

Maples Summer Newsletter 2026



April 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome to our summer term newsletter. An exciting final term is ahead of us with events such as the residential and the leaver's play all to look forward to - a reward for the hard work completed and still to come.

Below is a brief overview of some of the subjects we will be covering in class this term.

Maths – We will continue our emphasis on reasoning and problem solving. The focus will be to encourage children to develop their ability to explain their reasoning and increase their confidence in using and applying their knowledge.

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 by writing our own narratives, inspired by *Grimm Tales*, analysing the language, characterisation and common story structure. Children will have opportunities to show their ability to create atmosphere, consider the purpose of their writing and to focus on maintaining a coherent and authentic narrative voice. *Grimm Tales* will also start off our reading lessons this term, continuing to use the Literacy Tree's book-based comprehension approach.

Science – We will begin our science work continuing with our physics unit - electricity. We will then move onto our next biology topic, evolution and inheritance, where children will learn about variation and adaptation. They will explore how both Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace separately developed their theories of evolution.

Topic – We will continue a history focus this term, learning about the key events of WW2, thinking about the impact of WW2 locally, nationally and globally.

Music – The children will be learning and performing music and songs related to the end of term performance.

PE - Kits will be needed in school throughout the week, please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit at all times. PE is timetabled for Thursdays but having a kit in school every day is advised.

Home learning - It has been wonderful to see how many children are completing their weekly home learning - thank you and well done! This 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.

Daily reading - As always, we want to highlight the significant benefits of reading every day. The children in Year Six are now often seen reading longer and more complicated books and this is great. For children, reading offers them a window into how authors write so often strengthens their own writing skills. It offers a study in different genres, styles, tones, and use of different vocabulary words. It can also be a creative spark for children who otherwise might have difficulty coming up with their own ideas to write about.

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 it in on a Wednesday when it is checked.

As the weather becomes warmer and sunnier, it is important that children are protected. The school's policy is that sunscreen should be applied before coming to school in the morning, this should then give protection all day without the need for cream to be in school.

We will keep you informed of our arrangements for SATs (which begin on Monday 11 May), transition and end of term celebrations and more as this becomes available.

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 which will be forwarded to both of us.

Kind regards,
Mrs Bradbury and Mr Hugh Lea