



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you and your family had a wonderful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. Last term, your children made an excellent start to their final year at Boutcher, working hard and showing great enthusiasm for learning. We hope they continue to build on this and enjoy the challenges this term will bring.

This handout provides an overview of the topics and activities we will be covering this term. We hope you find it useful, but please don't hesitate to speak to us in the playground or contact the office to arrange an appointment if you have any questions or concerns.

### Reading

Your child will continue to take part in guided reading sessions. During these lessons, they will read aloud, answer questions about the text, and take part in whole-class discussions. They will also complete follow-up activities in their *Read and Respond* journals.

This term, we will cover all aspects of the Key Stage Two reading content domain through our guided reading text, *Real-Life Mysteries* by Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker. This engaging book provides rich opportunities for children to develop their vocabulary and debating skills. We will begin by exploring the question, *How do we know if something is true or not?* Throughout the unit, children will examine and evaluate different strategies to determine whether a statement can be verified as fact.

Your child should continue to use their reading record to log the books they read and to complete the reading comprehension questions linked to their Big Cat book. While some independent reading time is provided in school, it is essential that children read at home for at least 15 minutes every day. Reading records should be brought into school daily and will be checked regularly.

We will also continue our weekly visit to the school library on Tuesday mornings. Please ensure that any library books to be returned are brought into school on this day.

### Writing

We will start the term by using *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* as the focus for our writing lessons. The story follows Hugo, an orphaned clock keeper and thief who lives within the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrecy and anonymity. When his world suddenly becomes entwined with an eccentric girl and her grandfather, Hugo's hidden life - and his most precious secret - are put in jeopardy.

Through this text, we will revisit and apply many of the key Year Six grammar and punctuation requirements. Pupils will use these skills to write a missing flashback chapter exploring Hugo's experiences of living with Uncle Claude. They will also research the famous film director George Méliès and write a biography about his life.

### Maths

The expectations for Year Six mathematics can be found in the maths handbook on the school website. Children will have daily maths lessons following the *Maths No Problem* syllabus. During this half-term, we will begin with fractions, then move on to decimals and measurement.

If your child is not yet confident in multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1,000, please continue to practise these skills with them at home.

### Religious Education

In RE lessons, we will begin the term by exploring the question, *How do Muslims show commitment to Allah?* We will start by discussing what commitment means. Throughout the topic, children will develop different ways of thinking as they explore, question, and deepen their understanding of the Muslim faith.

We will conclude the unit by giving children the opportunity to choose another religion and compare it with Islam, focusing on how commitment to faith is shown.

### Science

This term, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. We will build on prior learning by sorting animals into groups based on their similarities and differences and by exploring the standard system of classification. Children will have the opportunity to design their own “curious creature” and classify it according to its characteristics.

We will also learn about micro-organisms and investigate the growth of mould on bread.

### 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 continue to study computer programming using Code.org. Pupils will work through Course F, exploring how users make choices within the apps they use before progressing to more advanced concepts, including variables and loops. We will also continue to cover e-safety.

### Topical Talk

We will continue to deliver Topical Talk lessons using their one-hour materials. During these lessons, children will take part in informed, open-minded discussions about current global issues while developing essential critical-thinking and communication skills.

This term, we will also be participating in the Topical Talk Festival. During the festival period, children will be given their own username and password to access the online hub. We will encourage them to spend time engaging with the content and continuing discussions online in school and at home. Please be assured that all comments are monitored by members of the Topical Talk team before being published. If any concerns arise, the team will contact us directly.

### 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.

This term, we will be working through the 'cognitive' cog in our weekly PE lessons. Our PE day is Friday and you should wear your PE kit to school.

### Theme

This term in geography, children will explore the question, *Where does our energy come from?* Through this unit, they will learn why energy sources are important and understand the benefits and drawbacks of different types of energy. They will also develop an understanding of how energy is generated and distributed within an area, and be able to explain the reasons for choosing particular energy sources.

### Music

Children will continue to have violin lessons each week on a Monday afternoon.

### French

We will continue to have French lessons taught by Miss Simmons on a Wednesday morning and children will practise French throughout the week through daily greetings and classroom instructions. This term our topic will be playing and enjoying sport.

### Services

This term we will continue with our theme *God's World, Our Earth, Our Responsibility*. We will learn more about God through the words and actions of Jesus, focusing on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3–10). Each week, we will see that Jesus shows us that caring for *God's World* means living with humility, mercy, and peace, and taking responsibility for how we treat the Earth and each other.

Whilst your children are growing in independence, please do support them in ensuring they have their belongings needed for each school day. It is also vital that they attend school on time at 8:45 as lateness is disruptive for everyone and opportunities to learn are missed.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Year Six Team