

# Maples Spring Newsletter 2026

January 2026



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to school! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a happy new year. We are looking forward to some busy and enjoyable weeks ahead. Below is a brief overview of some of the things we will be covering in class this term.

**English** – In writing, we continue to use the Literacy Tree’s book-based approach to motivate children to write for a range of audiences and purposes. We begin this term focusing on ‘writing to discuss’ inspired by the book *Can We Save the Tigers?*, before moving on to writing our own narratives using *The Last Wild* as our stimulus.

In reading, we will also continue to use the Literacy Tree’s book-based comprehension approach, starting with the text *The Tiger Rising*.

**Maths** – We will continue our emphasis on reasoning and problem solving. The topics covered will be ratio; algebra; fractions, decimals and percentages; along with area, perimeter and volume.

**Science** - We will begin our science work with a physics focus where the children will learn about light and the way that it behaves. In the second half of the term, we will continue with Physics moving on to an electricity unit of learning, building on work from Y4. As always, this will centre around working scientifically and enquiry. British Science Week also falls in Spring 2; with this year’s theme being ‘Curiosity: what’s your question?’.

**Geography and History** - We will be learning about energy and answering the questions - Why is energy important? What is renewable energy? and What is the best way to generate energy? And investigating how we generate energy in the UK. After the half term, we will be learning about World War 2 and its impact on the people of Britain.

**Art** - During the first half of the term, we will continue to make plans for our Y6 mural project to celebrate the school’s 150th birthday later in the year, this will include creating our own powerful imagery. We will move on after half term to study the work of artists, including Lubaina Himid and David Hockney.

**Home learning** will continue to be set on a weekly basis and will link to the learning we have been doing in class. English home learning will come home every Wednesday and Maths home learning on a Thursday. Spelling tests, as with Autumn term, will be on a Wednesday morning. We also encourage children to practise their times tables on Times Tables Rockstars - if children know their times tables up to 12 x 12, this makes Y6 maths so much easier!

**Daily reading** - We would like to draw attention once again to the huge benefits of daily reading: reducing stress, improving sleep, building confidence, and growing empathy and emotional awareness, as well as the positive impact it can have across all areas of the curriculum. In particular, regular reading of appropriate level texts will support progress in writing as children absorb the way in which writers create atmosphere, develop characters and maintain a consistent tone. We encourage all children to read at least four times a week for at least 20 minutes and would urge adults at home to discuss the stories your child is reading with them. All children at Hatherleigh, from Reception to Year 6, are expected to record their reading in their diary which they have all been given

and shown how to use. Please support your child to record their reading each week and to bring their diary every day, along with their reading book, inside the plastic reading wallet provided at the start of the year.

**PE** - This term, we would like to trial a system used widely whereby children come to school dressed in their PE kit on Thursday, the day we have PE. Arriving ready for PE will increase the time we have for PE. As it is likely to be cold, joggers will be fine. Children can wear their normal school sweatshirt. As our PE topic this half term is dance, PE will be inside.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with your children during the autumn term and it was wonderful to meet so many of you during our autumn parent meetings. We look forward to a busy spring and your continued support. As always, 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](mailto:year6@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk) which will be forwarded to both of us.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Bradbury and Mr Hugh Lea