help, suggestions and your input. Education is most effective when teachers and parents work in partnership. We operate an open door policy – if we are available to do so, we will always talk to you after school. The best way to contact us is by email, year6@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk which will be forwarded to both of us.

The School day

In the morning, children should aim to arrive at school for 8:45. Gates close at 8:55 and registration closes at 9:05. The school has a breakfast club if your child needs to arrive before this time.

Topics for the term

Here is an overview of our topics for the term. More detailed information will be available soon on the Maple Class page of the school website.

- Reading: KS2 reading continues to be taught using Literary Tree, a book-based comprehension approach to the teaching of reading. Our first text will be Fly Me Home by Polly Ho-Yen.
- Writing: Own version narratives and extended blog entries
- Maths: Place Value, Four operations, Fractions, and converting units of measure
- Science: Classification of living things and the circulatory system
- Geography: Population change
- History: The local census
- Computing: Online collaboration and digital workspaces
- Art: Expressing ideas

Clubs

As usual, there are several different clubs available to children in Y6. These are booked using the Bromcom app -MCAS and further details will be available soon.

Homework

Homework at primary school should reinforce learning but not dominate children's free time. We want children to enjoy family time and take part in out of school activities that enrich their lives, as well as having time for free play. On the other hand, it would be wrong not to prepare children for secondary school and taking more independent responsibility for managing their own work is an important skill to learn. Weekly homework will continue to be set as follows:

Weekly spellings - tested every Wednesday

English activity - to be handed in on Wednesdays

Maths activity - to be handed in on Thursdays

Daily reading and reading diaries - *see below*

Reading

Fostering a love for reading can have many benefits for our children, such as: reducing stress, improving sleep, building confidence, and growing empathy and emotional awareness. Reading is also the single most impactful thing a child can do to improve all areas of academic success. Children should aim to read at least four times a week for at least 20 minutes a day (we know for some of you this will be much longer). Sharing books as a family and discussing the stories you are reading continues to be incredibly valuable throughout year 6 and beyond. All children at Hatherleigh are expected to record their daily reading in a diary which they will be given and shown how to use. Please support your child to record their reading and write your initials or a short comment. Reading books and reading diaries should be brought to school every day in the pack provided - we will check reading diaries every Wednesday. Please get in touch if you would like any support with book recommendations.

Meet the teacher

All parents and carers are invited to attend a meeting with the Y6 team on Wednesday 16th at 2:50pm.

Please get in touch if you need anything clarified or require any further information. .

With best wishes for a happy and successful year,

Mrs Bradbury and Mr Lea