

Year 4 Handout – Summer Term 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome to the summer term in Year Four. We are looking forward to celebrating our Boutcher's 150th year with many fabulous activities across the term which we look forward to celebrating together as a family.

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

Reading:

Reading is fundamental to learning and is central to our curriculum at Boutcher. For our class read this term, we are reading a non-fiction book 'Earth Shattering Events' by Robin Jacobs and Sophie Williams.

This brilliant book around natural phenomena is fascinating and slightly sobering in equal measures: the geography and physics of tsunamis, volcanoes, blizzards, earthquakes and a whole plethora of other ways that mother nature will, from time-to-time, show who's boss are all covered. Each section explores what each phenomenon is, the causes and the related scientific and geographical facts. Then what to do to keep oneself safe in each particular scenario being described is included as a step-by-step guide to having the biggest chance of surviving the event. An engaging and practical read presented in a comic strip style which has links to poetry too.

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 Word 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:

This term we are reading 'Odd and the Frost Giants'. A thrilling, wintry Nordic epic from the truly magical combination of author Neil Gaiman and illustrator Chris Riddell, weaving a tale of legend, magic and adventure which will grip and enchant us from beginning to end. It's links to Vikings and Norse mythology nicely links to our history and geography topic of Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings and we will be aiming to enrich our writing with our historical knowledge.

We will begin by applying our knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to read and understand new vocabulary. We will use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary and write from memory simple sentences, that include words and punctuation taught so far. We will continue to develop effective description in our writing through building expanded noun phrases using prepositions to extend them.

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. For those who have not yet developed a consistent cursive handwriting style, this should be a primary focus for them this term.

We will of course be practising our reading comprehension skills through this text but we will also be using it for some writing too.

Science:

Working scientifically we will explore these concepts during our topic of 'Sound'. We will identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating, recognise that vibrations from a sound travel through a medium to the ear, find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it. We will also find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it and recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

Maths:

We have started this term by revisiting and completing the Adding Fractions topic begun last term and end this topic by subtracting fractions and solving word problems. 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. We will then move on to the topic of Time, we will be learning to tell the time using a 24 hour clock, changing the time in minutes to seconds and hours to minutes. We will also solve problems on duration of time and learn how to change years to months and weeks to days. We will then move on to focus on decimals (writing, comparing and rounding) and money. We would really appreciate your support at home around the concepts of time and money to help consolidate your children's understanding.

This term, children in Year Four sit a national multiplication table check test. The purpose of this is to determine whether children can recall their times tables fluently and automatically.

To support children with their recall of multiplication facts to x12, we continue to subscribe to *Times Tables Rock Stars*, which is an online resource where children practise their times tables recall through fun games. Although we give time to this in school, this is an integral part of their homework.

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.

Please support 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:

This term we will reflect on Lent and Easter in Christian churches and find out more about who Jesus' was. We will also extend our knowledge of Hinduism and find out more about this rich and colourful religion by finding out about the importance of Symbols, Beliefs and Teachings in Hinduism.

Services

We are delighted that we can welcome you back to worship with us on a Friday. We have really missed having parents join us each week. You are welcome every Friday (check the worship page on the website for dates) but it would be particularly special to see you when Year 4 are leading service.

We will continue with our theme of family, learning more about the characteristics and qualities of those in God's family. We will be learning about Christians throughout history and those today who serve God.

Year 4 will be leading service on:

Friday 20th May at 10am

Friday 8th July at 10am

Theme:

Linking with our English book, *Odd and The Frost Giants*, we will be learning about Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings during the summer term. We will revisit the idea of migration and that people from other societies have been coming to Britain for a long time (such as the Romans who we studied in the autumn term). We will explore historical accounts and artifacts to answer questions such as: Who were the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and why did they invade and settle in Britain? ,What was life really like in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain? And What did the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings leave behind?

We can learn about some of the tensions involved in the settlement, as well as ways of life and matters that impact on us still.

Computing:

We will continue using use [Code.org](https://code.org) to learn new coding techniques such as 'if/else' conditionals, 'while loop' and 'until loops' commands and develop our programming skills. Children have their own logins and are encouraged to make time to complete unfinished lessons at home. We will also create and showcase a new project of our own.

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 summer topics are: Relationships and Changing Me. We will discuss the various relationships we all have with our family and friends and explore concepts such as jealousy and how we show appreciation to others. In our Changing Me topic we will learn about being unique and having confidence in change and also accepting change.

Music:

Year 4 continue to impress our violinists Luke and Elanor and are making good progress with learning how to play simple tunes on the violin each Tuesday. We hope we are able to showcase our talents during a school concert later in the term.

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 we will be learning how to play hockey. 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.

Homework:

Each week children will be set a reading comprehension task and a spelling task. Maths activities will be assigned through the Mathletics website and a spelling task through Readwriter. Children should also 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 either on GC, or from a CGP book which should be brought into class so we can mark Reading Comprehension together on Wednesday morning. 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 8:30am on Monday morning. If homework is not handed in, children will have to complete it during lunch time.

Your children 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. 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 are really enjoying Year Four and are looking forward to a summer term packed with engaging learning, opportunities to shine and lots of Boutcher birthday celebrations too!

Mrs Aitkenhead, Mrs Bradford and Beverly