



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer and are ready for the year ahead. Our Year Six team is Miss Clifford (Monday and Tuesday) Mrs Verhoeven (Wednesday am) and Mrs Whitton (Wednesday pm, Thursday and Friday) with Natalie and Sophie as our teaching assistants. We are all looking forward to teaching your children and guiding and supporting them in their final year of primary school. We hope that you and your children enjoy the learning and the challenges that Year 6 has to offer.

This handout will provide an overview of what we will be covering this term, as well as expectations with regards to homework. We hope that you find it useful but please feel free to catch one of us in the playground or contact the office to arrange an appointment if you have any concerns or questions. You can also find the curriculum map for the whole year and how each aspect links within and across the year on the school website.

Reading

Each week your child will be read with in guided reading sessions. During these lessons, children will read aloud, answer questions relating to the focus text and discuss the text as a group. There will be follow up activities which your child will complete in their read and respond journals. We will be studying the non-fiction text, *Incredible Journeys* by Levison Wood which will take the children on a journey around the world, discovering the most daring pioneers. We will also be spending some of our session delving into *Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho Yen, which is a narrative text exploring themes such as friendship, loyalty and bravery. This book will also be read independently by your child at home each evening (see homework section below).

Your child has been given a reading record and we will be ensuring that they are reading a book which is appropriate for their reading level. Whilst we will make sure that some time is provided for independent reading in school, it is vital that children read for at least 15 minutes at home every day. Children are expected to read the class book and answer a reading comprehension question each night and write a response in their homework book. Reading records should record any other reading for pleasure and should be brought to school every day - they will be checked regularly. We would ask that you listen to your child read and sign their reading records at least once a week.

Your child will also have a weekly visit to the school library, this will take place on Friday afternoon. During this time, they may select a book to borrow. This book is to be returned or renewed the next week in their allocated library session. If your child forgets or misplaces their book, we are unable to assign them another until it is returned or replaced.

Writing

We will mostly be continuing to use a book-based approach to the teaching of our literacy. Across the school, we have found that using a text as a stimulus for writing brings much enthusiasm and gives children a purpose to what they write. They will have a range of writing tasks both fiction and non-fiction, including writing letters, diary entries, stories, newspaper articles and non-chronological reports. In all lessons, children will be learning or consolidating skills in spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting. Our first writing stimulus will be a video advertisement created by the Guardian newspaper, which won the Cannes-Lion award upon its release. It portrays the newspaper's approach to open journalism, showing how they would report on a story like *The Three Little Pigs* in print and visually. We will explore bias, objectivity and justice as we unpick the different voices and perspectives which make up the well-known story. The advert will open up plenty of opportunities for debate and children will understand the importance of considering all sides of a story before jumping to conclusions.

Maths

The expectations for Year 6 in relation to maths can be found in the maths handbook, which is on the school website, along with the sequence of study. We will have maths lessons every day following the *Maths, No Problem!* syllabus. We will start the term studying numbers to 10 million and then move on to the four operations on whole numbers, ensuring that all children have secured a good understanding of place value. If you're unsure how 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.

It is expected that your child knows their times tables up to 12 in line with the national expectation for the end of Year 4. Please work with your children to support them with learning these if they are not yet confident as accuracy and speed in recalling multiplication and division facts is fundamental to mathematical reasoning and problem solving. The best way to practise these is for short periods (5-10 minutes) each day using *Times Tables Rock Stars*.

Religious Education

In RE lessons we will be trying to answer the question, how can people of faith serve God and bring freedom and justice to others? Through this, we will explore the dangers of injustice and racism and seek to understand how embracing diversity can help bring about freedom and justice. Later in the term, we will also consider remembrance and we will end the term considering Christmas both spiritually and secularly.

Science

This term, we will be learning about light. Your child will have opportunities to learn about how we see shadows, reflection and refraction. They will learn how light travels and how it enables us to see. They will have opportunities to work scientifically and carry out investigations through this topic.

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. The first topic being covered across the school is: Being Me in My World. In this unit, children think about understanding their identity and how they fit well in the class, school and global community.

Computing

We will start the year by covering e-safety where children will further develop their understanding of how to stay safe online. We will continue to study computer programming through *code.org*. We will follow course F which begins by looking at how users make choices in the apps they use, moving on to use more advanced concepts, including variables and loops.

Topical Talk

We will continue to have weekly *Topical Talk* lessons. Through these lessons children will have opportunities to develop their critical thinking and communication skills and apply these to complex real-world issues.

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.

Our PE day is: Friday

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

Theme

This term our topic will be Islamic Civilisation. We will be learning about this the development of the great Islamic city of Baghdad including trading practices and everyday life, comparing it with contemporary cities in Western Europe. Children will learn about the spread of Islam through the Middle East and beyond.

French

At Boutcher we will now be teaching French in our Modern Foreign Language lessons. French will be taught by Miss Simmons once a week and children will practise French throughout the week with their class teacher through daily greetings and classroom instructions.

Music

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

Services

This year our theme is our school values; Faith, Family and Fascination. Throughout the autumn term we will be looking at these values through events and people of faith in the Old Testament. We will look into Faith, Family and Fascination more deeply whilst seeking to encourage these values in our own lives. We would love for you to join us on Friday mornings at 10am in the school hall. The dates when we will be leading service are:

- Friday 27th September 2024 – Creation
- Friday 18th October 2024 – Abraham and Isaac
- Friday 15th November 2024 – Daniel and the Lions' Den

Behaviour

Positive behaviours will be rewarded with Proud As Punch certificates, Headteacher's Awards or Family Points.

Breaking school rules will result in being placed on the Orange List. Once on the Orange List is a warning and will result in the child missing 5 minutes of the following playtime. Twice on and the child will sit away from the rest of the class where they will continue their work for 10 minutes. They will miss a further 5 minutes of the following playtime. At this point, the child will miss a total of 10 minutes of playtime so far that day. Three times on and the child will be sent to another class to complete a behaviour reflection sheet. The child will miss an additional 10 minutes of playtime and must catch up with missed work. At this point, the child will have missed a total of 20 minutes of playtime. A letter will go home to inform you if this happens. In addition to the letter, you will be contacted to discuss this behaviour to prevent it occurring again.

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 and we look forward to a successful year.

The Year Six Team