



# Y2 Foxes Class Newsletter Term 1

Hello and welcome to Year 2!

I hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic summer and were able to take advantage of the limited amount of British sunshine we have had (until this week of course)! Hopefully everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for a brand new year.

Although there is not a specific 'meet the teacher' session, I hope to meet lots of you over the coming weeks on the playground before and after school. Please do come and say hello, and feel free to catch me if you need to discuss anything at all.

The high expectations we promote across the whole school is always a key focus in the classroom with the main aim to nurture, encourage and push the children to achieve the best they can during their time with us. We are really looking forward to working with you and your children, taking on the challenges ahead and seeing the children succeed and develop throughout the year.

Mrs Fulton will be working with the class every Wednesday morning while I am out of class. We also have Mrs Coles (mornings) and Mrs Clinch (afternoons) working with our class for a specific provision.

If there is any support I can offer throughout the year, please do not hesitate to ask or get in touch. I'm here to help your children in every way that I can, so please feel free to come and speak to me briefly before school or after school - if you need more time, please let me know and we can arrange a meeting. Alternatively, you can email me at [daniel.warner@bad.kent.sch.uk](mailto:daniel.warner@bad.kent.sch.uk).

We look forward to working with you all this year and hope it is a happy, rewarding and memorable year!

Mr Warner (Miss Jordan & Mrs Pilfold)

## Key Dates



**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September** - Individual/Family School Photos

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** - BUB Fruit Run

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October** - Parent Consultations (3.30pm-6pm)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** - Last day of Term 1

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October** - Start of Term 2



## Topics Overview

**English** - We will start the term with some non-fiction work all about foxes, giving the children the opportunity to produce some early writing. We will then focus on stories with familiar settings and themes, such as 'The Tiger who came to Tea', 'Dogger' and 'Peace at Last'. The children will listen to stories, retell them in their own words, explore narratives through role play and drama and engage in a range of fictional writing for different purposes. Within the literacy curriculum, we will teach daily phonics to support reading and I will hear your child read at least once a week through daily guided reading sessions. We will also practise spellings and maintain a focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting within English lessons.

**Maths** - This term will revolve mainly around aspects of number, including place value; partitioning; counting, reading and writing numbers; comparing and ordering numbers; addition; subtraction and calculations involving money. We will encourage the children to practise and secure their two and ten times tables, and we will have regular informal arithmetic tests/sessions to support the children's ongoing learning.

**Science** - We will be looking at a wide variety of topics this term including; work on common plants; deciduous and evergreen trees; animal groups; light and sound; and materials.

**R.E** - This term, we will be completing a unit of work focussed on Methodism within Christianity. This is an important topic in our school, as we are a Methodist school, and the work will consider who Methodists are and what they believe in. The children will learn about John Wesley and the beginning of Methodism, and they will consider the core values at the heart of Methodism, exploring how they apply to our own lives. The nature of the RE curriculum allows the children many opportunities to ask questions, engage in discussions and reflect on their own beliefs in relation to religion.

**P.E** - This term the children will have PE on a **Monday** (with Mr Warner) and **Wednesday** (with Mrs Fulton). The sessions will be focused on rugby, multi-skills and wake and shake. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school every day. Please also ensure that any long hair is tied back and earrings are removed for your children's safety.

**Computing** - The children will have a go at using the iPads and Chromebooks to develop some very basic independent skills, such as logging on, navigating around Google Classroom by themselves, and using various tools for completing tasks on the computer. These basic skills and familiarity with the different devices will be invaluable as they move through our computing units this year, and beyond. The children will also have lessons on aspects of online safety.

**Art/D.T.** - This term we will make links with our work in history. The children will explore vehicles and mechanisms in order to design, make and evaluate their own fire engines that could have been used at the Great Fire of London. We will also produce artwork around the same theme.

**History/Geography** - Our topic this term is 'The Great Fire of London'. The children will learn about how this significant event in history began and how the fire spread, as well as finding out about Samuel Pepys and his famous diary. There will be many opportunities for cross-curricular writing, as well as making links with our art and DT.

**PSHE** - This term our topic is 'What makes a good friend?' and explores ideas about friendship, kindness and overcoming disagreements between friends. We will use some lovely stories as a way of initiating discussions around these themes, and make relevant links to the children's own experiences.

