



# Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School

Every person matters, every moment counts "I can do all this through him who gives me strength"

Green Lane, Charlton, Banbury, Oxon OX17 3DN.

Tel: 01295 811480

Email: [bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

Headteacher- Mr Peter Smith

## Oak class letter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

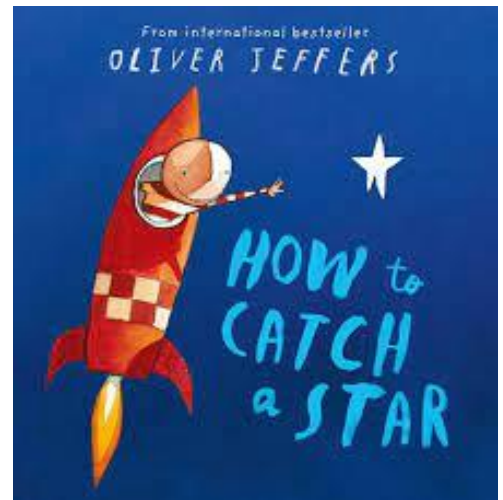
Dear parents/carers,

Can you believe the children are now half way through their first year at school? What an amazing year it's been so far, and with so much more to come! We've spent a lot of time this week reminding the children about school rules and routines – how to sit nicely on the carpet, not calling out, lining up etc. and they're doing brilliantly.

Our new topic is based on the book 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers which lends itself nicely to the theme of 'space'. We will learn about the planet we live on, rockets, astronauts and explore the many wonders of space – I think it's been our favourite topic so far, and we're only a week in!

We won't be having a trip or visitors this term, but I've planned a spectacular star gazing activity where will transform our classroom into a mini planetarium – and you're invited too! We'll try to make the experience as immersive as possible – sleeping bags, coats and hats to keep warm, blacked out windows, nature sounds and a starry projector. We'll share stories with the children about the magic of the stars and perhaps have a hot chocolate afterwards to warm us up! This will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 1.45pm and unfortunately, we can only accommodate 1 adult per child – please email me to let me know either way if you can attend and who will be coming. Celebration assembly is then at 2.40 and Oak will be performing a poem.

As you have hopefully seen on Seesaw – our role play area has been transformed into space and the children have been enthusiastically



We've now taught all phase 3 sounds and have moved onto applying these sounds. No new sounds are introduced until Summer - the children will consolidate their knowledge of sounds and read words more fluently i.e. less reliance on sounding out. Please continue to read as often as possible with the children to help them build this fluency – the reading you do with them now really does influence their whole schooling life. The more fluent they become, the more able they will be to access the world around them. Please also leave the reading books in the children's book bags so we're able to read it with them at school.

In maths, we're learning about length, height and time. This involves comparing which objects are taller/longer/shorter and investigating the length of 30 seconds and 1 minute. We will also learn the days of the week using the popular 'days of the week' song which is sung to the Adams family theme tune! After this, we'll move back to number and explore ways to build numbers 9 and 10. The children are doing really well with their number bonds to 5 and to support them with this at home you could listen to the number bonds to 5 song on YouTube by Jack Hartman.

As well as phonics and maths, we're now also doing 3 literacy sessions per week called 'Drawing club'. This links to a different book each week and the children have to draw characters, settings and adventures as well as annotate their work with magic numbers and secret code words! I will explain more in parents evening!

In RE we're learning about the Easter Story and will create our own Easter gardens. They will learn that Easter was Jesus' last week on Earth, how Jesus came to show God's love and how Christians try to show love to others. It links beautifully to learning about Spring and new life and will culminate in our whole school Maundy Thursday service at church on the last day of term.

Our PE days are still Wednesday and Friday and PE kits should be left in school for most of the term. Wednesday's session will be real PE with Miss England and will be working on ball skills and Fridays will now be dance! For both of these units we will now be working on our creative cog which will focus on the development of children's ability to observe and copy different moves.



This term we've started 'rainbow challenges' – this involves children completing 6 activities over the week, each colour coded and linked to the areas of learning in the early years foundation stage. Each time they complete a challenge they get given a sticker to add to their rainbow. When they've completed all the challenges they get a special pin badge – you've hopefully seen this today! They are really embracing the challenges and have produced some excellent work.

As a reminder – after Easter, the children will be going straight onto the playground in the morning, so we'll start doing the occasional morning out there with them to get them ready for this – this will be every Wednesday and I will be out there too. They've been absolutely brilliant at coming in on their own so hopefully they will embrace this new challenge too. After Easter, the children will no longer be allowed to bring any toys or teddies into school either, unless otherwise agreed.

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