

Year 4 Handout – Spring Term 2022

Dear Families,

We hope you had a restful holiday and are looking forward to seeing your children back in school for 2022. Our class team continues as before: Mrs Bradford teaching Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Mrs Aitkenhead on Tuesday and Thursday, while Beverly supports throughout the week.

This handout provides an overview of our coverage and focus this term, as well as expectations of behaviour and homework.

Please continue to support your children with their Home Learning and Homework. This continues to be especially important to support your children in bridging those gaps, keeping up and fulfilling their potential.

Reading:

Reading is fundamental to learning and is central to our curriculum at Boutcher. We will continue exploring poetry and nature through a book of spells, lullabies, blessings and psalms in *The Lost Spells* by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris. Our next class read this term will be the captivating adventures of *Varjak Paw* by SF Said. Regular guided reading sessions will enable us to practise reading aloud and to develop critical reading skills through our guided reading session.

Your child should read regularly at home too and write a reflective and considered comment in their Reading Record at least three times a week. We ask that you make time to discuss their reading and hear them read, perhaps alternating paragraphs with a focus on using the punctuation to help them with expression. Please sign their record at least once a week.

Your child also has a green World Log to record any new or unfamiliar vocabulary. They should record the word, its definition and its word class.

Reading Records and Word Logs should be in school every day, together with your child's chosen reading book for school. Records will be checked once a week.

In your child's Reading Record there is a list of suggested reading comprehension questions which can be used as the basis for discussion of their reading. Responses can be written in the Reading Record by either yourself or your child. This should mostly be based on the book they have been given from school. However, writing entries about other texts is also encouraged. 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 Wednesdays 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.

Writing: We are complementing our study of the Roman Empire and Roman Britain by using the short text ESCAPE FROM POMPEII in our writing this term, before moving on to the wonderful novel, VARJAK PAW by SF Said. Although the protagonists are all cats, there is a huge crossover with PSHE through exploration of themes of family and friendship, responsibility and betrayal, identity and self-doubt. And above all, it is a great read!

Our skills focus will move to speech, both direct and reported, and different ways of extending sentences. As well as developing new skills within their writing, your children will be reminded to use those skills they have already learnt, consolidating skills in word choice, sentence style, spelling, punctuation and presentation every time they write.

We encourage children to take pride in their presentation. This is the time to focus on developing a fluent, legible and efficient written style and those children who require further support have been identified for extra sessions at school. From time to time, we may send home extra work as well but any written homework would be a logical and sensible time to practice.

Science:

Our topic of States Of Matter continues to develop our knowledge of materials through scientific enquiry. We will compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases, observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled and identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle.

Maths:

We begin the term by looking at mental methods of multiplication and division of whole numbers, before moving on to written methods for these operations. We will continue to look at bar modelling as a useful pictorial representation of maths problems. We revisit those topics already taught this year in our five-a-day challenges and through our Maths No Problem teaching too. 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.

The national multiplication table check test is drawing nearer and it is essential that your children are fluent (automatic) in their recall of

multiplication and division facts to x12. Please allow and encourage your children to practise these regularly on their logins on Times Table Rockstars.

Our work in class will be supported and extended by weekly homework set on Mathematics and it is important that your children complete this in timely fashion. We focus of course on Arithmetic but a large part of Maths is Problem Solving and Reasoning, where your child will need to read, understand and identify what questions are asking of them. We aim to teach them techniques and strategies to follow when working through problems like this, especially for those who find interpreting the questions hard.

We value your support to help your children to keep their times tables knowledge and mental maths skills running smoothly! We rely more and more on quick recall of mental maths facts to underpin our learning.

RE:

We will consider the question, "How did belief in God affect the actions of people in the Old Testament?" with reference to the Bible and the Christian belief that God stands by them at all times.

Theme:

We are completing our learning about the Roman Empire and Britain and will then move on to consider the theme of Migration.

Computing:

Our first point of focus is to ensure that children continue to be proficient in using Google Classroom and are able to use search engines and word documents, and to access and engage with teaching materials. We will also focus on Online Safety - when using laptops or PCs, as well as tablets and smart phones. We regularly reflect on our digital footprints, or online profiles, and consider how to be good digital citizens. Alongside this, we use Code.org to learn new coding techniques and to develop programming skills. Children have their own logins and are encouraged to make time to complete unfinished lessons at home.

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. Our topic this term is: Dreams and Goals, and I'm sure we will be encouraged to make many links in our discussion to our English text, Varjak Paw.

Music:

Year 4 continue violin lessons, with a lesson every Tuesday taught by our very experienced violin teacher, Luke.

PE:

PE will be on a Thursday and a Friday. As before, we ask that children wear their PE kit to school on these days and they will stay in them all day. Children should not bring their uniform or kit to change into at school. This term our focus will be gymnastics and Health and Fitness. Please check the Uniform tab under Useful Information on our Website for a reminder of the PE kit requirements.

Spanish

Miss Tahzib will lead a Spanish lesson each week, which will be followed up in class. We learn vocabulary through rhymes, singing, games, conversation and some written work.

Services

Our theme for the year is family and in our services this term we will be learning about Jesus' family tree through Old Testament stories. We will reflect on concepts such as choices, promises and forgiveness within the context of family. We are looking forward to once again holding KS2 Services in the Hall, together as a key stage. Hopefully, you will be able to once again join us to worship later in the year.

Homework:

Each week children will be set a reading comprehension task and a spelling task. Maths activities will be assigned through the Mathletics website. Children should continue to practise regularly on their Times Tables Rockstars logins. From time to time, they may have tasks in other subjects set too.

We will continue to set homework on Google Classroom (GC) on Wednesdays, with reading comprehension set primarily this term from a CGP book which should be brought into class so we can mark Reading Comprehension together on Monday morning. From time to time, we may set a different comprehension which will be handed out in hard copy and posted on GC. Children are expected to read each night and spend a short amount of time each day practising spelling and times tables as this is the best way to become proficient in these.

We have distributed pink homework books for your child to complete their spelling sentences in, however, these should stay at home and clear photos of homework should be uploaded on GC. Feedback on homework will be given in class on an individual or group basis depending on the need and a score out of 10 will be awarded for effort on GC.

Please ensure your child has uploaded their homework by 8am on Wednesday morning. If homework is not handed in, children will have to complete it during lunch time.

Your children should know how to use Google Classroom and how to upload their work but if you have problems using Google Classroom for homework, please leave a message at the school office and I will call you back to try and resolve these. Spellings will be tested on Wednesday morning with results recorded in their Reading Records.

Miscellaneous:

It is a good idea to cement good organisational habits in your child (I write this as the mother of teenage boys!). Encourage them to get any equipment or books ready for school the night before – this should include their (named) water bottle, reading record, reading book and word log. Children should bring the minimum number of things to school, however, please do ensure they bring their water bottle and reading record and reading book each day.

If you do have any worries or concerns, please feel free to catch me in the playground or contact the office to pass on a message and / or book an appointment.

We feel very lucky to be seeing your fabulous children through this year at Boutcher and look forward to making the most of our time together.

Mrs Bradford, Mrs Aitkenhead and Beverly