**Music** - The children will learn, practise and perform simple rhymes and songs in large and small groups. We will explore elements of music such as rhythm and tempo when singing, and work together to write new verses for simple songs. We will make links with our work on the Great Fire of London by learning to play 'London's Burning' and 'London Bridge is falling down' on the glockenspiel, giving a basic introduction to playing a tuned instrument.

## Home Learning

Home learning this year will continue to be focused on developing key skills that are both manageable at home and important in supporting children's progress - mainly reading, spellings and arithmetic (number bonds and times tables).

Home learning tasks will be:

### Spellings

Your child will bring home a list of 5-10 spellings every **Thursday** to learn, which will be tested the following **Tuesday**. They can practise these spellings in whichever way works best for them, and the words should generally be familiar, as they will link to the work completed during spelling/phonics sessions.

### Times tables

The expectation for Year Two pupils is that by the end of the year they will confidently recall the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. Working on these times tables at home (starting with the 2s) will greatly support their maths in school. Tasks will be set on Maths Shed on a **Thursday** and should be completed by **Tuesday**.

Some other useful websites for maths:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

### Reading

I really cannot over-emphasise the importance of daily reading practice for children at home. Please try to read with your child regularly each week and, if possible, make a comment in their reading record book when you have listened to them read. Some key areas they should be developing when reading are greater fluency when reading aloud, accurate comprehension when discussing the book and expression. We will be changing reading books on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** and we will encourage the children to develop independence in handing their books in for changing on these days. If your child finishes their book before the next changing day, please encourage them to read anything else at home, or alternatively have a look for books that match their colour band on the Oxford Owl e-book library, using the link below:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

### Additional tasks

Any children wishing to do some additional work at home are always more than welcome to. Research around our history topic 'The Great Fire of London' would also support their learning at school. Additional work of this kind will always be praised and celebrated in class for the effort and enthusiasm shown.

Thank you in advance for your support with all aspects of the home learning - it is always really appreciated.

## Meet the Year 2 Team...

### Mr Warner

I have been teaching for 14 years and have been at Boughton for 11 of those. I have taught in years 2, 4, 5 and 6 since becoming a teacher. Despite the job being a challenge at times, I find it thoroughly rewarding to see the children grow and develop throughout the year, taking on tasks and activities with increased confidence and showing how incredible they are.

As a primary school teacher, I really like being able to teach a varied curriculum but I particularly enjoy teaching maths and am proud that I get to lead this subject across the school. Funnily enough, when I was younger, I didn't always feel confident in maths and it certainly wasn't one of my strengths - just shows how much can change over time and that you can never stop developing and improving as an individual.

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, and I love being a dad, despite its challenges at times! In my spare time, I like to read and watch films when I can. Although I enjoy most sport, I'm a big football fan and tend to spend a lot of my free time following various matches (much to my wife's delight!).

### Miss Jordan

Prior to joining Boughton School over two years ago, I worked at a local nursery. I was there for 5 years before leaving to further my career within education. In June, I started a degree within primary education with the aim of becoming a primary school teacher myself in a few years' time. I also live and play an active part on our family farm and am heavily involved in the scouting movement. I'm really looking forward to the academic year ahead!

### Mrs Pilfold

I first joined the school in 2016 as a kitchen assistant. My son was going into year 5 and the hours were perfect to support him. When he left for secondary school, instead of leaving too, I enjoyed working at the school so much that I stayed. I have then gone on to become a TA and 1:1 support in year 1, moving into year 2 this year. I really enjoy my job and all of the challenges and rewards it brings.

### Mrs Fulton

I started teaching at Blean Primary School 29 years ago where I worked for 8 years as a class teacher. I then moved to London where I worked for Sport England and taught PE in inner city secondary schools for two years.

I returned to Kent working in School Sports Partnerships for 12 years teaching PE in secondary, primary and specialist schools whilst having two sons.

It was then that I realised how much I missed class teaching and returned to working at Boughton School and other local schools as a PE teacher and class teacher, and I have loved every minute of it!

**Please Help - In order to complete our fire engines project later this term, every child will need a shoebox. Please can I ask that your child brings one in over the next couple of weeks if possible. If anyone has additional spare shoeboxes, these would be hugely appreciated. Thank you so much in advance!**