



# Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School

*Let all that you do be done in Love; Every person matters, every moment counts*

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Headteacher- Mr Peter Smith

Chair of Governors- Mr Chris Coopman

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Birch Class Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday. It has been so lovely to welcome the children back for the new school term. As the new term starts, we have already begun more exciting curriculum learning, which I hope that the children are enjoying.

This letter provides you with an overview of the term ahead for Birch Class. I hope that it is informative and useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I can provide any more support or guidance to help you best support your children through this term in school.

### Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Pitts-Smith will continue to teach Maths to part of the class each day; Mr Pitts-Smith will also be teaching the class each Tuesday afternoon through this term.

Throughout the week, the children will also be supported by Mr Thompson, Mrs Jones, Mrs Hunt, Miss Sim and Mrs Hodgson as additional adults.

### Routines

This term, Birch class will have PE on Wednesday afternoon and on Friday morning. On a Friday, some children will be taking part in swimming lessons for part of this half-term, with the other children taking their PE lesson indoors. Children are required to bring their PE kits with them to change into for PE lessons; please can I ask that you make sure that your child has appropriate footwear and clothes (plain in colour).

### Curriculum and Learning

#### Topic

Through the term, we will be exploring our new topics and key questions in a range of ways.

In History up to half-term, we will be learning about World War Two where the children will explore the question, 'What was the impact of World War Two on the People of Britain?' Children's learning will focus on the causes of World War Two, how the Battle of Britain was won, the emotions and experiences of children during the evacuation and the impact of World War Two on women's lives.

After half-term, our topic work will take a Geography focus. Children will explore our key question, 'Why does population change?' This unit will focus on global population, push and pull factors that influence migration and the development of the children's understanding about the impact of climate change on population. As part of our learning, we will also investigate the environmental impact of population changes on different localities.

#### English

Our English will link into our broader curriculum work where possible. This is intended to help provide the children with exciting and engaging stimuli for their writing. Alongside our English lessons, children will also take part in regular guided reading sessions in class, to broaden the range of text types covered during the term.

Our first core text, is the graphic novel, 'Alte Zachen: Old Things' by Ziggy Hanaor. This narrative text follows 11-year old Benji and his elderly grandmother, Bubbe Rosa, as they traverse Brooklyn and Manhattan, gathering ingredients for a Friday night dinner. The graphic novel is a multi-generational tale of division, identity and the impact of history on the present. The narrative takes a focus on the relationship between grandmother and grandson and the complex differences in outlook between the two. In this unit of work, children will develop skills in writing character descriptions, flashbacks, diary entries and short autobiographies.

Through the second half of the Spring Term, we will focus on the text; Anne Frank by Josephine Poole which directly links to our History topic. This text will provide the children with the opportunity to learn about and consider Anne and her family's life. The children will write extended diaries, newspaper reports and opinion pieces. This will help the children demonstrate their understanding of the challenges that Anne and her family experienced during the war.

Throughout the term, children will also continue to develop their spelling, punctuation and grammar knowledge and apply these skills through focussed work, to help build and develop the quality of their written pieces.

### Maths

In Maths, we will be focussing on the following blocks through the term.

Year 5	Year 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fractions</li> <li>• Multiplication and Division</li> <li>• Decimals and Percentages</li> <li>• Perimeter and Area</li> <li>• Statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fractions</li> <li>• Ration</li> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• Fractions, Decimals and Percentages</li> <li>• Area, Perimeter and Volume</li> <li>• Statistics</li> </ul>

The children will also be given opportunities to apply their learning to problem solving and reasoning tasks to help which will help deepen their mathematical knowledge and understanding.

### Science

Our first Science topic this term is 'Light' where children will learn about how light travels. Through experimental work, we will explore reflection and how it can be used to help see things. We will also investigate how shadows change and explore about light phenomena. We will also learn about light refraction, how light is used other than for us to see and learn about how our eyes respond to light.

After half-term the children will complete a unit about Forces. This unit will help the children learn about gravity, and the life and work of Isaac Newton. Children also will learn about air resistance, friction and different mechanisms (levers, pulleys and gears).

### Art and DT

During the first half of the term, children will complete textiles unit to design and make a waistcoat. Progressing from the designing their creation, children will learn different techniques for marking and cutting fabric, assembling waistcoats using running stitch. They will also consider different ways to decorate their waistcoats to produce final pieces.

