

Y4 Badgers Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. Hopefully your son or daughter has enjoyed their first two days back and they are getting used to the changed routines in class and around school again. The children seem pleased to be back and have been really keen and enthusiastic to learn so far. I will teach the children all week except for Thursday afternoons when the children will be taught by Mrs Berry for RE and music or French, and Friday morning when they will have Mrs Berry for arithmetic and Mr Packer for PE. Our class TA's, Mrs Brown and Mrs Berry, will provide a wide range of support including interventions, focused teaching in small groups and extension activities.

Normally at the start of the new school year we would hold 'Meet the teacher' sessions, which is an opportunity for you to find out about the year ahead and meet us. We will not be holding these again this year so instead we thought it would be nice for you to hear a little bit about ourselves in this letter.

This is my 8th year teaching at Boughton and my 26th year of teaching which sounds very scary to say out loud! I am part of the senior leadership team, Key Stage 2 phase leader and co-ordinator for geography and history. I also lead Pupil Voice and School Council and oversee both pupil and staff well-being. I have taught in a range of different settings over the years including a very large town junior school in Kent and a boys' independent preparatory school and a small village school in Jersey, all based in different year groups throughout Key Stage 2. I particularly enjoy teaching maths and art and strive to develop a learning culture in the classroom that is fun, engaging and adapts to the children's interests. Outside of school I enjoy cooking, gardening and walking my dog Rosie!

Mrs Brown initially started at Boughton as an assistant at Breakfast Club and Late Care and last year made the move to Year 4 as a teaching assistant. Previously she has worked as a TA in a Reception class and is looking forward to a second year as part of the Key Stage 2 team. She enjoys anything creative and used to have a local craft stall selling homemade gifts. Mrs Brown's other interests include gardening, going to the theatre and yoga.

Mrs Berry came into teaching later in her career after working in the hospitality industry at hotels around the country and for local government. This is her 10th year at Boughton after being asked to cover until Easter one year. She loved it so much that she's still here! Her week is split between time in Year 4 supporting as a TA and teaching to cover PPA throughout the school. Her own children have all been to Boughton and have happy memories of their time here. Mrs Berry has a passion for RE, as many of the children will tell you; however, she has always emphasised there is no need to have a faith or belief in God in order to explore and dig deeper into life questions. She loves to watch the children's opinions and understanding of our multi-faith world increase and their confidence to speak out grow.

Year 4 Curriculum content

Literacy

The majority of our work this term will be linked to the Victorian themed text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. The children will complete a range of tasks including diary and letter writing, poetry and character based work. Other genres of writing completed in Term 1 will include explanatory and instructional writing and a narrative unit about an alien landing. We will also do regular spelling practice, grammar work and handwriting practice. Extended writing sessions will take place regularly to ensure we have a wide range of evidence to support on-going assessment of writing.

Numeracy

Topics this term will mainly focus on place value: reading and writing numbers beyond 1000 and up to 999, 999; recognising the value of digits in numbers; ordering and comparing numbers; rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We will also practise column addition and subtraction with 4 digits and will complete investigative and problem solving activities, arithmetic sessions and times tables practice on a regular basis.

Science

Planning for science has changed this year: instead of focusing on one topic for a term we will now be working from 'interleaved planning'. This means that the children will work on a different area of science each week with either a biology, chemistry or physics focus. Built on research about the long term memory, interleaved learning involves a drip feed process and revisiting an area of learning multiple times in different year groups. As an example, sound was previously taught only in Year 4 for one term; now it is taught in every year group at least once, if not two or three times, totaling ten lessons across KS1 and KS2 building on previous knowledge and skills each time. Our lessons in Term 1 will focus on: parts of plants, food chains, evaporation and condensation, friction, light, earth's movement in space and rocks and soils.

History

For the first two terms we will complete a longer study on the Victorians. Work will include research on Queen Victoria, investigating a range of artefacts to learn about the past, what it was like to be a child in Victorian times, workhouses, inventions and Victorian Christmas traditions. Please encourage your son or daughter to further their knowledge on the topic by completing any additional research or activities at home, which can then be shared at school. To enhance and support our learning further, a trip to Kent Life has been booked in December - more details to follow in a separate letter.

RE

Our first unit of work this year focuses on life as a journey: we will complete learning about Christian Baptism, Jewish Bar Mitzvah, marriage and Hindu views on the afterlife.

Art

In art we will be focusing on the contemporary artist Sandra Silberzweig, completing colourful portrait work using chalks and pastel.

Music

Music this term comprises of a "step back in time" with a look at what makes songs popular and repeating patterns within songs (ostinatos). We will be focusing on the 1980's and the creative impact MTV and videos had on the music world, finishing with a look at how and why music has helped raise funds for a wide range of charitable causes.

PSHE

In PSHE we will be considering the strengths, skills and interests we all have and thinking about our own personal qualities and setting goals for the year ahead.

French

Our unit 'On y va' (All aboard) focuses on the weather, days of the week and transport. We will also revisit and practise vocabulary and phrases for greetings, numbers, days of the week etc.

PE

Football, rugby and wake and shake sessions will be this term's activities and hopefully we will complete as many lessons as possible outside. Lessons will take place on Monday's and Friday's. Kit consists of a plain red T-shirt, plain black shorts, trainers and black plimsolls for indoor sessions. As the weather begins to get colder the children are also allowed to bring a tracksuit for outdoor PE lessons. Please mark every item with your child's name. If your child wears stud earrings please remember that these need to be removed for lessons or covered with micropore.

Homework

As last year, the children will be provided with a homework book to practise their spellings and times tables in, but this does not need to be returned to school. The children will continue to be given spellings to learn each week but the list of these will now be stuck in their Home School Record Book. Spellings will be set every Thursday and tested on the following Tuesday. If you would like blank grids to practise spellings on please ask and these can be sent home too.

By the end of Year 4 it is expected that the children know all their times tables up to 12 x 12: they will be formally assessed on this towards the end of the academic year. Please try and make time at home to practise times tables on a regular basis. I have sent home a copy of 'A Grown Up's Guide to Times Tables,' which has lots of useful ideas in it. There are numerous apps around that support learning of times tables, as well as lots of activities on Purple Mash and the following websites:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables>

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

<https://www.mathschase.com>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/timestable/index.html>

Reading

Please encourage daily reading of 15-20 minutes, which should be recorded in their Home School Record book. The children are free to read their scheme reading book or a book from the class library.

Stationery

Please note, the children have been provided with all the equipment they need for school so they do not need to bring a pencil case in with their own items.

If you have any questions or queries I can be contacted via email.

debbie.creigh@bad.kent.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs Munro, Mrs Brown and Mrs Berry