



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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Dear Parents and Carers,

OAK CLASS LETTER - Term 1 & 2

Welcome to the new Reception children and families, I hope you had an exciting first week and a half at school - I know I have! Thank you for bringing in your 'all about me' boxes - it's wonderful getting to know you all. Also a big welcome back to Year 1, I hope you've had an exciting summer and are feeling ready for some new challenges, you're doing a great job already! This year we are lucky enough to continue to be supported in class by the wonderful Mrs Bray and the equally wonderful Mrs Beckhurst.

Topics

We are starting the term with a whole school topic about Japan. Many exciting and creative activities are taking place both in Oak and across the school so watch this space!

For the remainder of the term our topic will be 'On the move', more information will be sent home at the beginning of the topic, and this will run up until Christmas. We will be visiting the transport museum in Coventry and more information about this will be sent home shortly.

English

In English, Reception children will be focusing on their Phonics skills by learning Phase 2 sounds and how sounds can be combined to make words either written or read. We will also be working on our fine/gross motor skills and letter formation.

Children in Year 1 will continue to develop their phonics skills and are currently recapping phase 3 and 5 sounds before completing phase 5. They will also be given a list of words to learn between now and Christmas as well as spelling patterns. There will be two spellings patterns sent home with each homework and these will also be worked on in class.

As a class we will be looking at a range of fictional and non-fictional books about various modes of transport and will be using these to inspire our creative curriculum. A list of the books will be included on the topic web. These books will take our imaginations on an adventure as we create posters for 'naughty' buses, descriptions and speech for wordless stories and all whilst writing our own stories as well! Following our trip to the transport museum we will also be writing recounts of our day.

Spelling

In Year 1 there is a big focus on spelling and the spelling rules set for homework each week. The children have a new list of words to learn and have already been tested on these as a baseline. Since introducing Spelling Shed we have seen a remarkable improvement in the children's spelling and would encourage children to use it as a fun learning tool as well as by completing it for their homework. Reception will be introduced to spelling and spelling after Christmas.



Handwriting

Handwriting lessons will take place four times a week for Year 1. Reception children will initially have handwriting once a week which will entail building up their fine and gross motor skills in order for them to be able to hold a pencil correctly and sit at a table comfortably. In Year 1 the children will be working on the correct letter and number formation so that by the end of the academic year they will be ready to start joining letters in Year 2. Early morning work will also have an element of handwriting.

Reading

Children in Reception will be given reading books after having completed some phonics lessons and when we feel they are ready. Further information about reading and phonics will be given at an after school session led by myself, please see further down for information.

Books will be changed twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays and Mrs Bray checks the reading records each morning to ensure the children are reading at home. In order to make progress in reading, children **must** read at home as often as possible. Year 1 children will have guided reading sessions 4 times a week which will enable me to hear the children read, in groups, and discuss the text in detail. We are also extremely lucky to have two members of the community coming in to listen to children read individually; Mrs Bolam and Mrs Blaney. Mrs Bray, Mrs Beckhurst and I will also hear the children read individually as often as possible to ensure they are on the correct reading level. Once again I would just like to stress the importance of reading at home, it really makes a difference in their learning!

Maths

In maths, Reception children will be focusing on their number skills through recognising numbers, counting, and ordering numbers up to 20. We will investigate addition and subtraction in practical ways. We will also be investigating different 2d and 3d shapes by finding them in our environment, naming them and talking about their properties. We will be learning about money by naming the different coins and notes as well as ordering events in time. This will mostly be done through play but will start to involve some more formal teaching towards the end of the term.

The Year 1 children will be developing their number skills through recognising numbers, counting and ordering numbers to 100. They will continue to develop their practical and formal methods of addition and subtraction. We will investigate fractions, telling the time, money as well as developing our knowledge of 2d and 3d shapes. With such exciting topics, our aim is to create lots of real life maths activities for them to complete.

Science

In science this term the children will be developing their ability to work scientifically by making predictions, carrying out simple experiments and recording their results. We will be exploring the module 'Everyday Materials' by looking at the materials different modes of transport are made from and how these have changed over time. We will also be learning about 'Seasonal Changes' through having regular walks around the village and observing how the world around us is changing.

