

## Year Four Spring Term 2025

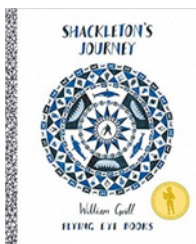
Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and happy break and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. Last term, the children made an excellent start to Year Four, showing real enthusiasm and commitment to their learning. We are very proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and rise to new challenges this term.

This handout outlines the topics and activities we will be covering over the coming weeks. We hope you find it helpful, but please feel free to speak to us in the playground or contact the school office to arrange an appointment if you have any questions or concerns.

### Writing

Shackleton's Journey by William Grill tells the true story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ambitious expedition to cross Antarctica and the incredible endurance, leadership, and teamwork shown when the mission went wrong. Through the Literacy Tree scheme in Year 4, children explore the text through rich vocabulary, diary writing, reports, and persuasive language, while developing their understanding of historical context, resilience, and the power of determination in extreme condition.



### Reading

Zombierella by Joseph Coelho 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 Literacy Tree scheme in Year 4, 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 still take place on **Tuesday** 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.

## **Maths**

At Boutcher, we follow the *Maths No Problem!* scheme. This term, the children will develop a secure understanding of multiplication and division by applying times-table knowledge to solve problems, use efficient strategies, and explain their reasoning. They then will build on this to explore fractions, learning to recognise, compare, and calculate with fractions of quantities and shapes, before moving on to graphs, where they learn to interpret, draw, and analyse bar charts, pictograms, and line graphs to represent and answer questions about data.

## **Science**

Our topic this half term is *Sound*. In this topic, children learn about sound by exploring how vibrations travel through different materials, how pitch and volume change, and how sounds are heard by the human ear.

After half term, we will be learning about *Living Things and Their Habitats*. The class will learn how to classify organisms using grouping and classification keys, understand food chains, and explore how changes to environments can affect living things.

## **Religious Education**

The first RE topic for this term answers the question '*What do Sikhs believe?*'

## **Humanities**

In Geography, we will be studying '*Where Does Our Food Come From?*' where we explore how food is produced, processed, and reaches us from farm to fork.

In History, we will be studying '*How hard was it to invade and settle in Britain?*' where we learn about the challenges faced by different groups invading and settling in Britain, particularly during the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Viking periods.

## **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' and 'Creative cogs in our weekly PE lessons.

Our PE day is: **Thursday**. 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

## **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. This term the topic being covered across the school is *Dreams and Goals*. In this unit, children will think about their aspirations, how to achieve goals and develop their understanding of the emotions that go with this.

## **Computing**

We will 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 still be learning drumming with a weekly lesson every **Wednesday**.

## **French**

At Boutcher we will still 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 theme is God's World, Our Earth, Our Responsibility. We will learn more about God through the words and actions of Jesus, focusing on Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-10).

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*.

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

### **Homework**

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

Many thanks again for your support,

Miss Klair and the Year Four Team