



# Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School

Let all that you do be done in Love; Every person matters, every moment counts  
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Headteacher- Mr Peter Smith      Chair of Governors- Mr Chris Coopman

## Oak class Spring (1) curriculum letter

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

Happy New Year! Firstly, Miss Rosoman, Mrs Hunt and I would like to say thank you for the wonderful gifts and cards we received at Christmas – we were truly spoilt! I hope you had a relaxing (!) break and managed to enjoy some quality time together. The children have settled back into the school routine like ducks to water and I'm excited for all of the new learning in the term ahead.

Our new topic is based on the book 'What will I be?' by Frances Stickley which lends itself nicely to the theme of 'people who help us'. We will learn about different occupations and people in the community and who can help them if they have a problem.

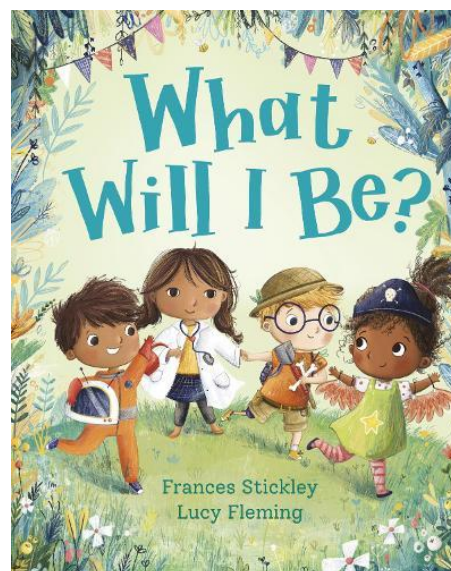
We've been in contact with a number of different organisations and arranged for visitors to come and talk with the children about their roles. This includes the police, paramedics, fire service and dentist. Whilst the emergency services are vital to learn about, we will also explore other occupations such as refuse collectors and postal workers.

This topic lends itself brilliantly to one of the prime areas of learning in the early years – communication and language – and we have set up a hospital for the children to role play in. There have already been some wonderful scenarios being acted out and both Miss Rosoman and I have been checked over and bandaged up!

This topic also encourages children to notice places and people in their community and make connections between themselves and the outside world. They will also be learning how to appreciate when someone has been helpful.

In phonics, we're continuing with phase 3 and have 12 more sounds to learn – including some trigraphs! The children will be able to tell you all about them once they've been taught but they're just 3 letters which make 1 sound (igh in bright for example). As their reading progresses the number of words on each page naturally increases so it's vital that they continue to practise their reading at home as often as possible. We are lucky enough this term to have 2 volunteer readers for an hour each on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon so we can support the children as much as possible at school. If you or anyone you know can come into school to listen to the children read, then please let me know – we would be very grateful! Please ensure your child's reading book and reading record stays in the their book bag so we can read with them in school.

In maths, the children are developing their subitising skills (seeing the quantity without counting) in increasingly complex arrangements, moving from dots in a line and arrangements of 2, to a focus on standard dice arrangements. For larger quantities, the children will begin to use skills of conceptual subitising, beginning to quickly see the sub-groups within these larger numbers. A key focus will be on



developing skills of visualising; the children will be encouraged to look carefully at arrangements of dots and then to close their eyes and explain what they saw. Using spatial language to describe sub-groups within these arrangements will deepen the children's understanding of part-whole relations and allow them to further consider composition (the numbers within numbers). Moving forward, the children will continue to use subitising skills to explore and deeply understand the composition of numbers within 10. This will support their increasing fluency with number bonds and help them to develop efficient and flexible calculation strategies in Key Stage 1 and beyond. To support this at home you can play board games and dice games, encouraging the children to recognise dot patterns on the dice and numerals on track games.

In RE we're learning about why Christians believe they are special to God and how they 'belong'. This will cover Christenings and a trip to church for our own Christening service with Father Mathew – one of our baby dolls gets Christened each year! It's a lovely session where children get to go to church and act out the different roles of the adults and even get to wear their Sunday best. This will take place on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> February - children can bring some smart clothes to school and we will help them get changed before walking up to church. We will then have a little celebration when we get back to school. As well as learning about Christenings, we will also learn about how babies are welcomed in Hinduism and Islam and learn about the traditions which are followed for each of these religions.

Our PE days will continue to be on Monday and Thursday and PE kits should be left in school for most of the term. Monday will be with our PE specialist, Miss England, and will be focussing on balancing on a line and static balance. We will also be working on our cognitive cog where the children will be developing their ability to follow simple instructions and rules. On Thursday, we will be working on cooperation and problem-solving skills through a variety of different playground games.



After Easter we will be transitioning the children onto the playground in the morning and parents will no longer be able to walk them up the path. To help with this transition, you could start encouraging your children to come into school without you – this doesn't need to be everyday but perhaps one day a week to begin with and then see how they get on. I will be there to welcome them at the top of the path and Miss Rosoman will be in the classroom. We still have a few weeks until this point though, so even just a conversation will be enough if they're finding that too hard. I will also talk to them about it in the classroom.

The children have enjoyed bringing toys and teddies into school to show me and play with but moving forward, could I just ask that children only bring in a soft toy small enough to fit into their drawer. I understand that a toy from home will be comforting to them if they're coming in without you so we will continue to allow them to come into school for a little longer, however when they're in year 1 they will only be allowed to bring toys in if they have show and tell.

As ever, if there's anything you need to discuss with me then you can call or email the office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Miss H Dooley  
Class Teacher  
EYFS coordinator