After halt-term, children will complete a mixed media and painting unit that focusses on developing understanding about the work of a range of different artists. Core elements of our work will be looking into descriptive language in art, exploring meaning behind paintings and developing personal interpretations along with abstract art pieces based on selected artists (David Hockney, Paula Rego, John Singer Sargent, Fiona Rae and Lubiana Himid).

### **Computing**

**This term, children will learn about computing systems and networks, linked to Bletchley Park and the history of computers. We will explore different codes and ciphers, learn about the history of computers as well as a designing a computer of the future. Our computing learning will be supplemented by our visit to Bletchley Park in February, as part of our work on World War Two.**

**Following on from this learning, children will complete a unit about Computer Programming. We will explore Micro:Bit devices and learn about programming animations, creating programmes for specific tasks and creating scoreboard programs.**

### **Music**

**During this term, children will be working on two units of work; learning World War Two songs and developing their understanding about the 'Blues'. The children will learn to improve their accuracy in pitch and control learning different World War Two songs. Children will also learn about the history of the Blues, learn to play a 12-bar blue composition and develop their understanding about improvisation.**

### **PE**

**This term, some children will continue their swimming at Brackley Leisure Centre; these additional sessions will help the children develop their waster confidence and swimming ability. All the children will also have sessions to develop their water safety skills and participate in a class swimming gala, to help the children showcase their skills.**

**In our PE lessons, children will complete PE units focussing on different invasion games, giving the children the opportunity to learn, develop and apply attacking and defending skills, whilst also developing the children's understanding about strategies that can be used to outwit an opposition. The children will also learn to apply these skills in dodgeball and badminton.**

### **PSHE**

**In PSHE, our learning will focus on 'Keeping Safe' and 'Rights and Respect'. During the first half-term, children will learn about healthy and unhealthy decisions and the impact of these (this will be supported by Life Education workshops run in school). We will also think about online safety and provide the children with opportunities to discuss and consider different dilemmas that could impact their safety and wellbeing.**

**After half-term, our work on 'Rights and Respect' will enable the children to continue to develop their skills in empathy for others around them and discuss issues currently in the media concerning health and wellbeing. The children will learn about rights and responsibilities that they have towards others and the impact that their actions may have to support positive growth in others. Our work will also help the children consider the impact of their actions and behaviours on individuals and the wider community.**

### **French**

**This term's French units are, 'My Home' and 'French Culture'. Through our work, children will be working to develop their language skills through a range of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities.**

### **RE**

**This term, children will be learning about Hinduism, completing a unit titled, 'Why do Hindus try to be Good?' This unit of work will help the children consider Hindu beliefs, to reflect on the meaning of different Hindu stories and to explain how Hindus put their beliefs into practice in different ways.**

**After half-term, we will study two Christianity units. Our learning will focus on, 'What Christians believe Jesus did to save people' and 'What difference does the Resurrection make for Christians.' These units will help deepen the children's understanding about faith, providing opportunities for deeper thought and reflection through our planned activities.**

### **Homework**

**Children will be set a range of Maths activities to complete at home on Sumdog. These activities link directly to the work that we being completing in school in our lessons and are carefully chosen to help support the children in consolidating their learning.**

**Children's also have spelling books to support in practice at home on a weekly basis. Please can I ask that all parents watch the video emailed out by Mr Pitts-Smith, that explains how the spelling homework is organised to best support each child in learning these core words. The spelling lists have been updated for each child, from testing completed this week in class; additional spellings have been organised to support each child to move their learning on.**

**Please can I also ask that daily reading is completed at home. I consider this essential in supporting your child's confidence, fluency and their comprehension skills. Please can I ask that you record reading sessions completed in the reading record books, along with any comments you wish to share about your child's reading.**

**I would like to remind you that children are very welcome to choose books from our class library and will also have regular opportunities to visit the school library to select and borrow books. If you need any further support or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me, so that I can provide any assistance needed to best help and support your child.**

**Thank you very much for all your ongoing support. I really hope that we have a fantastic term ahead in school, building on from the wonderful work that each child completed through last term in school.**

**Kind regards,**

**Mr Goldsworthy**

**Birch Class Teacher**