



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

September 2023

Elm Class Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year and our wonderful new classroom! We hope your child has had a positive start to the term and is looking forward to lots of new learning, experiences and opportunities this year. This letter will provide you with some key information and an overview of the term ahead.

Staff

This year, Elm class will be taught by Mrs Hogan and Mrs Lovesay-Bonham, and supported by Mr Seamark, Mrs Jones, Mrs Marsella-Brookes, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Hodgson throughout the week.

Routines

This term, Elm class will have PE on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Children are required to bring their PE kits with them to change into. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear and clothes (plain in colour). After half term, they will start swimming on a Friday- more information regarding these sessions will be sent home nearer the time.

Curriculum and Learning

We have started the year with our whole school topic on 'Cultural Diversity' over the past couple of weeks with a particular focus on India. We have been exploring this culture through poetry, music, artwork and geography. Next week we will be launching our new class topic which is a history unit about children's lives in the past with our key question being: 'How have children's lives changed'. After half term we will explore a geography topic on settlements with our key question: 'Are all settlements the same?' We hope to take the children on a trip to immerse them in this topic.

- **Topic-** We will be exploring our new topics and key questions in a range of ways. In history we will learn about primary and secondary sources and find out about children's lives in Tudor and Victorian times. In geography children will develop their understanding of different settlements and land use in the local area (including human and physical features) whilst making comparisons to New Delhi.
- **English-** Our English will link to our topic where possible, which will provide children with exciting and engaging stimuli for writing. Children will be writing poems, a suspense narrative and a balanced argument on 'Should we Feed Animals at National Parks?' Children will also be developing their spelling, punctuation and grammar knowledge and skills. We will be using key texts in both writing and guided reading including, 'The BFG' and 'Wolves in the Walls'.
- **Maths-** In maths, we will be focussing on the following blocks: number and place value; addition and subtraction and multiplication and division. Year 4 will also be starting a new mastery times table programme, Year 3 will begin this later in the year. There will be lots of problem solving and reasoning based activities to deepen their mathematical knowledge and understanding.
- **Science-** Our first science topic this term is 'Animals including humans' where children will learn about teeth and digestion. They will also be developing their scientific enquiry skills through investigations. After half term, they will cover 'Living things are their habitats' with a focus on conservation.

- **Art/D&T-** This term children will be looking at an art unit called 'Drawing: Growing Artists'. In DT we will be looking at construction and shell structures linked to settlements.
- **Computing-** This term we will be learning how to design and create a website using Sway. After half term children will learn about computer systems and networks and explore the journey inside a computer! They will also be working on their general computing and word processing skills as well as E-Safety.
- **Music-** This term we will be looking at 'Ballads' which will involve children learning about the story behind a range of ballads. Children will develop their singing skills as well as writing and performing their own lyrics. After half term they will be learning songs for our Christingle service.
- **PE-** This term the children will develop their personal skills through our Real PE scheme, taking part in a range of activities and games each Wednesday with Mrs England. They will also have Rugby on Thursday afternoons. After half term, they will take part in Basketball and begin swimming sessions.
- **PSHE-** This term our theme is 'Me and My Relationships'. Children will be recapping the Zones of Regulation and thinking about friendships and online relationships. After half term they will be focusing on 'Valuing Differences'.
- **French-** This term's units are 'Phonics' and 'Numbers and Colours'. They will be developing their language skills through a range of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities.
- **RE-** This term children will be studying two Christianity units. This half term we will be looking at People of God and discussing our key question: 'What is it like to follow God?' After half term, we will focus on Incarnation and explore: 'What is the Trinity?'

Forest School

We are pleased to be able to offer the children Forest School again this year. Elm class will have their sessions every Friday afternoon between now and October half term.

Homework

Children will be set a range of activities on the different learning platforms we have. These will help children consolidate and revise key concepts in maths (Sumdog) and Spelling (Spelling Shed). As explained in last week's newsletter, an option this year will be for children to complete a paper maths journal practising concepts taught in school. Families can ask for a paper option instead of using the app. These will be self-marked and you will be able to hand these in. There will also be an optional creative challenge on Seesaw each term.

Your child has also been given a reading record which can be used to record books your child has read and any comments you wish to share about your child's reading. Daily reading is really important and should be encouraged to support your child's confidence, fluency and comprehension skills. Children are able to choose books from our class library and will have weekly opportunities to visit our school library and borrow books. We will aim to check and change books on Monday and Friday, but children are able to change books as often as needed. Please let us know if you require any additional resources or guidance.

Please remember to keep up-to-date with Seesaw and the school website and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries. We look forward to working with you over the next few months and hope it will be a positive and productive start to the year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hogan and Mrs Lovesay-Bonham
Elm Class Teachers

