

Y4 Badgers Newsletter

Term 1 2023



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 Tuesday mornings when the children will be taught by Mrs Berry for maths, SPAG and reading comprehension, and Wednesday afternoons when they will have Miss Raval for RE and music. Our full-time class TA is Miss Raval; Mrs Brown will join us from Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Goode on Thursday and Friday. 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 10th year teaching at Boughton and my 28th year of teaching. 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, School Council and Educational Visits. 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, history, geography 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, working on our new allotment and walking my dog Rosie!

Miss Raval joined Boughton approximately a year and a half ago. 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.

Mrs Brown initially started at Boughton as an assistant at Breakfast Club and Late Care. Previously she has worked as a TA in a Reception class and has now been a Key Stage 2 TA for several years. 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 to teaching later in her career after working in the hospitality industry and for local government. She has worked at Boughton now for 10 years after being asked to cover until Easter one year. She loved it so much that she's still here! Her own children have all went to Boughton and have happy memories of their time here. Science is one of her favourite subjects: Mrs Berry particularly enjoys watching children learn through investigation and developing their skills through questioning and hands-on learning. She also has a passion for teaching RE.

Mrs Goode has worked as TA at Boughton for over 20 years. Both her daughters enjoyed attending the school and have gone on to successful careers. Mrs Goode's specialism is dyslexia support and she most enjoys English and art lessons. She enjoys reading in her spare time.

Diary dates

Monday 25th September - Bentley photographs

Friday 29th September - Fruit Run

Friday 13th October - trip to Kent Life

Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October - parent consultations

Friday 20th 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 narrative (excuse letters), recount, information texts on Victorian workhouses and a story writing 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 Berry's lessons will focus on statistics (graph work).

Science

Science lessons will be planned in the same way as last year: instead of focusing on one topic for a term we will continue 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, light, friction, earth's movement in space and rocks and soils.

Computing

In computing the children will use a range of software such as Garage Band and Isle of Tune to write and perform their own compositions. They will also complete a unit of work on e-safety.

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 Friday 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

In music the children will be learning to play the recorder. Each child will be provided with their own instrument which will be sanitized before use and then kept in their tray.

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, yoga and fitness 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 Friday 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, Mrs Brown and Mrs Goode