



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 13th September 2024

Birch Class Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back for the new school year; the children have been so kind and welcoming to me as I join the school as their new class teacher. I am very much enjoying getting to know all the strengths that each child has in the class, helping to set our year ahead in the best possible way.

I do hope your child has had a positive start to the term and is looking forward to an exciting range of new learning, experiences and opportunities as we move through the year in school. This letter will provide you with some key information and an overview of the term ahead for Birch Class.

Staff

This year, Birch class in addition to myself, Mr Smith who will be teaching Maths to part of the class each day and also teach the class each Thursday afternoon during the year. Throughout the week, the children will be supported by Mr Thompson, Mrs Jones, Mrs Hunt, Miss Simm and Mrs Hodgson as additional adults.

Routines

This term, Birch class will have PE on Thursday afternoon. Children are required to bring their PE kits with them to change into. Please can we ask that you make sure that your child has appropriate footwear and clothes (plain in colour). Children in Birch class will also be swimming each week at Brackley Leisure Centre on a Friday morning.

Curriculum and Learning

We have started the school year with our whole school English topic based on the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. This non-fiction text focusses on themes of family, love, conservation, health and belonging. Within our work, children will explore the Earth's beauty and develop their use of literary language to write non-narrative poetry and a journalistic research piece, providing guidance for others in how to live 'well and successfully' on Planet Earth.

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 the Ancient Greeks. Our work will explore, 'What the Greeks ever did for us', with the children developing understanding about the ancient Greeks' legacies and the impact of these in our lives today.

After half-term, our topic will take a Geography focus. Learning will be centred around the physical and human geography of the Alps, with children learning to identify key human and physical characteristics from this alpine area. We will also complete work to identify similarities and differences between this locality and our local area.

English

Our English will link into our topic work where possible, helping to 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, broadening the range of text types covered during the term.

Our first core text, 'The Odyssey' by Gillian Cross, will take the children on an adventure with Odysseus, the greatest of heroes as he battles monsters, Gods and mortals on his voyage home to Ithaca. Children will develop skills in writing dialogue for different purposes and will also gain the opportunity to recount key scenes from the text, writing responses in different styles. During our learning, we will also research Greek Gods, to support children in their planning and writing of their own epic adventure stories.

Through the second half of the Autumn Term, we will focus on two further exciting texts; '*The Lost Thing*' by Shaun Tan and '*Kaspar, Prince of Cats*' by Michael Morpungo.

In our learning based on 'The Lost Thing', children will use the film and text to engage with the themes of the story and will learn how to make predictions about its content. In our lessons we will retell main events, develop understanding of the writer's style to create our own 'lost things', before planning our and writing our own narrative pieces.

Through our work on 'Kaspar, Prince of Cats', children will create a learn to produce a range of fiction and non-fiction pieces, including letter writing, newspaper articles and recounts, whilst also researching The Titanic and its voyage.

Throughout the term, children will also develop their spelling, punctuation and grammar knowledge, applying these skills 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.

- Number and Place Value
- Four Operations – (Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division)
- Negative Numbers
- Shape
- Fractions (Year 6)

In Maths lessons, there will be frequent opportunities for the children to apply learning to problem solving and reasoning, helping to deepen their mathematical knowledge and understanding.

Science

Our first Science topic this term is 'Earth and Space' where children will learn about the Earth and its position in the Solar System. We will learn about the Earth's rotational axis, day and night, the position of the Earth in relation to the Sun and movement of the moon in relation to Earth (including moon phases). Through our learning, children will also learn about the key scientists, Ptolemy and Copernicus and discover how scientific view and opinions have changed over time.

After half-term the children will complete a unit titled 'Animals, including humans'. This will take a focus about the human circulatory system and the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the function of human bodies.

Art and DT

This term the children will be completing an Art unit called 'Portraits'. This will give the children the opportunity to develop their artistic skills in creating interesting self-portrait drawings, using words and experimenting with materials and techniques.

In Design and Technology, we will be exploring mechanisms, through creation of Automata toys. Through the second half of the Autumn Term, the children will complete a cooking and nutrition project, researching the nutritional value of different recipes, changing a traditional recipe and following and making an adapted recipe in school.

Computing

This term the children will be learning about computer programming, using Vex-Go Robotics (linked to our Earth and Space topic). They will also learn about online safety and investigate different computing systems and networks, exploring the journey of information from computer to computer.

Music

Through the second half of the Autumn term, children will be working on a 'Pop Art' Music unit, developing their understanding about variation in music. During the unit, children will learn to keep pulse accurately, perform different rhythms with confidence and develop a final creative group piece, demonstrating their understanding and creative response.

PE

This term, children will develop their football skills, led by an external visiting coach until half-term. The children will then enjoy a range of outdoor, adventurous activities helping them to develop further their communication, teamwork and cooperation skills.

Through this half term, Birch class will also take part in swimming lessons each Friday morning at Brackley Leisure Centre

PSHE

In PSHE this term, our theme is 'Me and My Relationships'. Children will be reviewing and developing their understanding about emotional regulation, linked to the FEELIT Programme and will focus on friendship and effective communication. After half-term the children will be focusing on 'Valuing Differences'.

French

This term's French units are, 'Phonics' and 'The Date'. Children 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 completing a unit, 'Creation and Science: conflicting or complementary.' This will help the children develop understanding why many Christians find that Science and faith go together and provide opportunities for deeper thought and reflection about the creation story and whether this is in conflict, or is complementary to scientific accounts.

After half-term, we will focus on a unit, 'What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?'

Homework

We have attached an information booklet for all the details on homework this year.

Your child has also been given a reading record which should be used to record books your child has read and any comments you wish to share about your child's reading. Daily reading is essential as it will support your child's confidence, fluency and comprehensions skills.

Children can choose books from our class library and will have weekly opportunities to visit the school library and borrow books. Please do also let me know if you require any additional resources or guidance, to help support your child.

For more information, please keep up to date with Seesaw and the school website. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any queries.

I very much look forward to working with you this first term in school and very much hope that it will be a positive and productive start to the year for your child.

Kind regards,

Mr Goldsworthy

Birch Class Teacher