

Year Two – Autumn Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great summer holiday and I'm sure that you are now ready to start the new school year. I am looking forward to working together so that we have a very productive year.

This year your child is in Year Two with Mrs Hayles and Karen. We will be supported by Jemma on Mondays and Wednesdays.

This handout will provide an overview of what your child will be covering this term, as well as expectations with regards to homework. We hope that you find it useful and informative.

Behaviour

Good behaviour will be rewarded by going on the sunshine and star, receiving Family Points and being awarded certificates in assembly, such as 'Pick of the Bunch'. We are also introducing 'Check and Change', which gives children the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour and make a positive change before moving onto the cloud. The cloud and black cloud will continue to be used to sanction poor behaviour choices. If your child is placed on the black cloud, they will bring home a slip at the end of the school day to inform you. We ask that you please sign and return this slip to school.

Being ready for the school day and uniform

A smooth and settled start to the school day is vital in helping children make a positive transition into the classroom and ensuring they are ready to learn.

Children will come into the classroom from 8:45am and will be considered late if they arrive after 9:00am.

We encourage children to develop their independence by coming into school carrying their own belongings.

Children should bring their book bag, with their reading pack inside and a water bottle every day. The reading pack should contain their reading record and reading book. Please ensure that book bags and water bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the correct school uniform each day and follows the school uniform guidelines, including those for the colour of hair bows, bands and other accessories. All items of uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name so that lost items can be easily returned and the cost of replacing missing items can be minimised.

A good night's sleep and a consistent bedtime routine are also very important in ensuring children arrive at school rested and ready to learn. Children of primary school age generally need around 9–12 hours of sleep each night, with younger children often benefiting from being towards the upper end of this range. We encourage families to establish a consistent bedtime routine that allows children to get the rest they need.

Homework & Spellings

Your child's homework is set on a Wednesday afternoon on Google Classroom and needs to be uploaded by the following Wednesday morning (before 9am). Weekly homework will be spelling based and 1 or 2 tasks set relating to the spelling words set.

In terms of the spelling homework, please assist your child with this valuable part of their learning by ensuring they complete all homework to the best of their ability and provide them with support when necessary. The spelling words should be revisited throughout the week to ensure your child can remember to spell them for their test on Wednesdays. You will receive your child's spelling result in their reading record each week (these need to be in school every day). If your child has not completed any part of their homework, they will be expected to do it during lunchtime, in line with school policy.

Children will be expected to complete Maths homework using NumBots. They should be spending at least 5 minutes on it every weekday. All children need to have completed a total of 25 minutes, which will be checked every Monday. It is very important that children use NumBots little and often rather than all at once. Repeated practice is vital to commit new knowledge to long term memory.

Reading

Your child will be given a staged/phase book that will be taken home with them. It is very important to hear your child read out loud each day and ask them questions about what they have read to check their understanding and develop their comprehension skills (see questions inside their Reading Record). Their school reading book can be read more than once to ensure they not only read the words but most importantly, understand what it is about. Please remember to record the date and page number along with your signature. This helps us monitor your child's progress. In Key Stage One, we expect a minimum of 3 signatures a week, with one of these a written comment using the KS1 reading comprehension skills sheet that is in the front of your child's reading record. Your child's reading record should be used to help create a positive picture of the reading environment established at home. If you read other stories, please feel free to write them in your child's reading record too. We strongly encourage children to read other books from home or the library in addition to the stage/phase book sent home from school. As well as one-to-one reading, shared reading will take place in school, where children have opportunities to answer questions and discuss the texts with their peers. Children will also complete reading comprehension tasks in class. At Boutcher, we promote a reading for pleasure environment and ensure that children have opportunities to choose texts more freely. Your child will spend time in our class reading corner and also have a weekly visit to the school library. Our library visit will take place on **Wednesday** so please ensure that, when 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.

Writing

We will continue a book-based approach to the teaching of our English. Across the school, we have found that using a text as a stimulus for their writing brings much enthusiasm and gives them a purpose to what they write. Children will have a range of writing tasks both fiction and non-fiction. They will write in the role of characters, write letters, diary entries, have opportunities to write stories, newspaper articles and non-chronological reports. In all lessons, children will be learning or consolidating skills in phonics, grammar, punctuation, reading and handwriting.

