

Year Five - Autumn Term 2026

Welcome back to the new school year. The Year Five team this year is Miss Simmons, Serena and Stacey. 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.

You can also find the curriculum map for the whole year on the school website. This shows how the different areas of learning link together both within each term and across the year.

Writing

At Boutcher, we follow a book-based approach to the teaching of writing. 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 *'The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries – Drama and Danger by J.T Williams'* which is a story of friendship, freedom and a race against time to solve mystery before danger strikes again. During this unit, children will apply punctuation and grammar skills within a letter, a diary entry, character descriptions and a newspaper report.

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 using *Overheard in a Tower Block* where we will be studying a range of poems. Children will be introduced to the skill of summarising and will look at words in context to identify meanings in detail.

Your child has been given a reading record and will be provided with a book from the Big Cat reading scheme that is appropriate for their reading level. Although we will provide opportunities for independent reading in school, it is vital that children also read for at least 15 minutes at home every day.

Reading records should be used to record any additional reading your child does, including reading for pleasure. They should be brought into school every day so that children can record their reading and adults can also record any reading they do with your child. We also ask that you listen to your child read and sign their reading record at least once a week. Your support and encouragement with reading at home is extremely valuable in helping your child develop their fluency, comprehension and enjoyment of reading.

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.

Maths

We follow the *Maths - No Problem!* scheme for the teaching of maths at Boutcher. We have begun with place value and throughout this topic, will be reading, writing, comparing and writing numbers up to 1,000,000. Following on from this we will cover mental and written methods in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers. If you're unsure how these methods are being taught or of how they should be laid out, please check the Maths Methods Handbook, which is available on the school website.

As you all know, children in Year Four sit a national multiplication table check test. The purpose of this is to determine whether they can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for their future success in maths. To support children with their recall of multiplication facts to x12, they each have a subscription to *Times Tables Rock Stars*, which is an online resource where they practise their times tables recall through fun games. Although we will give time to this in school, this will also form part of their homework.

Religious Education

The first RE topic for this term, answers the question: *Who are the fearless women of faith?* 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.

Science

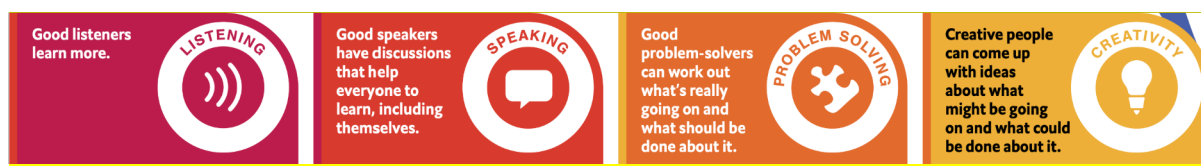
The first science topic is *Properties and Changes of Materials*. Throughout this topic, children will compare and test materials according to their properties, for example, they will test materials to see which conducts electricity best as well as investigate materials to see whether they dissolve.

Following on from this, they will study *Earth and Space*. We will begin looking at evidence for why the Earth and planets are approximately spherical and will also cover the movement of Earth and other planets in relation to the sun, and the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night.

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 a weekly lesson 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:



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 well in the class, school and global community.

Humanities

In Geography we will be studying '**What is life like in the Alps?**' where we consider the climate of mountain ranges and explore why people choose to visit the Alps; focusing on Innsbruck and looking at the human and physical features that attract tourists; investigating tourism in the local area and mapping recreational land use; presenting findings to compare the Alps to the children's own locality.

In History we will be studying '**Were the Vikings Raiders, traders or something else?**' Extending their understanding of different societies, children learn about the Vikings and the struggle for Britain. They will develop their chronological understanding and explore new types of sources, including oral histories, to learn about the Vikings and the impact they had on local British communities. Using historical enquiry techniques, pupils investigate whether the Vikings were raiders, traders or settlers. Then they will use the information on the attached sheet to outline the topic.

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 continue to study computer programming through *code.org*.

Music

Year Five will receive a weekly violin lesson taught on a Monday afternoon 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 autumn term, we will be working through the 'Personal' cog in our weekly PE lessons.

Our PE day is: Wednesday

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

Additionally, we will be starting the Boutcher Mile on Fridays. Please ensure that your child has suitable footwear for running. They may wish to bring their PE trainers to change into for the session.

French

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

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.

Homework

Homework is an important part of your child's learning. It provides opportunities to reinforce and practise learning that has already been taught in school, helping children to consolidate their knowledge and develop independence. Children will have weekly homework, with all expectations explained clearly to them in school.

Weekly Homework

- **Spellings:** 10 spelling words each week with a task set that should be practised for their spelling test every Wednesday.
- **TTRS:** 5 minutes each day, or 25 minutes across the week.
- **Reading:** Ensuring that pupils are getting at least 4 signatures a week in their reading record. 2 can be done independently, 2 can be done to an adult at home.
- **Newsround:** Read the weekly article uploaded to Google Classroom and write a comment in response to the question.

If a child is unsure about their homework or has not fully understood it, a member of the Year 5 team will support them. If homework has not been completed, children will be expected to complete it during lunchtime. We appreciate your support in establishing good homework routines and encouraging your child to take responsibility for their learning.

Behaviour

Celebrating Positive Behaviour

At Boutcher CE Primary School, we place a strong emphasis on recognising and celebrating positive behaviour. We do this in a variety of ways:

- **Praise and recognition** from class teachers, support staff and senior leaders.
- **'Green List' certificates** for children who have particularly excelled in demonstrating our three school rules: the right to learn, the right to be safe, and the right to be respected
- **'Proud as Punch' certificates** for children who demonstrate particularly positive or exceptional behaviour.
- **Special assembly awards**, celebrating academic and pastoral achievements, including *Pick of the Bunch* and *Presentation Awards*. *Pick of the Bunch* winners also enjoy lunch at the Golden Table with a friend.
- **Family Points**, with the weekly winning team going first for lunch and the half-term winners earning a non-uniform day.
- **Golden Time** on Friday afternoons.
- **Positive communication with families**, including informal contact from teachers and support staff.

At Boutcher CE Primary School, we believe that children need to understand that their actions have consequences. Our behaviour system helps children to reflect on their choices, take responsibility and learn how to make positive changes.

Check and Change

Before receiving a sanction, children will always be given the opportunity to 'check and change' their behaviour. They will be reminded of the expected behaviour and given a chance to make a better choice.

If the behaviour continues, they will move onto the orange list.

Key Stage 2: Orange List

If a child continues to break a school rule after the opportunity to 'check and change':

- **Issue 1:** Their name is added to the orange list and they miss 5 minutes of playtime.
- **Issue 2:** They spend 10 minutes in the 'Stop, Reflect and Repair' area, completing a reflection sheet, and miss 5 minutes of playtime.
- **Issue 3:** They spend 10 minutes in another classroom completing a reflection sheet and miss 10 minutes of playtime.

An adult will discuss the reflection with the child as soon as possible. Children will also be expected to catch up on any work missed. The class teacher will contact parents/carers by telephone on the day. If a child is regularly placed on the orange list, we will work with parents/carers to agree how best to support them.

A Fresh Start

Every day is a fresh start. Where necessary, a playtime sanction may be carried over to the following day. If this happens on a Friday, the sanction will be taken from Golden Time so that Monday can begin afresh. We aim to manage behaviour discreetly and respectfully, avoiding unnecessary attention or embarrassment. The aim of every sanction is to help children reflect, repair relationships and make positive choices in the future.

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,

Miss Simmons and the Year Five Team