

Y4 Badgers Newsletter

Term 1 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 4. Hopefully your son or daughter has enjoyed their first few days back and they are getting used to the new routines and systems in class and around school. The children certainly seem to be pleased to be back and have been really keen and enthusiastic to learn so far. Certain aspects of the curriculum will be slightly different this year and we have a lot of hard work ahead of us to catch up on missed learning but I'm sure the children will rise to the challenge. 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 SPAG and Mr Packer for PE. We are lucky to have two TA's supporting in class: Mrs Jones who previously worked with the children in Year 3 joins us and Mrs Brown, who some children know from Breakfast Club also joins us. The TA's will be providing 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. Obviously this year we are unable to hold these so instead we thought it would be nice for you to hear a little bit about ourselves in this letter.

This is my 7th year teaching at Boughton and my 25th 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 the co-ordinator for geography and history. I have taught in a range of different schools over the years including a very large town junior school in Kent and a boys' independent 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 Jones previously worked as a Reception class TA at Joy Lane in Whitstable and joined Boughton last September. She was lucky enough to have your children in Year 3 and is delighted to be with them all again this year! She enjoys yoga, listening to music and watching her boys play football.

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 is very excited to join us in Year 4 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 to teaching later in her career after working in the hospitality industry and for local government. She has worked at Boughton now for 8 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 been 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.

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 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 include place value up to 100 000; column addition and subtraction; equivalent fractions; adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator; counting in hundredths and decimal equivalents to fractions. We will also complete investigative and problem solving activities, arithmetic sessions and times tables practice.

Science

Our topic for this term is 'States of Matter'. During these lessons the children will be exploring the differences between solids, liquids and gases; learning about evaporation and condensation; investigating how materials change when heated or cooled and learning about the water cycle.

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.

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.

PE

Football 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'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

Homework will be slightly different this term as we are trying to keep movement of learning resources between home and school to a minimum. 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 still 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 & Mrs Jones