

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Cedars Primary and a special warm welcome to all of our new children and families! It doesn't seem long since we were wishing everyone a great holiday and saying goodbye to our Year 6 leavers ... but a lot has happened during the holidays!

At the start of term there are a number of reminders about procedures and everyday routines plus a few news items.

### **Building Improvements Update**

The hall, the year 3 and 4 shared area and year 5 and 6 children's toilets have been painted. Year 5 and 6 are pleased with their chosen colours! All of the carpets have been deep cleaned and new classroom storage has been purchased.

The children are looking forward to trying out the new Trim Trail and having the opportunity at playtimes and lunchtimes to play on a grass surface. The improved grass area is due for completion on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Open Afternoon Celebration - Thursday 24th September 3:30 to 4:30 pm**

In celebration of the newly improved grass area we are holding an Open Afternoon on Thursday 24th September from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. You are all warmly invited to this special occasion and we hope you can all join us. Food will also be on hand - the PTFA will be cooking Hotdogs and serving refreshments.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work in improving this space for our children. A special thank you must go to Elee Perkins for leading the project, to Paul Truelove for all of the heavy lifting and to the Rotary Club for donating £1000.

### **Start and End of Day Procedures**

A teacher will be on duty from 8:30am - 8:45am each day. Please bear in mind that, before 8:30am, your child is your responsibility and should not be on school site before this time unless attending our Breakfast Club.

For children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we ask that a parent/carer takes children to the school building door for their year group and 'hands them over' to a member of staff on the door. Older children may make their own way to class.

At the end of the day, to ensure children's safety we will continue to dismiss all children one by one to ensure they are 'handed over' to a parent/carer. All children exit via their year group doors onto the playground. For children's safety please let the school know in advance, and preferably in writing, if someone else will be collecting your child from school. **In the event that we have not heard from you about a change in circumstances** we hope that you will understand that in the interests of your child's safety we cannot 'hand over' your child. It is therefore vital that we know of any change of circumstances.

You may choose for your child in years 5 and 6 to walk home independently. Please complete the forms given out this week to inform the Class Teachers.

### **Fruit, Healthy Snacks and Water**

Just a reminder that we are very pleased that children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 are provided with a healthy fruit or vegetable snack during the school day. From Year 3 upwards all children are also welcome to bring their own healthy snack to have during morning play - this should be fruit, vegetables or dried fruit. **(Snack bars or any other sort of biscuit/crisp snacks are not permitted.)**



From **Year 1 upwards**, we also ask that parents supply a suitable, named water bottle for their child to have in school. For hygiene reasons water bottles will need to be taken home at the end of each day for washing. During the day water bottles are stored in a tray in the classroom and it is therefore vital that bottles are clearly named. I would also like to remind parents that children should not bring nuts or products containing nuts into school as we have some children that have nut allergies.

### **School Lunches**

A reminder that Cygnet Catering (Chartwells) now operates an online ordering system for school meals. The cut off day for ordering is midnight on Sunday the week before, eg meals for the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> September

must be ordered by midnight on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Children in Foundation 2 and Years 1 and 2 are offered free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, if you receive qualifying benefits **YOU SHOULD STILL APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS** regardless of your child's year group. Please ask in the office for a form.

### **Inhalers, Medical Information and Other Information - Reminder of Procedure**

If your child needs to use an inhaler in school **please ensure you send in the inhaler to school**. The inhaler sent into school must be clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child needs to use an inhaler please sign and return a medical form as soon as possible. (Forms are available from the office.)

If there have been any changes to your child's medical condition over the holidays, please ensure you let your child's class teacher know. Data Checking Sheets of your details will be sent home on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September and need to be **returned by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September** with any changes to your address, phone numbers or home circumstances. Please sign and return this, even if all the information is correct.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

I would like to remind everyone of the school's attendance policy which can be found on our website. Please note that headteachers are no longer able to authorise holiday leave. There are, however, some exceptional circumstances where leave may be granted.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and support in ensuring good attendance and punctuality for your child.

### **Uniform, Jewellery and Hairstyles**

Please can I remind you that the uniform policy extends to footwear, hair, make-up and nail varnish. Please consult the school policy for full details but in summary, extreme hair styles are not permitted, nail varnish, make up or trainers as school shoes must not be worn to school. Thank you once again for your support with upholding our school uniform policy.

### **Attitudes and Behaviour - NEW 'Golden Time'**

Following our children's views from their Questionnaire Summer 2015 we have revised our Attitudes and Behaviour Policy (the revised Attitudes and Behaviour Policy can be found on our website). The most exciting change for our children is the **introduction of 'Golden Time'**. When children follow 'The Cedars' Way' all week they will get 30 minutes on a Friday afternoon of 'Golden Time'. 'Golden Time' is a 30 minute special activity that each child has chosen to participate in. For example some of the activities on offer this half term are: outdoor sports, arts and crafts, dance and construction activities.

