



## NEWBOTTLE & CHARLTON CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Headteacher: Mr Peter Smith

Chair Of Governors: Lady Hayter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on our approach to reading in school and to share with you some new initiatives. We have been auditing our Reading curriculum using the Department for Education's Early Reading Framework and have been working with other schools to enhance our practice.

We want children to be keen readers who enjoy reading with studies showing that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Within school we prioritise reading development through a range of ways which include:

- Regular whole class guided reading developing fluency and comprehension skills
- Regular reading in a range of subjects throughout the curriculum
- Regular 1:1 reading for children in EYFS/KS1 as they start to become fluent readers
- Interventions/regular reading with children who are at risk of falling behind to help them to catch up
- Validated phonics scheme taught daily to Reception/Year 1 to develop their decoding and blending

We also want children to develop a love of reading and we have developed the following approaches to help with this:

- Daily whole class reading for enjoyment by an adult with a class novel/books linked to a topic
- Daily reading of poetry for enjoyment by an adult in class
- Daily reading of poetry for enjoyment in Collective Worship
- Regular opening of the school library (Mondays/Wednesday at lunch and Fridays after school)
- Subscribing to an online library called Pickatale (see separate sheet/consent form).

There will be less opportunities for children to do individual silent reading in school as we have prioritised children listening and enjoying stories but we want all children to ensure they have a book in school to read to adults or silently if needed.

As parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better and so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read regularly, reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books.

On our website we will be developing resources to support you in helping your children at home with reading. Miss Dooley would also like to set up a school workshop where adults in Year R and 1 can come and watch a phonics lesson and have a Q and A about it afterwards. She will be in touch with a few dates.

Kind regards,

Mr Peter Smith  
Headteacher



### What is Pickatale for school?

Pickatale is a reading platform designed to work alongside existing approaches to support literacy and reading for pleasure. The platform offers engaging books that are educational,



fiction and non-fiction ebooks. The extensive library covers topics such as: **Diversity, moral dilemmas, sustainability, friendship and more.**

All books are in stages to help children read the appropriate books for their reading ability. There are a large number of books that contain a short quiz at the end. There is the choice between reading independently or the read-along functionality with text highlighting, which is perfect for young learners, and children where English is not their first language.

### How to access the Pickatale library

- Android - Download the Pickatale App from the Google Play Store
- IOS - Download the Pickatale App from the Apple App Store.
- Web Reader - Access the library using the URL [app.pickatale.com/books](http://app.pickatale.com/books)

Pupils will be given a unique username and password by their teacher to access the digital library. Pupils and parents can access the books anytime and anywhere.

To find out more visit the Pickatale for schools website <https://pickatale.com/schools>

Pickatale does not share any personal information and our full privacy policy can be accessed at <https://pickatale.com/privacy-policy> including details of your rights with respect to your child's personal data.

.....  
Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

I give consent for my child's personal information to be entered into the **Pickatale Reading platform system** and stored.

(circle) Yes No

Parent / Carer Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: