

Spring Term 2026 Newsletter

Year 5/6: Chestnut, Sycamore and Oak

We have had a fantastic term learning all about how the past has shaped our future in history, including a trip out learning all about Belper North Mill and the history of the Industrial Revolution. We also linked our history to our art project on making our sculptures using the grid method, upscaling and collaging using tone from Oliver Twist pictures. This was inspired by the artist Lubaina Himid, who produced similar works based on black history and racism.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children read regularly, access TTRockstars and complete their homework.

PE:

This half term coming up:

All year 5/6 classes continue to have PE on a Monday afternoon (dodgeball skills).

In addition,

- **Oak:** Swimming on a Wednesday (starting week 2 - 14/1/26)
- **Chestnut:** Forest Schools on a Thursday afternoon
- **Sycamore:** Gymnastics on a Wednesday

Please continue to send your child into school in PE kit on their relevant PE days. Children should wear their coloured house team t-shirt and school jumper with either black or grey joggers and trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor lessons. Hair must be tied back and all jewellery removed at home.

Maths:

In maths for year 6, we will be converting units, learning more about fractions, percentages and decimals, area, perimeter and volume, statistics and shape. We will also be revising previously learnt concepts. Year 5 will be looking at multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, perimeter and areas and statistics.

If your child is still finding times tables difficult to recall rapidly without counting, please ensure they access TTRockstars to revise all of their times tables. The Jamming section is useful for those pupils that do not like the timed element. Any support from home with times tables is greatly appreciated. Some children have individual targets (in their home-school diary). Thank you.

English:

In English, we will be continuing to complete whole class reading four times a week. Please continue to write in your child's class diary when they read at home.

In writing, sometimes our English writing will link with our topic focus to help enrich the children's writing experiences. Our class book this term is Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman. We will continue to send spellings home; there won't be a formal test on these each week, but we do expect children to use these spellings in their work - any support in this area is once again greatly appreciated.

Geography:

Our main focus for the whole of Spring Term is the theme of similarities and differences. Our question is: Are North and South America the same?

We will be looking at:

- The countries in North and South America
- Explore their similarities and differences.
- Name and locate latitude and longitude, the tropics and describe how locations around the world change.
- Look at the similarities and differences between North and South America and the UK.
- Climate zones.

Science:

In Science, we are focusing on properties and changing materials. This includes grouping materials based on properties, know which materials dissolve, identify solids, liquids and gases and name reversible and irreversible changes. During the second half term, we will be focusing on forces. This includes gravity, the act of forces on others and how mechanisms affect forces. We will also be having a science week!

Computing:

We are beginning by video editing, which builds on from the pupils' experience of photo editing in year 3/4 and then moving on to programming.

RE:

In RE for the Spring term, we will be answering the key questions:
What can be done to reduce racism?
And
What difference does it make to believe in ahimsa (harmlessness), grace and/or ummah (community)? We will build on our learning about Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Humanists.

Mobile phones:

In Year 6, the children are able to bring their mobile phone with them to school. They must hand it in when they arrive at school. The phones will be stored in a locked cupboard and handed out again at the end of the school day. Children cannot turn them on during the school day, nor whilst they remain on school grounds. School accept no responsibility for any phone brought to school; children do so at their own risk.

PSHE:

To begin with, we will be focusing on 'Being Healthy' - things that affect physical and mental health - linking to our SMILERS, our own habits and routines and personal hygiene. We will then explore emotions, building vocabulary, strategies and behaviour that support us, including taking responsibility for our actions. Please see the PSHE page on the website for an overview of objectives for each year group and support for parents.

Music:

The children will be looking at 'Living on a Prayer' and 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air' - identifying structure, instruments, voices and pulse.

French:

In the first half term, we will look at talking at a tearoom and then looking at celebrations and traditions in the second half term.