### **Friday Celebration Assembly**

In every Friday Assembly we celebrate children's achievements both at school and from home. If your child would like to share their achievements from home, please help them to prepare what they would like say and show. I have a 'Special Box' in my room to look after their

artefacts e.g. medals, trophies, certificates etc.

### **Home/School Communication Book and Reading Record**

As you know, good communication between home and school is a vital part of our partnership. Your child's Communication Book and Reading Record should be kept in your child's book bag and be brought to school from home and taken back again every day. We ask that you check it daily and that your child informs their class teacher of any messages sent from you. Your child's regular reading should also be recorded in this book.

Inside you will find a Home School Agreement, E-Safety Agreement; tips on helping your child become a successful reader, a uniform list and notes pages. **Please sign the Home School Agreement and E-Safety Agreement at your earliest convenience.**

### **Helping and Supporting Your Child at Home - revised Homework Policy**

Following your views from the Parent Questionnaire Summer 2015 we have reviewed our Homework Policy. We believe that homework should not be excessive and that children should be allowed time to build social relationships. It is very important that children have spare time for themselves in order for them to develop their character, skills and qualities to be successful in later life. We do not want to see homework damaging children's education and their home life by it creating tension between parents/carers and children.

We feel that there must be a balance with children doing some homework and time for them to explore, experiment and enjoy learning without them feeling pressurised. We must not therefore overdo the amount of homework that is given to children as they need some time to relax and recover after their day in school.

### **Homework Expectations**

All homework tasks and activities this year will be designed to consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding in English and Maths.

### **Foundation 2**

- Reading with your child, your child reading aloud to you at least 4 times a week
- Spring and Summer Terms: Practising reading 'Key Words'

### **Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)**

- Reading with your child, your child reading aloud to you at least 5 times a week
- Maths work every fortnight

### **Key Stage 2**

#### **Years 3 and 4**

- Reading with your child, your child reading aloud to you at least 5 times a week
- Maths work every week (up to 30 minutes)
- English work focused upon spelling, punctuation and

grammar every fortnight (up to 30 minutes)

### **Years 5 and 6**

- Reading aloud to you at least once a week, reading at least 4 times a week independently
- Maths work every week (up to 45 minutes)
- English work focused upon spelling, punctuation and grammar every fortnight (up to 45 minutes)
- Additional work will be set throughout the year for year 6 children to help the children prepare for the SATs and secondary school.

Homework will be given out on a **Thursday and expected to be completed for the following Tuesday.**

The revised Homework Policy can be found on our website.

### **Mobile Telephones**



I would like to remind everyone about the school policy on the use of mobile phones.

**Children should not bring mobile phones or any other portable electrical devices into school.** If children in Y5 or Y6 are coming to school independently of a parent and for safety reasons parents wish their child to have a mobile phone for the journey, **they must be handed to the office at the start of the school**

day. Should you wish to have us look after a phone for your child, please complete a request form (available from the office). Any phones found in school which are not registered with us will be taken into safe keeping and will only be returned to an adult.

Children are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school premises - this includes making/receiving calls or messages and using devices for recording (audio or images). The school will regard any transgression regarding the use of mobile phones, as a serious breach of our Attitudes and Behaviour Policy.

### Harvest Collection and Assembly



Our Harvest Assembly will be held on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30 am at Lovat Hall**. Once again we would like to support the Food Bank in Milton Keynes. We know that the donations are always much appreciated and go directly to local families in need. Therefore please can any donations be in packets, tins or bottles as the food bank cannot deal with fresh produce. **Donations may be sent into school any time from the beginning of October.**

### Parent Teacher Friends Association

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 6pm** (meet at the office). It would be lovely to see new parents wishing to be involved with the Friends - raising funds for our children.

### Dates for your diary

September	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jeans for Genes Day
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 5 visit to the Safety Centre
	Year 1 & 2 Reptile Roadshow
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 visit to the Safety Centre
October	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	F2 Open Morning - Sept 2016
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School closes for Half Term
November	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School opens
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Photos
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Children In Need Day
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	F2 Open Afternoon - Sept 2016
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening
December	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	PTFA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Performance
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation 2 Performance
	KS1 Performance
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	F2 Performance
	PTFA Discos
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation 1 sing along to parents.
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Church Service
	School closes for Christmas holidays

Please see the school website for further details of all events planned this year and when your child's class assembly will be.

### Parent Mail

Please can I remind you that we are moving towards not sending paper copies of newsletters. This is to try and reduce copying costs and administration and in many cases we often find that

newsletters and letters stay crumpled in the bottom of children's bags. We publish newsletters on our school website and our **preferred method of post is email** - this means that newsletters can be emailed directly to parents on the day of publication.

If you are not already registered for ParentMail please contact the School Office who will be able to help.

**And finally** - please remember to complete, sign and return the following - if needed!

- Home School Agreement
- E-Safety Agreement
- Asthma/inhalers

Thank you all so much for a really enjoyable and successful first week back at Cedars Primary. It's been lovely to welcome the children back to school and hear all about their holiday news!

Yours sincerely

*Lisa Munday*