



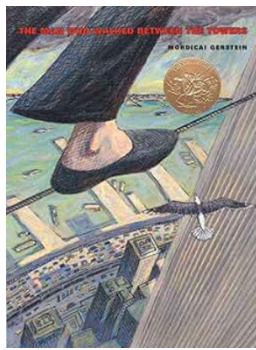
Year Five Spring Term 2025

Happy New Year and welcome to the spring term! We would like to thank you for all of your lovely Christmas cards and presents we received from you and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break.

The Year Five team is Miss Simmons, Hazel and Sophie.

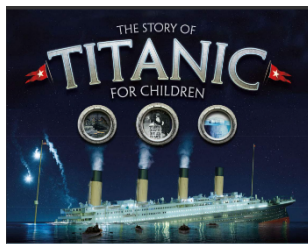
This handout should provide you with all the details for the term ahead and we hope that it is useful. If you do have any worries or concerns, please feel free to catch us in the playground or contact the office to pass on a message and / or book an appointment.

Writing



We will begin this term with the book, *The Man Between the Towers*. In 1974, French aerialist Philippe Petit threw a tightrope between the two towers of the World Trade Center and spent an hour walking, dancing, and performing high-wire tricks a quarter mile in the sky. This picture book captures the poetry and magic of the event with a poetry of its own: lyrical words and lovely paintings that present the detail, daring, and the vertiginous drama of Petit's feat. Children explore how a real-life story has been portrayed as fiction. They consider a diary entry found written by Philippe Petit just before he leaves to walk between the towers and write letters of advice to him, considering the pros and cons. After reading up to the point of the act, children write a recount in the first person as the main character. As witnesses and reporters, they create news updates for The New York Times or write content for an American news programme. They also role play making a speech as Philippe Petit in court, defending himself and his actions. Finally, the children gather everything they have learnt about Philippe Petit and write a biographical account of his life, researching where needed to fill in gaps about childhood and events prior to this. They will also be taught the skills of editing to correct, improve and refine their work, and practise using a dictionary to check and amend spellings.

Reading



During Guided Reading lessons, children continue to build on the eight reading comprehension skills (a copy of which can be found in your child's reading record) through discussion, key questioning and follow-up tasks.

We will begin the half-term with Titanic. We will explore the beautiful sun decks, marvel at the luxurious design and relive the tragic sinking of the world's most famous ship with *The Story of the Titanic for Children*. This book explores real-life stories and little-known facts and includes beautiful images and bite-sized information bringing the Titanic to life, from its construction to the victims and survivors after its tragic sinking.

As well as reading daily in school, it is important that your child is also reading daily at home and we will be keeping track of their reading records to encourage them to use these as a way of recording their own thoughts on their book choices. We also ask that you comment at least four times a week, two from your child and two from an adult at home. Reading records must be in school each day but will be collected on Wednesday.

Being in upper Key Stage Two, we want children to become critical readers and to be this, they need to read widely. We provide strong and varied book choices in the teaching of reading and writing, from non-fiction, poetry, picture books and novels but please have a look at our class page on the school website for a list of recommended reads suited to Year Five.

Topical Talk

Topical Talk is a programme from the Economist Educational Foundation which supports discussions about current affairs. For children in Years Five and Six, we hold regular lessons where they explore a current story in the headlines. The activities foster progress in listening, speaking, problem-solving and creativity skills.

The following skills will be embedded in all content and activities:



At points in the year, children will have access to the online hub to take their conversations beyond the classroom. Please be assured that we speak with the children regularly about how to keep safe online. Posts and comments will only be added to the hub if approved by a member of the Topical Talk team. Any concerns and teachers will be contacted.

Maths

We follow the *Maths - No Problem!* scheme for the teaching of maths at Boutcher. We will start the term with applying all four operations in our word problems topic, before moving on to focus on fractions, decimals and percentages.

To confidently and accurately access the Year 5 maths curriculum, it is necessary that all children have quick recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12 and the corresponding division facts. This is an expectation by the end of Year 4. Each child has a login to Times Tables Rock Stars and this is a fun way for children to polish up on their times tables if they are weak in areas (or to continue with quick recall if not!) this is part of their homework, and it is expected that they complete at least 25 minutes each week.

Science

The first science topic of the spring term is *Living Things and Their Habitats*. In this topic, children will describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals including

mammals and they will describe the differences in the life cycles of an amphibian and an insect by exploring complete and incomplete metamorphosis.

Religious Education

The first RE topic for the spring term answers the question: **What does it mean to be a Buddhist?** Throughout this unit we will learn to have an awareness of a world religion, learn about Siddhartha and the circumstances that led to him becoming Buddha and achieving enlightenment and have an introduction to Buddhist virtues and beliefs.

Services

This term we will continue with our theme *God's World, Our Earth, Our Responsibility*. We will learn more about God through the words and actions of Jesus, focusing on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3–10). Each week, we will see that Jesus shows us that caring for *God's World* means living with humility, mercy, and peace, and taking responsibility for how we treat the Earth and each other.

Humanities

This term in Geography, pupils will be studying the question 'Why do Oceans Matter?' before moving on to our next History topic, 'What was life like in Tudor England?'

Art and Design

In Art and Design this term, children will learn more about the artist Van Gogh and explore his works. They will use their sketch books to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, with focus on painting.

Computing

We will use *code.org* to teach the computing curriculum. We also will be celebrating, 'Safer Internet Day'.

Music

Year Five will receive a weekly violin lesson taught by music specialist, Luke.

PE

At Boutcher, we follow the 'Real PE' approach. Real PE is a unique, child-centred approach that engages and challenges children in their PE lessons. It focuses on the development of agility, balance and coordination, healthy competition and cooperative learning. Real PE focuses on six key cogs, these are: Creative, Cognitive, Health and Fitness, Personal, Physical and Social.

In the spring term, we will be working through the 'cognitive' cog in our weekly PE lessons.

Our PE day is: Tuesday

PE kit is as follows:

- plain white t-shirt or polo top
- navy blue jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts (no logos)
- school navy blue jumper or cardigan
- suitable trainers for PE

PSHE

At Boutcher School, we teach Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and relationships as a whole-school approach to underpin children's development as people and because we believe that this also supports their learning capacity. We use the Jigsaw Programme which offers us a comprehensive, carefully thought-through scheme of work which brings consistency and progression to our children's learning in this vital curriculum area. The Curriculum map can be found on the school website, but Year 5 will be covering 'Dreams and Goals' during the first part of the spring term.

French

French lessons will be taught each week by Miss Simmons. They will learn vocabulary through rhymes, singing, games, discussion and some written work.

Homework

Weekly homework is set. Please see the expectation for Year Five on the Home Learning Overview ([link to home learning overview](#)) for more information.

Behaviour

Positive behaviours will be rewarded with Proud as Punch certificates, Headteacher's Awards or Family Points. Breaking school rules will result in being placed on the Orange List. Once on the Orange List is a warning and will result in the child missing 5 minutes of the following playtime. Twice on and the child will sit away from the rest of the class where they will continue their work for 10 minutes. They will miss a further 5 minutes of the following playtime. At this point, the child will miss a total of 10 minutes of playtime so far that day. Three times on and the child will be sent to another class to complete a behaviour reflection sheet. The child will miss an additional 10 minutes of playtime and must catch up with missed work. At this point, the child will have missed a total of 20 minutes of playtime. A letter will go home to inform you if this happens. In addition to the letter, you will be contacted to discuss this behaviour to prevent it occurring again.

Many thanks for your support
Miss Simmons and the Year Five Team