

Dear Parents

It's already almost the end of October - time definitely seems to go at an even faster pace! This month's newsletter shares news and reminders.

Governor News

A new term brings exciting times at Cedars, the new Trim Trail and grass to enjoy, two new topics to study, celebrating the Harvest and Christmas activities on the horizon.

As Governors we have been busy organising our Team and planning our school visits (linked to the Strategic School Plan) for the new academic year.

To confirm our team we have:

- Sue Laird - Chair of Governors
- Eirian Page - Vice Chair of Governors
- Jenny Turner - Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee
- Mette Caulfield - Chair of the Resources Committee
- Gill Walker - Co-opted Governor

In addition we have a new Local Authority Governor Mark Lombardo who joins us this term. Three members of the Staff team are also Governors - details can be found on the school website.

We have **one Parent Governor vacancy**. Please find details attached. If you are interested in joining the Cedars' Governing Body and would like further

information please contact the school or our Clerk, Fiona Vines.

You will also find on the school website our 'Annual Governance Statement' which details our effectiveness and impact to date.

We look forward to seeing you around school this term.

Sue Laird

Harvest Festival

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who donated food for the Food Bank and Local Residents. It was wonderful to see so many members of our community attending the Harvest Assembly. The children certainly enjoyed performing to you!

PTFA

We would also like to thank the PTFA for their excellent work in organising the MACMILLAN Coffee Morning. The total raised was £190.06.

Just a reminder of the key committee members:

- Chair - Victoria Rew
- Secretary - Deb Amara
- Treasurer - Mandy Chadwick/
Natalie Bell

Preparations are now well underway for the Christmas Fayre to be held on **Friday 4th December 2015 at 3:30pm**.



E-safety

Miss Fawcett and Mrs Swannell have been updating the safety information on the school web site. We strongly encourage all parents to read the information on this part of the web site. There are also links to some very helpful web sites which have many materials and support for parents to help keep your child safe on line.

Jeans for Genes Day

On Jeans for Genes day, 18th September 2015, children and staff were invited to come into school wearing their jeans. There was lots of denim in evidence and we raised an impressive £252.62 for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you for your kind donations.

Years 5/6 News - VE Day Party

"It was good to have our parents in because they got to see our work from this half term. We got to talk to them and eat lots of food. They could see what we've done on the walls." Harry

"The party had a good atmosphere. I liked showing my Mum all my work and eating the food!" Sonny

"It was enjoyable, fun and incredible to show parents what we've been doing. My Mum loved my make do and mend toy." Georgia

Data Checking

We still have some outstanding Data Collection Forms. Please remember to return your details to Mrs Swannell as soon as possible - this is especially important if you've changed your mobile phone or emergency contact details.

Attendance

You may be already aware that the government has raised the threshold at which children are considered to be

'persistently absent' from 85% to 90%. This means that if a child has attended for 90% (or fewer) school sessions in a school year, they are considered as 'persistently absent' and may be referred to the local authority.

In addition, schools are not allowed to authorise holiday leave unless there are exceptional circumstances - such as a close family bereavement, funeral or close family wedding. If a child has 5 or more days' absence without authorisation then this may be referred to the local authority and there may be consideration of a fixed penalty notice.

With the raising of the threshold for 'persistently absent' to 90%, it is particularly important for parents to be aware of the impact of any days' absence from school on their child's overall percentage attendance:

Number of days absent	% of whole school year
5	2.6%
7	3.7%
10	5.3%
15	7.9%
17	8.9%
19	10% (persistently absent)

There are 190 school days in each school year. Expected attendance is 95%+ which equates to less than 10 days' absence in a school year.

Foundation News

Children's thoughts on their first half term of school:

"I love being at school; I like playing with my friends. I like learning my speed sounds in Phonics."

"Look I can write my name all by myself now. I couldn't do that before I started school."

The children have all settled very well into the world of school.

Morning and Afternoon Punctuality

Can everyone remember that the start of school is 8:55 am and children should be in school by this time. The doors open at 8:45 am to enable children to arrive within this 10 minute 'window' and teachers set morning work and activities for children to complete in this time. If children arrive after 8:55 am they will be marked late in the register and any children who arrive after 9:00 am should report directly to the school office.

