



Year Four Autumn Term 2026

Welcome back to the new school year. Your children have all started Year Four very positively, they are working hard and are very engaged in their learning. The Year Four team this year is Mrs Brown, Sophie, Joyce and Mo. Mrs Whitton will also be teaching Year Four on a Wednesday afternoon. We are looking forward to the year ahead and hope that your child is too!

This handout should provide you with all the details for the term ahead and I hope that it is useful.

Reading

During Guided Reading lessons, children will 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 year reading *Zombierella* by Joseph Coelho. This is a playful and imaginative twist on the traditional Cinderella fairy tale, following a kind-hearted zombie girl who challenges stereotypes and shows that kindness matters more than appearances. Through the text children explore character, setting, and plot while developing their skills in storytelling, descriptive writing, and dialogue, as well as learning how authors adapt and subvert familiar tales.

Our library visit will take place on **Friday** so please ensure that, if your child borrows a library book, they have it in school on this day to be returned so that another book can be chosen to take home and enjoy.

Children at Boutcher have the first fifteen minutes of the school day designated for reading. 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 have asked the children to write at least one comment a week in their reading record, using the reading comprehension questions at the front of the book. Furthermore, we also ask that you sign in their reading record at least three times a week, but more if you can. Reading records must be in school each day but will be collected on Wednesday to check that the required signatures have been met.

Writing

At Boutcher we use a book-based approach to the teaching of our writing curriculum. Across the school, we have found that using a text as a writing stimulus brings added enthusiasm to learning and gives children a purpose to what they write. In addition to this, it enables us as teachers to share great quality, varied texts with our class. All punctuation and grammar skills are applied to writing inspired from a book and over the course of the year, children will write a range of fiction and non-fiction pieces. 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.

We will begin the year with the book *Varmints* by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. Through this text the children will explore a powerful story about protecting the natural world. Through the story and accompanying film, children will develop their descriptive and persuasive writing skills, building vocabulary to describe flowers and the world around them. They will write instructions, letters and speeches before finishing the unit by writing a well-structured explanation of the life cycle of a plant.

Maths

At Boutcher, we follow the *Maths No Problem!* scheme. We have started the term learning about place value of numbers up to 10,000 and will move on to addition and subtraction within 10,000. Children will continue to develop their mathematical fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills in lessons. If you're unsure how these methods are being taught or how they should be laid out, please check the Maths Methods Handbook on the Boutcher Website.

Children in Year Four sit a national multiplication table test in June. The purpose of this is to determine whether they can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for their success in maths. To support children with their recall of multiplication facts, they each have a subscription to *Times Tables Rock Stars*, which is an online resource where they practice their times tables recall through fun games. Although we will give time to this in school, this will also form part of their homework and must be completed each week.

Science

Our topic this half term is *States of Matter*. Children will learn about the differences between a solid, liquid and a gas and take part in practical activities and experiments to learn about their properties.

After half term, the next topic in our science curriculum will be *Electricity*. Children will learn about what electricity is and how it was discovered. They will identify which appliances use electricity in their homes and how to keep themselves safe. Children will construct circuits, start to create pictorial circuits and conduct an investigation into how easily different types of switches can break and reconnect a circuit.

Religious Education

The first RE topic for this term answers the question '*What makes an Old Testament hero?*' Through our lessons children will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of theology, philosophy and sociology through the believing, thinking and living strand underpinning the units.

Humanities

In Geography, we will be studying '*Why are rainforests important to us?*' where we explore the key features of the Amazon rainforest and give examples of how humans are having a negative impact on it.

In History, we will be studying '*How have children's lives changed?*' where we explore the working conditions of Tudor and Victorian children and explore different primary and secondary sources.

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 autumn term, we will be working through the 'Personal' cog in our weekly PE lessons.

Our PE day is: **Tuesday**. On this day, children should come to school wearing PE kit and do not need school uniform.

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

We will also be running the Boutcher Mile on Wednesdays so please wear trainers to school.

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. The first topic being covered across the school is: *Being Me in My World*. In this unit, children think about understanding their identity and how they fit into the class, the school and the global community.

Computing

We will start the year by covering e-safety where children will further develop their understanding of how to stay safe online. We will then move on to use *code.org* to teach the computing curriculum. Each child will have their own login and will have one session weekly.

Music

Year Four will be learning drumming with a weekly lesson every **Wednesday**.

French

At Boutcher we will now be teaching French in our Modern Foreign Language lessons. French will be taught by Miss Simmons once a week and children will practise French throughout the week with their class teacher through daily greetings and classroom instructions.

Services

This year, our whole school will be exploring the theme of Belonging, helping children to understand how important it is to feel valued, included and connected to their school, family and wider community. Through Old Testament stories and heroes, we will explore what belonging means and discover how people in the Bible found their place, overcame challenges and played an important part in God's story.

Please check the website for when our class will be leading service.

Behaviour

Positive behaviours will be rewarded with *Proud As Punch* certificates, *Headteacher's Awards* or *Family Points*. At the children's request, we will also be awarding children with a green certificate which they can earn daily by showing our three rights to learning, safety and respect.

Breaking school rules will result in being placed on the *Orange List*, however, before the children are placed on the Orange List, they will be given an opportunity to 'check and change' poor choices. If the behaviour persists other this:

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 and complete a behaviour reflection sheet.

Three times on and the child will be sent to another class to complete the 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. You will receive a phone call to inform you if this happens so we can discuss this behaviour to prevent it occurring again.

Homework

Weekly homework is set on a **Wednesday**. Please see the expectations for Year Four on the Home Learning Overview on our website for more information.

Safeguarding

For information about how we keep children safe and our procedures for safeguarding, please refer to the school's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**, which can be found on the school website.

Many thanks again for your support,
Mrs Brown and the Year Four Team.