



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 10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I 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, Birch class will be supported by myself, Mrs Hogan and Mrs O'Neill. Mr Smith will also teach the class during the year.

Routines

Mr Smith has informed you of all the new routines and procedures in place and will continue to keep you updated throughout the term. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding with this.

This term, Birch class will have PE on Thursday afternoons and swimming on Friday mornings. After half term, PE days will be Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear and clothes (plain in colour) as we will be outside for some of our sessions.

As you know, Birch class will be the first to take part in our new Forest School sessions which will begin next Friday afternoon- please see the letter for more information.

Curriculum and Learning

We launched the new school year with a mini whole school topic: 'Our School: Our World', which explored creation, environment and stewardship. We explored this topic using a range of creative approaches including art, poetry and outdoor learning.

- **Topic-** Our first class topic will be 'What makes the Earth angry?' which will provide many cross-curricular learning opportunities to develop children's knowledge of natural disasters. Children will learn about the make-up of the earth and the causes and impact of natural disasters around the world whilst finding out about significant events in the past. They will also have the opportunity to engage in activities provided by The Natural History Museum and will learn valuable first aid skills through hands on workshops.
- **English-** Our English will link to our topic, which will provide children with exciting and engaging stimuli for writing. Writing will be based on key texts, including 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and 'Escape from Pompeii'. They will be writing narratives, descriptions, biographies and newspaper reports. This year we are adopting a new spelling system to complement spelling shed which we have used for the last few years. The new focus for teaching will be a two-week cycle where children are focus more on investigations and sound associations which will help children to see links between words with an aim to improve spelling in their independent writing.
- **Maths-** In maths, we will be focussing on number and place value; four operations; perimeter and area; fractions; and angles and will develop children's fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills.
- **Science-** Our science topic this term is 'Living Things and their Habitats'. Children will learn about classification systems, microorganisms and characteristics of creatures. We will also explore how natural disasters impact living



things. Next term our science topic will be 'Electricity' in which children will develop their knowledge of circuits, symbols and volts through hands on investigations.

- **Art/D&T-** In Art, children will explore the work of Margaret Godfrey, recreating her volcano collage before developing their colour mixing and wax skills inspired by the famous 'Great Wave' painting by Hokusai. They will also be designing and making shelters in D&T linked to our topic.
- **Computing-** During the autumn, children will learn about 'Video editing' and 'Selection in physical systems'. They will also focus on online relationships, self-image and identity.
- **Music-** Children will learn and perform a traditional folk song linked to our topic: 'Rocky Mountain'. They will also listen and appraise the song 'Happy' and other songs in different styles about being happy and build on their knowledge and understanding about the interrelated dimensions of music through a range of activities. Next term they will be preparing songs for Christingle.
- **French-** Children will be developing their understanding of phonics in this language and learn about the weather and families. They will explore these units through speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- **RE-** This term child will be studying and exploring key questions within two 'Understanding Christianity' units: 'Gospel- What would Jesus do?' and 'Incarnation- Was Jesus the Messiah?'

Homework

Your child will receive a homework grid next Monday for the term outlining 10 activities and key spelling rules. Spelling Shed words will also include words linked to our spelling investigations (named Go Grapheme Grafters), a set of 15 words which will displayed in class over two weeks. Children will focus on learning to spell these words by using phonics and other strategies to tackle the tricky parts of them. All the homework tasks are all available on Seesaw. Homework is due in every Monday and feedback will be provided via Seesaw in a range of ways. Please let me know if you require any additional resources or guidance. If you having trouble using Seesaw at home, please contact use and we can discuss any further support we can give or find an alternative.

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. I look forward to working with you over the next few months and hope it will be a positive and productive term.

Kind regards,
Hannah Smith
Birch Class Teacher & SENDCo