Computing

In Reception children will start by developing skills in computational thinking. This means that they will be working out problems and sequencing instructions. A simple example of this would be asking the children to dress a doll ready for winter; here they are working out what they need to do and then doing it in a sequence.



In Year 1 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 topic.

PE

We will have two 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. Please make sure children have the correct school PE kit and that it is named. This term the children will be doing Real PE on Wednesday and Dance on Friday up to half term and then continue with Real PE on a Wednesday and then Rugby on a Tuesday. Real PE enables children to learn basic skills which are vital for everyday physical activity as well as sports. It focusses on balance, coordination, health and fitness and much more. For rugby, the children will need warm clothes for doing this outside - tracksuit bottoms, top and trainers would be preferable for this. We pride ourselves on being a very active school and wish for all children to participate in an active school day.

RE

In Reception the topic will be 'Being special: Where do we belong?'. This unit will focus on Christianity, Hinduism and Islam and talk about the idea that each person is unique and valuable. We will then move onto the 'Understanding Christianity' module of 'Incarnation' where we will learn about the Christmas story as well as take part in the KS1 nativity!

Year 1 will start with the 'Understanding Christianity' module 'Creation; Who made the world?'. By the end of this unit they should be able to retell the story of creation from *Genesis* and give examples of what Christians do to say thank you to God for the Creation. Following this, Year 1 will also move onto the 'Incarnation' module and take part in the KS1 nativity!

Both year groups will explore the meaning of Harvest and will attend a service at church.

Music

Music will be led by Mrs Williams and the children will be singing songs and chants linked to our topics. As well as that, they will be learning to play tuned and un-tuned instruments to accompany songs they learn. They have already started learning some songs in Japanese!

Morning routines

Just a quick reminder that the school gates open at 8.40 and years 1-6 are allowed on the playground, where they should stay until the whistle has blown. They then line up in year groups until they are sent into class. Reception children come straight into class with their parents at 8.40 where they hang up their coats, put their book bags away and find their sign in peg. Parents can then settle their children to an activity and leave by 8.50 for registration. Children then complete a quick morning task (just Year 1 initially) and go into Collective Worship by 9.05. Reception children will have Collective Worship in the classroom Monday-Thursday until they are ready to join the whole school but they will still attend Friday's achievers assemblies.

Toys

Children should not bring toys or other items from home into the classroom unless asked to do so. Unfortunately things can get lost or broken and it's very sad when something from home has a mishap.

Reception Information Evening

I would like to remind all Reception parents of the information evening on the 18th of September at 6.00pm. In this meeting I will share with you the phonics scheme we use in school and how we teach phonics, reading



and writing as well as showing you games and activities you can use at home to support your child. This year we have decided to show you how we teach maths so that again, you are able to support your child at home. I will also be introducing you to your child's online profile (Tapestry) and giving you details on how you can access it and add to it. Tapestry is a brilliant resource and you will find that most of your children's work and activities are displayed here - it is well worth knowing how to access and use it.

Reception learning

You might find that your child comes home and tells you that they have played for most of the day - this is ok! The prime areas of learning within the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) are Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development - these are critical for good development in young children and are not subjects that can be learnt by sitting at a table. The Early Years Framework states that children should be taught through 'purposeful-play' and that 'play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others.' There will of course be times of the day when they are taught more formally (phonics) but the traditional style of formal teaching in other subjects is gradually introduced throughout the academic year.

Class information on website

On the school website <http://www.newbottleandcharlton.co.uk/> you will find all the information relating to Oak class on our class page as well as lots of information about the school; especially in the parent's tab. On our class page I will post homework, spelling lists, class letters and information about learning in Oak class via our class blog. If you wish to contact me via email my email address is hdooley@newbottleandcharlton.co.uk. I check my emails daily but may not be able to respond on the same day, so please ring the school office if it is an emergency or speak to myself or Mrs Bray in the morning or at home time.

Finally I would like to say that it has been a pleasure meeting each child and I'm filled with excitement about the year ahead. I couldn't be more thrilled to have some Year 1s in my class and I can already see they will be excellent role models. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any queries, either via email or in person, and I look forward to working with you.

Kind regards
Miss Dooley