



Newbottle and 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

Oak class letter

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

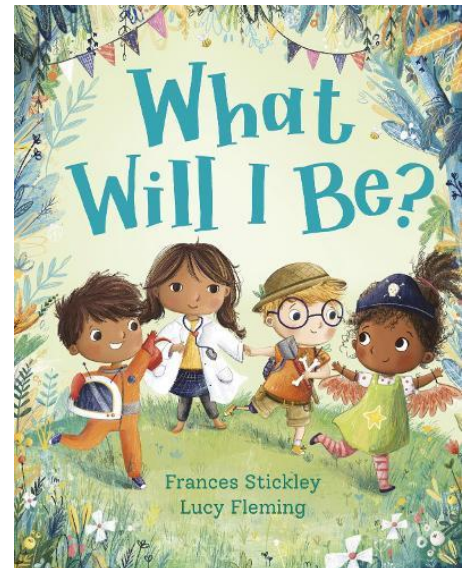
Happy New Year! Firstly, Miss Rosoman and I would like to say thank you for the wonderful gifts and cards we received at Christmas – we were truly spoilt! I hope you had a relaxing (!) break and managed to enjoy some quality time together. The children have settled back into the school routine like ducks 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, fire service and dentist. Whilst the emergency services are vital to learn about, we will also explore other occupations such as refuse collectors, mechanics 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 and started the week off by making lots of



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. Miss Rosoman will continue to read with them on a Monday and I will continue on a Friday. If you or anyone you know is able to come into school to listen to the children read then please let me know – we would be very grateful!

In maths, we've started off by learning about zero – the children have a good understanding of the concept of zero and are ready to move onto numbers 6, 7 and 8! Spending so much time on numbers 0-10 gives the children an amazing foundation for future learning and they are really enjoying the practical aspect of the lessons. We will also learn more about mass and capacity this term and children will be making boats to tie in with our topic and testing the weight they can carry.

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. We are just waiting on a date to be confirmed but children can bring some smart clothes to school, and we will help them get changed before walking up to church – I will let you know when as soon as I find out. 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 are now Wednesday and Friday and PE kits should be left in school for most of the term. Wednesday's session will be with Miss England and will now be gymnastics where they will learn, develop and apply shapes and travel on the floor and apparatus. On Friday's we'll continue with real PE and will be focussing on balancing on a line and static balance. For both of these units we will also be working on our cognitive cog where the children will be developing their ability to follow simple instructions and rules.



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