



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: Mrs Sarah Smith

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Friday 13th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ash Class Letter - Term 1 & 2 2019

Welcome back to school to all in Ash Class! We hope the children have had a super summer break and are now revived and ready for an exciting new school year. We are thrilled to be teaching the children and have a range of fun and engaging learning experiences planned. Our year has begun with a fascinating whole-school topic all about Japan (to link in with the setting for the Rugby World Cup this year!)

Here is a general overview of what we will be learning until Christmas and some tips to help the year start smoothly.

From now until half term, Mrs Thomas will be taking the class all day on a Monday, Tuesday and a Thursday as well as for the first part of Wednesday mornings. Mrs Williams has reduced her hours currently for personal reasons and will teach for the rest of Wednesday as well as all day on a Friday.

There are a number of other adults working in class with us over the week including Mrs Marsella-Brookes, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Hogan. We are also very pleased to welcome Mrs Belcher to the team!

English

To begin the term, we will be learning about the Japanese poetry form of Haiku. After this we will study some traditional Japanese stories and compare these to some Western ones. As we begin our new topic, On the Move, we will study some fabulous picture books which will lend themselves to many exciting writing opportunities across a range of genres. More details will follow with our topic web. Within our English work we will also have a weekly session on punctuation and grammar.

Spelling and Phonics

We will continue to use the excellent resource Spelling Shed, which is very structured and meets the needs of children by progressing through the stages with work for each age-group. There will be online homework linked to this as well as several spelling sessions each week in class. At the start of each term (Autumn, Spring and Summer) we will also send home a list of key words for your child to learn. We will not formally test them but will ask them to write some sentences using these words (dictations) at the end of each term. Phonics work, looking at the sounds and combinations of letters that make sounds, will continue every day for Year One which will aid both their reading and spelling.

Reading

Every child will be given a school reading book as well as a reading record book. When you have heard your child read we would be very grateful if you could make a note of this in their reading book with date



and page numbers. Any further comments you wish to make are also helpful but these may not be read daily so if there is something urgent to tell us, please do pop in or call. The books will be changed on Mondays and Fridays and we encourage all children to be responsible for putting it in the tray to be changed (we will remind them at first too!). **Your child will need to have their reading book and record book in school every day.** We are very fortunate to have experienced volunteers to hear children individually read at least once a week. As well as this, Guided Reading sessions will take place every day where either Mrs Williams or Mrs Thomas will hear children read in groups and discuss texts in detail. The children will also need to read daily at home to an adult as part of the homework regime.

Handwriting

The focus will be to develop the children's pencil skills, starting with correct letter and number formation as well as thinking about size, proportions and spacing. For the year twos we will be building up to joining letters.

Maths

This term, we will be concentrating mostly on Place Value and Addition and Subtraction as well as some Shape for Year 1 and Multiplication and Division for Year 2. Year 2's by the end of the year will need to know their 2's, 5's and 10 times tables as well as be able to count up and down in these multiples so please start practising with your child. During lessons, we will mostly use three types of activities (concrete, pictorial and abstract) to help children deepen their understanding and gain confidence. As part of our active learning, we will also use Maths of the Day games to engage the children which are fun and help children build confidence.

Science

We will begin with a focus on the changes brought about by the autumn season. Then we will move onto explore everyday materials linked to our topic and how they are used, including different surfaces. At all times, we aim to work scientifically through a range of tasks and in different contexts.

Computing

We will begin our computing with some important online safety sessions. Then our focus will be on key skills linked to logging on, saving, printing and typing. We will also use the internet in researching for our creative curriculum topic, On the Move. Following this, we will begin some work on Beebot Towns (Code it).

RE

We will begin by learning about some Japanese festivals and a brief study of the main religions of Shinto and Buddhism. Then we will consider creation and ask "Who made the world?" as part of Understanding Christianity. We will also learn about harvest. After half term we will consider the question "Why does Christmas matter to Christians?"

Creative Curriculum

Our topic after Japan for this term is 'On the Move'. Within this, we will create a transport time-line and learn about the important developments and people responsible for these in history. We will also consider the impact on the environment today of different forms of transport. We will design a piece of transport linked to a picture book and produce art work which incorporates a range of techniques linked



to movement. We have a trip planned to Coventry Transport Museum at the beginning of the topic to enthuse the children - further details to follow.

PE

We will have 2 PE sessions every week. However, it is vital that children's PE kit is in school all week as lessons could be subject to change or we might plan some additional activities at times. This term the children will have Dance on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Thomas and Real PE with Mrs England on Wednesday afternoons. After half term, we will have tag rugby provided by coaches from Northampton Saints. This will be outside so your child will need blue or black joggers, a warm top and waterproof as well as trainers rather than plimsols. We pride ourselves on being a very active school and wish for all children to participate in an active school day.

Music

We will be learning a wide variety of songs linked to our topics but also continue to listen to a variety of music developing an understanding of style and History of Music. We will compose, perform and evaluate using tuned and un-tuned instruments as well as learning to play the ocarina!

Homework

Parents have already been sent the Parents' homework policy guide and Ash class follows this. Please come and speak to us if you have any concerns.

Book Bags

Please could you ensure that your child brings their book bag into the classroom every day and places this into their year group's box. While we encourage children to remember to hand in books for changing as well as forms and letters, we do try to check these each week as well.

It all sounds very exciting and we just can't wait to get started! We look forward to working with you this year; remember Path time is the first Friday of every month from 8.30-9.00am. If you would like to meet with us, you are welcome to come in before or after school via the office (if it is convenient for us), send in a note or make an appointment via email or the office. Please look at our website and our class page to see updates of what we are up to in class and for homework, My Maths and Spelling Shed activities.

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Kind regards,
Mrs Williams and Mrs Thomas