



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

Friday 15th September 2023

Birch 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, I will be teaching Birch on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Miss Hirst will be teaching on Tuesdays. Mr Smith and I will take one year group for Maths and swap every 3 weeks. To start with I am teaching Year 6 and Mr Smith is teaching Year 5. Supporting the class will be Mrs Hawes, Mr Seamark, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Marsella-Brookes and Mrs Hodgson throughout the week.

Routines

This term, Birch class will have PE on Thursday afternoons and 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). This term Birch will be going swimming on Friday mornings and letters with information regarding this have been given to the children to take home.

Curriculum and Learning

We have started the year with our whole school topic 'Cultural Diversity' over the past couple of weeks with a particular focus on Africa. We have been exploring this culture through artwork and geography. In regard to the whole school topic of 'cultural diversity in the UK' we have looked at how we can be 'diversity champions' and the children have produced some wonderful posters to promote inclusion in society.

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 times; our main enquiry is "what was life like in Tudor England"? In geography children will develop their understanding of oceans and climate change exploring our key question: 'Why do oceans matter?'

- 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, narratives and non-fiction. The focus for this half term will be poetry based on the poem called Hope-a-potomus, before writing postcards in role as a Tudor. After half term we will be exploring the book Kesuke's kingdom and writing an adventure story. We will be using key texts in both writing and guided reading including: reading a book called Treason (a Tudor tale).
- Maths- In maths, we will be focussing on the following blocks: place value; addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions and problem solving. Year 6 will also be converting units this term. 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 'Properties of Materials' where children will learn about the properties and uses of different materials and a focus of mixtures and solubility. They will also be

developing their scientific enquiry skills through investigations. After half term, they will cover 'Looking after the environment' with a focus on climate change.

- **Art/D&T-** In DT we will be looking at construction and frame structures linked to emergency shelter. In Art will be looking at futuristic painting, creating and developing our skills within drawing.
- **Computing-** This term we will be looking at programming selection in quizzes. After half term children will learn about creating media video productions and a focus on online relationships to help develop their understanding of E-Safety.
- **Music-** This term we will be initially looking at 'Advanced Rhythms' and then progress after half term to 'Dynamics, pitch and texture' alongside the theme of 'Fingal's Cage'. After half term they will be learning songs for our Christingle service.
- **PE-** This term the children will develop their skills through our Real PE scheme, taking part in a range of activities across the year with Mrs England and Myself. This term they will have Invasion Rugby on Thursday afternoons and swimming on Friday mornings. After half term, they will take part in developing their personal skills and Invasion Netball.
- **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' such as 'No outsiders' and 'Anti-bullying'.
- **French-** This term's units are 'Phonics' and '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 two Christianity units. This half term we will be looking at 'Gospel' and discussing our key question: 'What would Jesus do? After half term, we will focus on 'Incarnation' and our key question: 'Was Jesus the Messiah?'

Forest School

We are pleased to be able to offer the children Forest School again this year. Birch Class will have forest school time allocated later in the school year.

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.

Your child has also been given a bookmark that acts as a reading record which can be used for your child to record books they have read and when. 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. 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,

Mr O'Sullivan
Birch Class Teacher