

Y4 Badgers Newsletter

Term 1 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. Hopefully your son or daughter has enjoyed their first few days and are looking forward to the rest of the year. The children seem pleased to be back and have been 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, and Wednesday morning when they will have Mrs Fulton for numeracy and SPAG. Our full-time class TA is Miss Raval and Miss Hobbs will join us for some of the week. They will provide a wide range of support including interventions, focused teaching in small groups and extension activities.

Introductions to the Year 4 team

This is my 9th year teaching at Boughton and my 27th 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. I have taught in a range of different settings over the years including a very large town junior school in Kent, 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!

Miss Raval joined Boughton after Easter this year. She is a qualified teacher and has spent the majority of her career in Oxford and more recently as a 1:1 tutor for students who struggled with their learning due to the pandemic. An opportunity arose to be closer to home and to take a break from teaching. She now enjoys being part of the Boughton school community, supporting children with their learning. Outside of school Miss Raval loves cooking and spending time visiting National Trust properties.

Miss Hobbs joined Boughton three years ago after completing her degree in Education Studies. She worked in Year 2 before leaving for a short time last year to begin her teacher training, with hopes to complete this at another point. Outside of school, she enjoys cooking and baking celebratory cakes.

Diary dates

Tuesday 13th September - Year 4 walk

Thursday 13th October - trip to Kent Life

Friday 14th October - Fruit Run

Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October - parent consultations

Friday 21st October - last day of Term 1

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 completed in Term 1 will include explanatory writing, recount 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. Mrs Fulton's lessons will focus on fractions.

Science

Science lessons will be planned in the same way as last 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. 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 this term will include research on Queen Victoria, investigating a range of artefacts to learn about the past and what it was like to be a child in Victorian times. 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 on Thursday 13th October - 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 and Wednesday afternoons. 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

Homework and spellings will continue to be set every Thursday, to be handed in or tested on the following Tuesday. Children will be expected to practise their weekly spellings in whichever way they find most effective. If you need spelling grids to practise or a homework exercise book please ask. **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 next June. 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, and in the 'More' section of Maths Shed the children can access the 'Multiplication Tables Check' (MTC) which offers practice identical to the national assessment. Here are some useful websites to also support in this area:

<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, Miss Raval and Miss Hobbs