



# **SQUIRRELS' NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2023-24**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3.

I hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic summer and that everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for a brand new year. We look forward to hearing all about your summer adventures. I know the staff are very pleased to be back in the classroom and we are all looking forward to a great school year. We have so many things ahead of us to get excited about!

I will be teaching the class all day on a Monday, Tuesday and a Wednesday. In order that I am able to also carry out my deputy head duties, the class will be taught by Mrs Blunt on a Thursday and a Friday. We are also supported by Mrs Jones on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Brown on a Thursday and Friday.

If you do have any questions, comments or concerns then please do not hesitate to come and speak to me either before school or at the end of the day. You can also email me at [jo.godfrey@bad.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jo.godfrey@bad.kent.sch.uk)

We are all looking forward to a great year.

Mrs Cottenden, Mrs Blunt, Mrs Jones and Mrs Brown

## Who are we?

**Mrs Cottenden**-I have been teaching for 23 years, eighteen of these at Boughton. I have taught in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 during this time. I have also been the deputy head for the last 13 years. I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and am very proud of my Scottish heritage. I especially enjoy teaching English and introducing children to really good books that inspire them to read and write. Outside of school, I like to spend time outdoors, I enjoy yoga and reading.

**Mrs Blunt**-I qualified as a teacher 31 years ago and have never lost my passion for teaching. I started teaching at Boughton eight years ago, sharing a class with Mrs Cottenden. I have a real love for the teaching of art and history. I enjoy bringing the past back to life and making it relevant for the children. When I am not at school, I enjoy keep fit.

**Mrs Jones**- I've been a Teaching Assistant at Boughton for 8 enjoyable years. Before coming here, I taught in a primary school in Thailand and I must admit that I still miss the sunshine! I love living by the sea and enjoy my SUP, swimming, long walks and yoga.

**Mrs Brown**- I have worked at the school for the past couple of years in different roles. I first worked in Breakfast Club and Late Care before joining the Year 4 team. I enjoy anything creative and used to have a local craft stall selling homemade gifts. My other interests include gardening, going to the theatre and yoga.



Mrs Cottenden



Mrs Blunt



Mrs Jones



Mrs Brown

## Learning Overview

**English** - This term has a focus on the world of Roald Dahl. We will be looking at extracts from many of his wonderful stories. With Mrs Cottenden, the class will be focusing on descriptive writing and persuasive language through reading *George's Marvellous Medicine*. Mrs Blunt will be focusing on *Stone Age Boy* and Roman myths. Later on in the term, we will be looking at a visual text called *Flotsam*.

**Maths** - We will be beginning the term with learning about number. We will be looking at place value, reading, writing and ordering numbers to 1000 before moving on to addition and subtraction. Mrs Blunt will be working with the class to improve their understanding of 2D and 3D shape as well as work on angles. We will also complete times table practice, mental arithmetic and problem solving activities regularly.

**Science** - Like last year, we are taking a different approach to the teaching of Science and will no longer be teaching topics. Instead, the children will have the opportunity to look at lots of different areas including plants, food chains, rocks and soils, forces and earth and space.

**R.E** - Our topic for this term will be 'What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?' This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about what Christians do at home, in church and in the wider community and why these things are important to them.

**P.E** - This term the children will have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Friday**. These sessions will aim to develop their understanding of different sports and the skills required to improve (e.g. hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, agility). We are lucky to be joined by coaches from Appeti for tennis lessons. *Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for these sessions especially as the weather starts to turn cooler.*

**Art** - We will be focusing on painting and drawing techniques, in particular shading techniques using pencils, oil, chalk and colour mixing. The children will learn the different ways to use different mediums in drawing and apply these to their own pieces of artwork. This will link to our work in History.

**History/Geography** - We will be studying changes in Britain, specifically looking at the Stone Age to the Iron Age before moving on to the Romans for the rest of the term. We will explore the impact the Romans had on Britain as well as linking this to what life was like in Roman Canterbury by looking at lots of artefacts. We will most certainly spend some time marching like Roman soldiers too!

**PSHE** - This term we will be focusing on 'How can we be a good friend?' We will be thinking about the things that make us similar and different and how we can make sure that everyone in our class feels included.

**Music** - This term we will be learning about 'Timbre'. We will be exploring body percussion and different rhythms we can create using parts of our bodies. The children will begin to read and use musical notation before composing their own pieces to perform to the class.

**French** - Our first topic in French is 'Moi' (All about me!). Throughout this, the children will listen attentively to spoken language and will begin to show an understanding by joining in and responding. We will explore patterns and sounds of language through songs and link the spelling, sounds and meaning of words.

**Computing** - The term will start off with an e-safety lesson on writing good e-mails. Afterwards, our topic is 'We are Communicators' which explores the different ways we communicate using computers and the internet. The children will plan and write their own emails using our DB primary site.

## Home Learning

Consolidating skills learned in school at home is really important. We try not to overburden the children with too much homework as we know how hard they work in school every day!

### Spellings

Each week the children will be given spellings on a **Thursday** that need to be practised and learnt for a test the following **Tuesday**. Spellings that the children learn will be based upon learning in class as well as from the Y3 and Y4 spelling expectations. They are asked to practise each word a number of times using a variety of spelling techniques they have been taught in class. This makes up a significant part of their home learning and I do expect that the children make time to practise and learn their spellings each week.

### Times Table Tasks

Alongside spellings, the children will be set an additional, shorter task that will be related to learning their multiplication tables and corresponding division facts. These will be based on each pupil's individual need following work in school on multiplication and division facts and through a website/ app called 'MathShed' that will be familiar with from last year. The children have log-ins for this in their reading record book. Once they have completed the set assignment, they are then able to practise other times tables. A good place to start is 2, 5 and 10 times tables which they learnt in Year 2. In Year Three, we review these, then begin learning the 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11 times tables. Some of the children were using this website regularly at home last year and it has made a real difference to their speed and accuracy of recall of number facts.

### Reading

Regular reading should still be taking place at home. The children can read a combination of their school reading books as well as their own books from home, the class book corner or the library. Please encourage daily reading of 15 minutes, which should be recorded in their home school record book. Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and a **Friday**.

### Additional (optional) Learning

Any additional reading (or listening to) of Roald Dahl's books would be fantastic. There are so many good ones to choose from and there really is nothing better than snuggling up with a great book. My personal favourites are *The Witches* and *The BFG*.

These tasks are all linked to our History topic on the Romans. They are optional and do not need to be completed but will broaden their understanding of the life and times of Romans in Britain.

- Times Tables with Roman Numerals -Choose a times table and write it out using Roman Numerals
- Toga Tangle- The Romans wore togas. See if you can make a toga and take a photo of you wearing it! Write some instructions for how you made the toga.
- Roman Buildings- Find out about a Roman building, then make a model of it
- Roman Baking- Make some Roman Honey Cakes or any other Roman food. Write the recipe/take a photo/bring the food into school.
- Roman Gods and Goddesses- Draw a picture of a Roman God or Goddess. Add information to the picture. What were they God of? Did they have special powers?
- Interview with a Roman Soldier- Write a list of 10 questions you would like to ask a Roman soldier who has come to Britain.