



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

12th January 2024

Birch Class Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year and welcome back for a busy start to the new Spring term! I hope your child is looking forward to lots of new learning, experiences, and opportunities throughout the remainder of this year. This letter will provide you with some key information and an overview of the spring term ahead.

Staff

Following the retirement of Mrs Hawes, we have welcomed Mr Thompson as our new Birch TA. We are very excited to work with him and the children have taken to him very well. Mr Thompson will be working full-time in Birch class. Mr Thompson is also working alongside the continued support from Mrs Hunt and Mrs Hodgson. Miss Hirst is also continuing to teach Birch class on Tuesdays and Mr Smith will continue to teach maths to one year group (swapping every 3 weeks).

Routines

This half term, Birch class will have PE on Monday afternoons and will have swimming on Friday mornings. 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) and be prepared for the cold weather! We will let you know after half term what the PE days will be.

Curriculum and Learning - Topic

We have an exciting topic this first term of 'How did the Mayans Civilisation compare to the Anglo Saxons' which the children are excited about and after half term we will have a focus on 'Where does our food come from?'. Much of our learning will be in relation to these topics.

English- Our English will link to our topic where possible, which will provide children with exciting and engaging stimuli for writing. We are already underway with our first writing topic 'The Gorilla' in which the children will eventually create an independent fantasy write. Following that we will be focusing on blog writing and creating traditional tales and newspaper articles.

Maths- This term we will continue to split for 4 maths lessons a week but we will also be doing maths as a whole class practising key number skills and Miss Hirst will be delivering lessons on shape, perimeter, area, volume and measure. Both year groups will be looking further at fractions, decimals, percentages and year 6 will also look at algebra and ratio.

Science- Our first topic this term is living things and their habitats where we will look at 'Life cycles of living things' and after half term attentions will turn to changes of materials where we will explore 'reversible and irreversible changes'. The children will be using a variety of theory and practical activities for their learning.

Art/D&T- Art and creative activities are a clear favorite for the children in Birch class and this term in art our unit is 'making my voice heard' which gives the children an opportunity to create expressive pieces of art and is in relation to our class topic of The Mayans. After half term our DT focus will relate to our class topic of "where does our food come from"? – looking at cooking/nutrition and eating seasonally.

Computing- The first half of term we will be exploring 'creating media vector graphics' before moving onto recording data and information using a range of theory and digital techniques. Our focus for digital literacy is 'Online relationships'.

PE- PE on Mondays focuses on Real Gym with Mrs England in addition to our return to swimming lessons at Brackley leisure Centre on Friday mornings in the first half of the term and Dance in the second half of the term.

PSHE- This term our theme is 'Keeping Safe' involving all areas of life such as online safety and in the real world. We have an engaging visit in the first week from SCARF who produced a very important session to the children in Birch. After half term children will be carrying out some SRE sessions as they did last year with an expert from SCARF. See calendar dates for information about coming in for a meeting on what the content will be.

French- This terms unit of learning is 'The weather'. They will be developing their language skills through a range of speaking, listening, reading and writing activities.

RE- This term children will be studying a unit on Judasim with our key question "What does it mean for a Jewish person to follow God?" After half term attentions return to Christianity with year 5 asking "What did Jesus do to save human beings a' whilst year 6 will question, "What difference does the resurrection make to Christians?"

Homework- Children will continue to 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). For those children with a maths homework workbook, they will continue to receive their homework in this way. Having marked the books over the Christmas break these have been a success and help solidify the learning they do in class. Year 6 children will start their SATS revision books to use for revision that will help prepare for SATS. Homework will be set from next week (W/B 15th January).

Reading-We are aiming in Birch to truly foster a love of reading. I feel the children's love of reading has increased throughout the year and they are particularly enjoying the copies of *First News* which we have in class weekly and can learn about topics in the news. However, we would welcome your assistance in encouraging children to read fiction at home as well as in school. Daily reading is really important and should be encouraged to support your child's confidence, fluency and comprehensions skills. Children are always able to choose books from our class library. Please let us know if you require any additional resources or guidance.

Other

We are starting booster sessions at the beginning of this term beginning with maths and moving on to literacy skills such as reading, writing and SPAG later. These will be every Monday starting on Monday 15th January with myself, Mrs Lovesay-Bonham and Mr Smith.

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. It has been a lovely start to the year with Birch class with many positive experiences and it was lovely to meet you all at either parents evening or other opportunities such as PATH time and 'let's make Christmas'. We look forward to continuing our constructive relationships working with you this term.

Kind regards,

Mr O'Sullivan
Birch Class Teacher