



Year One – Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a fantastic summer holiday and are refreshed and ready to start the new school year. I am looking forward to getting to know you all and working collaboratively to ensure that we have a very productive year. I hope that your child thrives as they become more accustomed to the learning that Year One has to offer!

Teacher: Mrs Emedeme (Eh-meh-deh-may)

Teaching Assistant: Debbie, Cathy, Joyce and Mohammed

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

Routines

Behaviour

Positive behaviour will be rewarded with verbal praise in addition to going on the 'sunshine' and 'star'. Children will also receive family points, certificates in assembly such as 'Pick of the Bunch', 'Presentation award' and 'Proud as Punch'.

This year we have implemented a 'green list' certificate which celebrates specific character traits related to social intelligence and behaviour for learning. (e.g. Active listening/ignoring distractions etc). This aims to celebrate and give attention to the positive behaviours that are expected.

Before children are placed on the 'Cloud' or the 'Black cloud', they are given an opportunity to reflect on the choices they are making and correct it. This is called '**Check & Change**' and aims to give children awareness over the choices they are making, and ownership over how this is corrected.

The cloud and black cloud will continue to be used as a form of escalation after an initial 'Check & Change' to further deter poor behaviour choices.

Being ready for the school day

Children are expected to be independent in coming to the classroom in the morning, holding their own book bags and water bottles.

Children should be eating breakfast each morning to aid their focus throughout the morning. In a UK study of 1,386, children aged 6–16, children who had eaten breakfast performed better on tests of **attention** and **episodic memory** than those who had not eaten breakfast. This is particularly relevant to Year 1 because children are developing the ability to listen, remember instructions and sustain attention in lessons.

Children need to have a good night's sleep and a good bedtime routine established. The World Health Organisation recommends that children aged between 6-12 years should be getting between 9-12 hours sleep per night. Given that your child is at the lower end of this age range, we should be aiming for 12 hours!

Homework

For 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. It is important that your child is trying their best to sound out independently with the main focus being spelling word as phonetically correct as possible. Please encourage your child to use finger spaces, a capital letter to begin their sentence and punctuation to end it.

There may be times where additional homework is set, but only if necessary to support or consolidate an area of class learning.

Spelling

Spelling (5 words) is uploaded onto Google classroom as part of homework on a Wednesday afternoon. These words should be learnt throughout the week for a spelling test the following Wednesday. 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's reading record is not in school on a Wednesday, unfortunately this means it will not be recorded for that week in their record.

Reading

Your child will be given a stage/phase book that will be taken home with them.

There is no set day for changing books as children will be read to at different points in the week.

To facilitate this; please ensure your child's reading folder with their book and reading record is in their book bag every day.

It is very important that you 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 are not only reading the words but most importantly, understand the context. Please note even if your child is able to decode the words, the focus of the reading is also comprehension. To ensure your child is accessing this reading skill fully, we may keep a child on the same reading level to aid this. 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 being a written comment using the KS1 reading comprehension skills sheet that is in the front of your child's reading record. 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 phase book sent home from school.

As well as one-to-one reading, whole class reading will take place where children have opportunities to answer questions and discuss the texts with their peers. Children will also complete reading comprehension tasks which work towards the application of the reading skills on the reading record.

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 **Tuesday** 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. It is important to return these books. A huge amount of funds has been spent on resources for our school library. As we all know, school funding is very tight and books not being returned will have an impact on how our library is used.

Uniform

Please ensure all items of your child's uniform are clearly labelled with their name to ensure they can be easily recovered if lost and helps to minimise the cost of replacement.

A child's book bag with their reading folder (reading record and reading book inside) is considered to be school uniform and must be in school each day. Water bottles should be labelled and brought into class everyday.

Please ensure your child is wearing correct school uniform and following the guidelines for hair accessory colours etc.

Curriculum and Learning:

English

We use a book-based approach for the teaching of our English lessons. Across the school, we have found that using a text as a stimulus for their writing brings enthusiasm and a sense of purpose over their writing. Children will have a range of writing tasks, both fiction and non-fiction. They will have the opportunity to write in the role of characters, write letters, diary entries, captions and speech bubbles for the text being covered. There is a strong emphasis on learning and consolidating skills in phonics when writing, as well as grammar, punctuation, reading and handwriting.



English

Autumn 1



Reading

Autumn 1

Phonics

We are continuing daily phonics lessons with a recap of previous sounds and an addition of new sounds this year (e.g. Split Digraphs – such as **ma**ke). Phonics play a huge role in creating confident and fluent writers. Towards the end of Year 1, your child will have a Phonics Screening Test made up of both real words and pseudo (alien) words to assess their confidence in decoding and blending words. More information will be given on this later on in the year.