Autumn 1:

English – Ocean Meets Sky

Guided Reading - Lost Species

Autumn 2:

English – The Journey Home

Guided Reading – Rabbit and Bear

Maths

Throughout Year 2, children will continue to develop their confidence and fluency with numbers to 100, with a particular focus on understanding tens and ones, comparing and ordering numbers, and counting fluently in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s.

Children will develop a range of mental and written methods across all four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will also have regular opportunities to apply these skills through problem-solving and reasoning activities.

By the end of Year 2, children are expected to confidently recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables.

Useful websites:

<https://numbots.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/paint-the-squares>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/time/teaching-clock>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdjklfr#ztxn46f>

Religious Education

Throughout the Autumn Term, children will explore a range of Christian beliefs, stories and traditions. They will be encouraged to ask questions, share their ideas and make connections between religious beliefs and how these influence the way people live.

Autumn 1:

Why do Christians make and try to keep promises before God?

Autumn 2:

What can we learn from the story of Noah?

What does the 'Light of the World' mean for Christians?

Science

In Science, we will be exploring Animals, Including Humans and Living Things and Their Habitats.

Autumn 1: Animals, Including Humans

Children will learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They will explore the basic needs of animals and humans for survival, including food, water and air, and learn about the importance of exercise, a balanced diet and good hygiene for keeping healthy.

Autumn 2: Living Things and Their Habitats

Children will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive. They will learn that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and explore how habitats provide for the basic needs of different plants and animals. Children will identify and name a variety of plants and animals within different habitats, including microhabitats, and explore how animals obtain their food. They will also be introduced to simple food chains, identifying different sources of food.

Computing

In Computing, our focus will be on developing children's understanding of how to use technology safely and responsibly. Children will learn about keeping personal information private, recognising when something online may make them feel uncomfortable, and knowing when and how to ask a trusted adult for help. Throughout the year, children will also have opportunities to develop their computing skills and use a range of technology purposefully to support their learning across the curriculum.

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 12 fundamental movement patterns alongside six key cogs - Creative, Cognitive, Health and Fitness, Personal, Physical and Social. During the Autumn Term, our focus will be on developing children's personal and social skills, including perseverance, working well with others, encouraging and supporting one another and responding positively to challenges.

Children will also develop their fundamental movement skills, with a particular focus on coordination, footwork, jumping and landing and balance. Through a range of activities and games, children will be encouraged to improve their confidence, control and overall physical development.

Swimming will take place on **Mondays**. Children should come to school wearing their normal school uniform and bring a separate swimming bag containing their swimming costume/trunks, goggles, towel and swimming hat. Swimming and water safety form a statutory part of the National Curriculum for PE in England.

PE will take place on **Thursdays**. On this day, children should come to school dressed in their PE kit and do not need to bring their school uniform to change into.

Please ensure that all items of swimming and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name to help us return any misplaced belongings.

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 Boucher 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.

Autumn 1:

Being Me in My World.

Autumn 2:

Celebrating difference

Humanities

Throughout the year, we will alternate each half term between a Geography and History focus. Through our learning, we will be developing our knowledge, skills and vocabulary.

Autumn 1 – Geography: Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?

Children will explore the hot and cold regions of the world, using maps and globes to locate the Equator and the North and South Poles. They will compare different climates and environments and consider how people and animals live in these places. Children will use what they have learnt to consider whether they would prefer to live in a hot or cold place and explain their reasons.

Autumn 2 – History: How was school different in the past?

Children will explore how schools and school life have changed over time, comparing their own experiences with those of children in the past. They will use a range of historical sources, such as photographs, objects and personal accounts, to investigate similarities and differences and develop an understanding of change over time.

Music

Children will have African drumming lessons every Wednesday afternoon. During these sessions, children will develop their sense of rhythm, pulse and timing and learn to listen carefully and take part in call-and-response activities, copying and responding to different rhythms

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.

Year 2 will lead the Harvest celebrations on Friday 18th September.

Please check the website for when our class will be leading service, the newsletter each week (on the website) for important dates or events and have a look at our class page on the school website.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any of the information in this letter, or any other matter of concern, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be available at the end of the day to answer quick questions; however, appointments can be made via the school office to discuss any lengthier matters or concerns. You may also wish to send a private comment on Google Classroom.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Hayles