



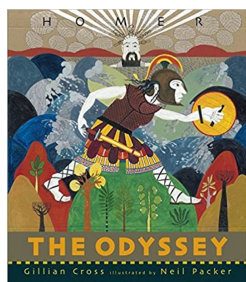
Year Five Spring Term 2025

Happy New Year and welcome to the spring term!

The Year Five team is Miss Simmons, Cathy and Jemma

This handout should provide you with all the details for the term ahead and we hope that it is useful. If you do have any worries or concerns, please feel free to catch us in the playground or contact the office to pass on a message and / or book an appointment.

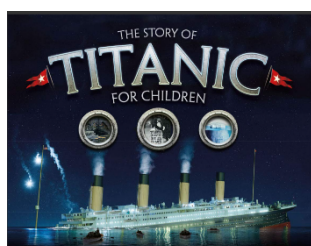
Writing



We will begin this term with the book, *The Odyssey*, which links perfectly with our history topic of Ancient Greece. This illustrated story takes children on an adventure with the greatest of heroes - Odysseus - as he battles great monsters, gods and mortals on his voyage home to Ithaca. Through the sequence children discover multiple reasons to make a speech: to make a proclamation, for persuasive purposes, and for personal reflection. They will write in role as Odysseus himself, as well as record dialogue and their own take on a key scene in the style of the author. They will complete the sequence by writing their own epic adventure story based on their own invented character who encounters multiple trials on their journey home.

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.

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 Titanic. This book has been chosen as it links to our study of The Victorians. We will explore the beautiful sundecks, marvel at the luxurious design and relive the tragic sinking of the world's most famous ship with *The Story of the Titanic for Children*.

This book explores real-life stories and little-known facts and includes beautiful images and bite-sized information bringing the Titanic to life, from its construction to the victims and survivors after its tragic sinking.

As well as reading daily in school, it is important that your child is also reading daily at home and we will be keeping track of their reading records to encourage them to use these as a way of recording their own thoughts on their book choices. We also ask that you comment at least twice a week, but more if you are able. Reading records must be in school each day but will be collected in on Wednesday.

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.

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 regular lessons 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:



At points in the year, children will have access to the online hub to take their conversations beyond the classroom. Please be assured that we speak with the children regularly about how to keep safe online. Posts and comments will only be added to the hub if approved by a member of the Topical Talk team. Any concerns and teachers will be contacted.

Maths

We follow the *Maths - No Problem!* scheme for the teaching of maths at Boutcher. We will start the term with applying all four operations in our word problems topic, before moving on to focus on fractions, decimals and percentages.

To confidently and accurately access the Year 5 maths curriculum, it is necessary that all children have quick recall of their times tables up to 12 x 12 and the corresponding division facts. This is an expectation by the end of Year 4. Each child has a login to Times Tables Rock Stars and this is a fun way for children to polish up on their times tables if they are weak in areas (or to continue with quick recall if not!) this is part of their homework and it is expected that they complete at least 25 minutes each week.

Science

The first science topic of the spring term is *Living Things and Their Habitats*. In this topic, children will describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals including mammals and they will describe the differences in the life cycles of an amphibian and an insect by exploring complete and incomplete metamorphosis.

Religious Education

The first RE topic for the spring term answers the question: **What does it mean to be a Buddhist?** Throughout this unit we will learn to have an awareness of a world religion, learn

about Siddhartha and the circumstances that led to him becoming Buddha and achieving enlightenment and have an introduction to Buddhist virtues and beliefs.

Theme

Year 5 will be learning about Ancient Greece this term. Throughout this topic, they will build on their knowledge of empires, learn more about daily life there, make some comparisons between life in Athens and life in Sparta and know that the Olympic Games is one example of a legacy of Ancient Greece. They will also be learning about the beliefs of the ancient Greeks during their reading and writing lessons.

In Geography, they will do a comparative study between two contrasting locations.

In Art and Design this term, children will learn more about the artist Van Gogh and explore his works. They will use their sketch books to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, with focus on painting.

Computing

We will use *code.org* to teach the computing curriculum.

Music

Year Five will receive a weekly violin lesson taught 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 spring term, we will be working through the 'cognitive' cog in our weekly PE lessons.

Our PE day is: Tuesday

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 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 but Year 5 will be covering 'Dreams and Goals' during the first part of the spring term.

French

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

Homework

Weekly homework is set. Please see the expectation for Year Five on the Home Learning Overview on our website for more information.

Many thanks again for your support,
Miss Simmons and the Year Five Team