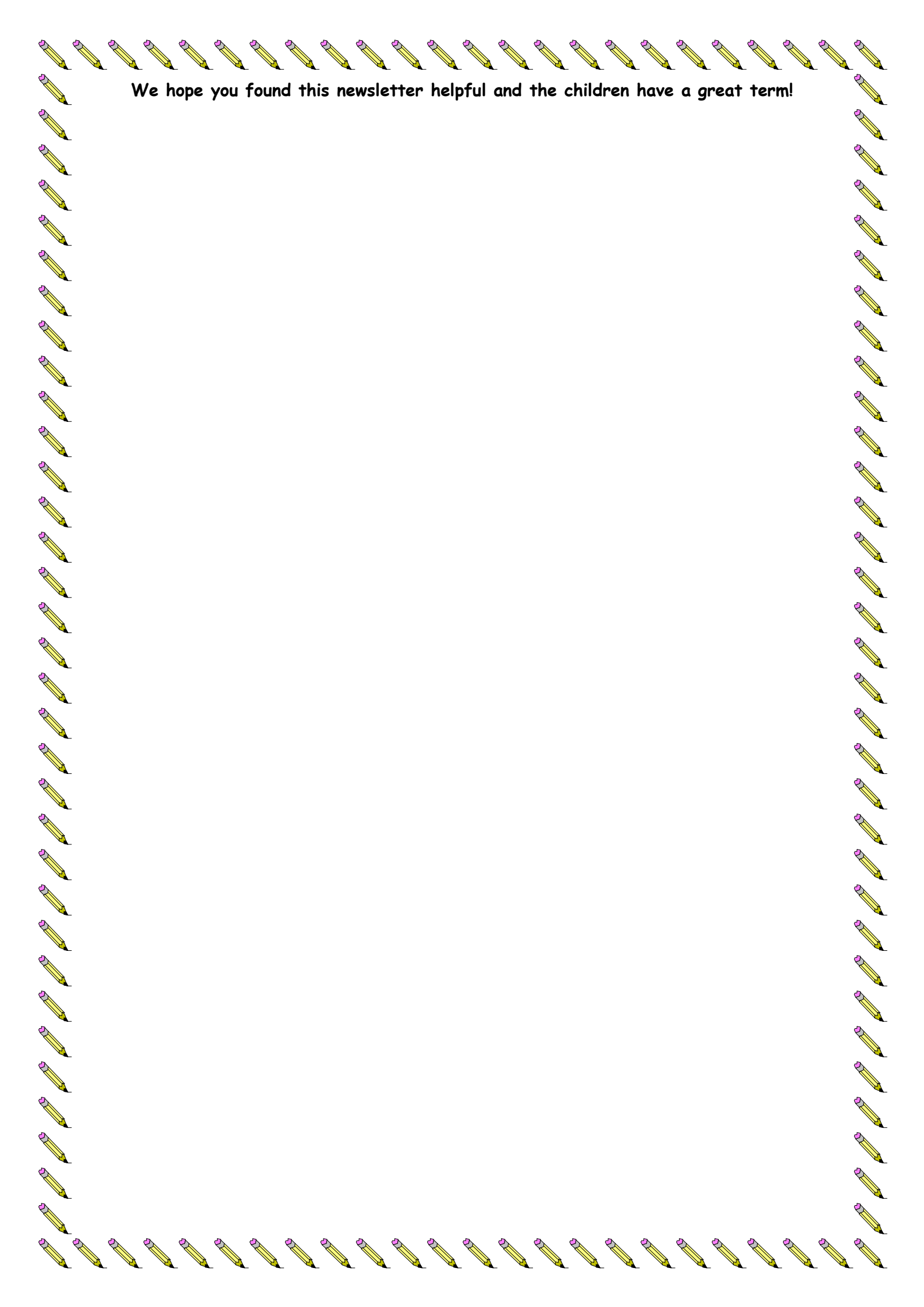
Behaviour:

We will continue to use the same behaviour policy as we did last year.
We will send 'over and above' cards home to let you know if your child has exceeded expectations that day. We will continue to have 'R' time on a Friday to reward the children's efforts.
We will also continue to use the 'reminder, warning, last chance' behaviour steps for any behaviour that disrupts learning. We will communicate with you about any time outs your child receives.

Year 6- upcoming dates:

End of Key Stage 2 assessments (SATs)- week beginning 11th May 2026

Parent meeting (Lea Green residential trip/SATs)- 12th January 2026 at 5pm

A decorative border of yellow pencils with pink erasers surrounds the text. The pencils are arranged in a rectangular frame, with the top and bottom edges having more pencils than the sides.

We hope you found this newsletter helpful and the children have a great term!