Please support your child by reading regularly and encouraging them to use their phonics knowledge when writing.

Maths

Throughout the year, children in Year One will develop mental and written methods using addition, subtraction and counting, they will have opportunities to apply these skills to word problems, number sentences and pattern spotting. In addition to this the children complete arithmetic style questions for 10 minutes a day to aid mathematical automaticity.

Number focus:

- Count to and across 100, forwards **and** backwards, in ones, beginning with 0 or 1 or from any given number
- Count forwards **and** backwards in twos, fives and tens from 0 (to the 10th multiple)
- Read and write numbers in **numerals** to 100
- Read and write numbers in **words** to 20 and match to the numerals
- Given a number between 1 and 100, identify one more and one less
- Identify and represent numbers within 100 using objects, structured apparatus and number lines
- Begin to recognise place value in two-digit numbers beyond 20 using practical apparatus
- Use the language of equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most, least when comparing numbers/sets of objects to 100
- Recognising multiple groups (multiplication)

Maths in Year One is taught using the CPA approach (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract). This means that all mathematical concepts are taught by first using concrete resources e.g. Ten- frame, counters, etc. The next approach is introducing the same learning pictorially e.g. pictures of objects to count/add together. Finally, children are introduced to the abstract form e.g. $2 + 8 = 10$. This is done to aid math mastery.

Children are extended in their learning through teacher-led discussions e.g. “How do you know?”, “Can you show me another way to...”, “How else can I work this out?”.

Children will also have access to a ‘challenge station’ where they can independently choose a challenge card based on their learning focus to further their understanding through word-based problems.

Religious Education

Autumn 1: Why did Jesus tell stories?

Autumn 2: What is in our school’s name?

Who is Who in the Nativity?

In addition to weekly RE lessons, children also participate in ‘Wednesday worship’ which is weekly class-based worship and reflection time.

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.

Services will be held as a key stage each week in the hall. These services will take place on a Tuesday morning at 9:40am and parents of the class leading the service will be invited to come and worship with us.

Please check the website/newsletter regularly for information on Year 1- led services.

Science

This term, we will be learning about seasonal changes during Autumn and Winter. Children will observe and describe the weather across the seasons. They will learn about how day length varies, according to the time of year. Children will be encouraged to analyse and document the weather across the year, to see how it changes with the seasons.

We will also be learning about everyday materials and their properties during the second half of the term. Children will be taught to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made and to identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, water and rock.

Computing

Children will become familiar with using Chromebooks to log on to a computer and navigate how to open Microsoft Word and Google Chrome. They will also learn how to open and close documents and web pages.

We will also be thinking about and finding out how we stay safe online. We will be looking at the importance of keeping information such as passwords and personal details private and how we can use games, Apps and websites safely.

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 where we will be developing our coordination and balance. In the second half of the term, we will move onto the ‘Social’ cog, where we will develop our balance and agility.

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

PSHE

At Boutcher School, we teach Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and relationships as a whole-school approach to underpin children's development and their 'sense of self'.

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

Autumn 1:

Geography: What is it like here?

In this topic, we will be locating where we live on an aerial photograph and recognising features within a local context. We will be creating maps using classroom objects before drawing simple maps of the school grounds. Year 1 will follow simple routes around the school grounds and carry out an enquiry as to how our playground can be improved. This topic involves some fieldwork.

Autumn 2:

History: How am I making history?

In this topic, we will be looking at personal chronology and finding out about the past within living memory and the children will examine photographs and ask questions. We will begin to look at a simple timeline extending back to before we were born.

Music

Children will take part in African drumming lessons each Wednesday afternoon, where they learn call and response, body percussion and develop their sense of rhythm.

Art & Design

We will be completing an art project to prepare for the Boutcher carnival.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 23rd September- Year 1 will receive their first weekly homework (uploaded onto Google Classroom)

Friday 18th September- Harvest service led by Year 2 is at St Mary's Church at 10am if you wish to join us.

Saturday 19th September- Bermondsey Street Festival

Friday 25th September – European Languages Day

Tuesday 29th September 2026 – Year 1 Service

Please check the newsletter each week (on the website) for important updates or events.

This year, we will aim to grow in independence and development of our skills and confidence.

As parent, you can aid this by encouraging children to dress themselves for school and get accustomed to ensuring they have their belongings ready for the school day (book bags, reading folders, water bottles etc)

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. Appointments can also be made via the school office if needed, to discuss any lengthier matters or concerns. You may also wish to send a **private** comment on Google Classroom homework.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs. Emedeme