



Extra! Extra! Read All About It!  
The My Money Weekly has a new activity!

## The New Fiver

2016 is a big year for banknotes! A new £5 note will be issued by the Bank of England on 13 September, and will be followed by a new £10 note in 2017 and a new £20 note by 2020.

The biggest change with these new notes is that they will be printed on polymer - a material which is cleaner, stronger, and more secure than paper.

Polymer is a thin and flexible plastic material that fits into wallets and purses just like paper notes, but instead of absorbing moisture and dirt and becoming stained they will be 'wipe clean', and could even survive a spin cycle in a washing machine!

The new notes will be around 15% smaller than the current paper notes, they will last at least 2.5 times longer than paper notes so are more environmentally friendly, and they will also incorporate advanced security features that will make them even more difficult to counterfeit than the current notes.



The notes will retain the traditional look that we're used to, with a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen on the front. This year we will see Sir Winston Churchill on the back of the £5 note, followed by Jane Austen on the back of the £10 note arriving in 2017, finally JMW Turner will feature on the £20 note by 2020.

Polymer banknotes are already used in over 30 countries including Australia, Canada, Gambia, Fiji and New Zealand.



## Activity Ideas

### Cleaner

Polymer is a type of plastic, so the new notes will be more resistant to dirt and moisture than paper notes and will stay cleaner for longer. While paper notes will stain if you spill a drink on them, you'll be able to wipe the new £5 notes clean!



### Safer

There are advanced security features built in to the new £5 note which will make it even harder for scammers to develop fake notes. What security features would you introduce if you were designing a new note?

The security of money has always been an important issue for people right through history, carry out some research into the different ways that people have kept money safe over the centuries.

### Stronger

The new £5 notes will last at least 2.5 times as long as current paper notes, think about what this means in terms of how far one note might travel over time - through cash machines, shop tills, pockets, purses etc. Create a comic strip, or write a short story about the journey of the new £5 note.

Discuss as a class whether we will still be using coins and notes as currency in 50 years time? What will money look like in the future? How will we pay for things?

For more ideas and activities about coins and notes, see the My Money Week 2016 resources [www.pfeg.org/MyMoneyWeek](http://www.pfeg.org/MyMoneyWeek)



Let us know what you're doing for My Money Week this year by tweeting @pfeg\_org with the hashtag #mymoneyweek

