



# 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 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by saying a big welcome to Newbottle and Charlton! I hope you and your little ones are settling into the routine of big school – all staff have been so impressed with them. They are wonderful children and we're loving getting to know them and all their individual quirks! Each term you will receive a class letter outlining the learning that will be taking place over the upcoming weeks – see below for this term's fun!

Topics in reception are based on books and we're starting the year off with 'Super Duper You!' by Sophy Henn – perfect for getting to know each other. We will focus on what makes us special, our likes and dislikes, who's who in our families and so much more. Their uniqueness will be truly celebrated!

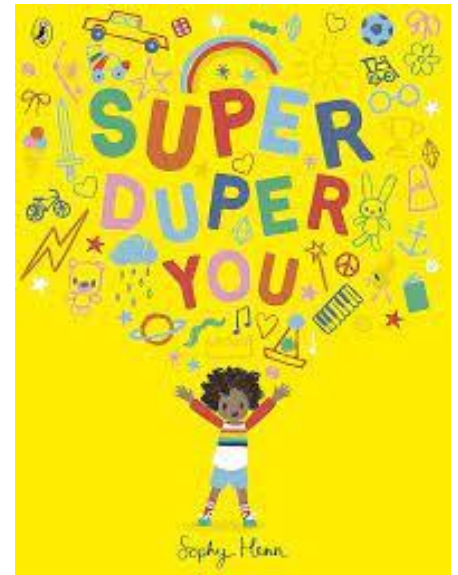
As well as this, we'll learn classroom/school routines and rules – this is really important at the beginning of the year to ensure they know what to expect and how to conduct themselves around school. They will learn what makes a good listener and have opportunities to practise daily, as well as how to communicate using our 'voice 21' oracy project (partner talk, new vocabulary, an awareness of the volume of their voice etc.).

We'll learn all about feelings and how we could begin to regulate our emotions. We will teach the children that all emotions are normal and that there are ways to help us feel better.

We are well on the way with our learning in phonics and the children are loving the opportunity to be able to show off what they can do – they've now read a total of 5 words! Learning to read really is a magical skill and I feel privileged to be able to help them on this journey but as mentioned at the phonics meeting – we can't do it without you! When the children get a book sent home, we ask that you read it as often as possible (ideally 4 times per week) – the difference this makes is immeasurable and it impacts all areas of children's learning.

Maths lessons will begin in week 4 and are made up of lively and colourful resources which help children explore mathematics in engaging and inspiring ways. They will learn through fun games and activities which will enable them to develop a positive attitude to maths and an enthusiasm for learning. The first half term focuses on matching, sorting, comparing amounts, comparing size/mass/capacity and exploring patterns. Various books will support their learning such as:

- A pair of socks by Stuart J. Murphy
- The blue balloon by Mick Inkpen
- We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen



We try to use books in as many areas of learning as possible – fostering a love of reading is one of our main priorities at Newbottle and Charlton – who doesn't love the opportunity to sit down with a good book?! We read stories daily (sometimes more than one!) and this term will focus on stories about starting school, different families, emotions and celebrating differences. We will have focus authors each term such as Eric Carle, Michael Rosen, Trish Cooke, Julia Donaldson, Kenard Pak and Jeanne Willis. These authors have been carefully selected to ensure the children are exposed to a diverse range of quality texts and story lines and can recognise/name some authors.

As a church school we will have weekly RE lessons. We are beginning with The Story of Creation and why the word 'God' is so important to Christians. This is a lovely, special topic as it opens up the world of spirituality and belief and gives the children a sense of awe and wonder about our amazing world. We will also be learning about Harvest and our first trip to church will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September for our Harvest service. You are more than welcome to attend and it's a lovely opportunity to sing some songs and feel part of our special school community.

Our PE days are Monday and Thursday and PE kits should be left in school for most of the term – we will send them home before that if they get particularly dirty! Monday PE is with me and our PE specialist Miss England – she teaches the children fundamental PE skills, and this term's focus is on coordination (footwork) and following instructions. Thursday will be with Mr Thompson and will focus on the assessment/development of children's gross motor skills. Gross motor skills are essential in helping children to perform everyday functions – even down to being able to sit upright on the carpet. Please take every opportunity to strengthen their core muscles and coordination – playing in the park really does have its benefits! Activities such as climbing on play equipment builds up their strength which in turn helps them with school activities such as writing. They've already improved so much on the trim trail!

#### Seesaw

I am sending home both the parent and child log in details for seesaw. The child log in details should only be used if you wish to upload something your child has done for me to see (some reading, photos of a special occasion, achievements etc). Every other time you log into seesaw you should be using the parent code. This enables us to see who has viewed activities and photos and offer assistance if needed. I will use seesaw in school to document some of the activities the children do so you can see some of what they get up to – I know they aren't great at telling you! For the parent code, you will need to add your own name, not the children's – please come in after school if you would like help setting it up.

As you can see, this first term is all about helping the children to feel settled, comfortable and confident in their surroundings and feel happy to approach the teacher with any worries or just for a chat! We hope you feel the same way and you're always welcome to come and chat to me in the morning with any worries or queries – the reception year is a partnership between teacher and parent to help give the children the best possible start to their schooling. Thank you for all of your support so far – the whole school community are looking forward to getting to know you as the years progress.

Kind regards

Miss H Dooley  
Class Teacher  
EYFS coordinator