By the same token we appreciate children being collected from school promptly at 3:15 pm. We unfortunately seem to have a small number of children who are regularly very late being collected from school. Whilst we appreciate that on occasions there are extenuating circumstances, this should be an exception not a daily occurrence.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support in both ensuring children are on time for school and are not late being collected at the end of the school day.

Year 1/2 News

Children's thoughts on their 'Dinosaur Planet' topic:

"My dinosaur model was tall with very long legs."

Ollie M

"We ate everything at the dinosaur café."

Louie C

"My Mummy said that the dinosaur museum was lovely." **Olly L**

"I made a white Sockosaurus dinosaur."

Cody

Water

Please can I remind all parents of Year 1 children upwards to 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.

Sporting News

Football News:

The Year 5 and 6 boys had their first matches of the season on Wednesday 14th October at Tattenhoe Pavillion. Up against teams from Loughton and Bushfield they all performed really well in both games. Unfortunately we lost both games 2-1. Better luck next time. Also a big thank you to the parents for their support and transporting the boys to and from the matches.

The year 5 and 6 boys have been entered into a 6 a side competition that could ultimately result in the team playing at Wembley before the Football League play off finals next May. The initial rounds will start early next year. More details will follow as and when we have them.

Swimming News:

On Wednesday 7th October, 5 year 3 /4 children travelled to Stantonbury Campus for an afternoon swimming gala. Each child took part in 3 competitive races - freestyle, breast stroke and back stroke followed by a "just for fun" relay race. All children had a really enjoyable afternoon and performed really well. All the children ended the day with a certificate to acknowledge their

achievements. Well done to you all - a credit to the school.

Cross Country News:

Children from years 4-6 took part in Cross Country events this week, at Stantonbury Fields and Two Mile Ash school. The main event, which took place on Saturday afternoon saw Gemma Wickham achieve an individual 2nd place in the Junior girls' race, with the Junior Girls' team also winning 2nd in the small schools' category. All children ran their very best and were a credit to themselves and the school.

A reminder: If girls are wearing tights to school please can you ensure that they have a pair of socks in their PE bag to wear.

Year 3/4 News

Children's thoughts on their 'Tremors' topic:

"I liked doing a big rap about a volcano. I was thinking I was an actual volcano" William

"I liked building a seismograph and making a clay body like a person covered in smoking ash and turned to stone." Alfie

Achievers of the Week

As you know, in every Friday Assembly we celebrate children's achievements both at school and from home. Each week the Class Teacher chooses a child for a special award called 'Achiever of the Week'. Many congratulations to the following children for their special awards this half term:

Gemma- for detailed and considered writing.
Olivia- creating a fantastic VE Day toy.
George - Good attitude and trying his best.
Kingsley - Settling in to our school.
Alfie - super doubling in Maths.

Jay - super independent recount of the Reptile Show.

Kirsten - Super phonics.

Anosh - making good choices.

Lana - excellent behaviour and an excellent role model.

Connie - excellent sitting and listening.

Imogen - settling into Year 1 brilliantly.

Isaac - writing a fantastic recount in beautiful handwriting.

Francesca - her enthusiasm and positive attitude.

Keira - settling in to Year 3/4 fantastically.

Ruby - showing enthusiasm and working hard.

Shaun - his clay model of a Pompeii citizen.

Bobby - fantastic work in Maths.

Lola - writing a fantastic historical narrative.

Charlie - a fantastic start to Year 3.

Tilly - thoughtful writing.

Charlie - kind and thoughtful behaviour.

Ellie - a super start to Year 6.

Georgia - extra effort put in to topic research.

Ruby - fantastic start to Year 6.

Evan - being especially helpful to others.

Keeli - being a superstar and working hard.

Tillie - always being helpful and trying her best.

Jacob - always working hard and contributing to lessons.

Sonny - baking a great cheese and herb bread.

Harriet - being a fantastic coach during DT.

And finally ...

It's been a busy and successful start to another school year - as always we greatly appreciate and value your support and involvement in the school.

May I also remind parents that children return to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

Yours sincerely
Lisa Munday