

Dear Parents

This month's newsletter is a roundup of news and reminders.

Staff News

It is with great pleasure that I inform you Mrs McGarragh is pregnant. I know that she is very much looking forward to having her second baby, but she will also be very sad to leave 6McH Class. We will certainly all miss her very much. Mrs McGarragh will begin her maternity leave during the second half of the Spring Term 2016 (the exact date at this point in time has not been decided by Mrs McGarragh).



Mrs Ordway will be extending her current hours and will be teaching 6McH alongside Mrs Harris from the date Mrs McGarragh begins her maternity leave. Mrs Koszykowska will be the Year 5 and 6 Leader in McGarragh's absence.

Miss Parrella has been successful in securing a promoted post as a Senior Teacher at a school in Bedford. She will be leaving Cedars Primary at the end of this term. We will certainly miss Miss Parrella but congratulate her on her achievement and thank her for all she has done for the school and for the children.

We are delighted to welcome onto the staff Miss Turner (newly appointed) who will be teaching Badgers' Class (Miss Parrella's current class) full-time for the Spring and Summer terms.

We have also welcomed Miss Alicia Smart to the Designated Nursery and Years 3/4 Team as a Teaching Assistant for children with special educational needs. We look forward to everyone getting to know our new members of the Cedars Primary Team!

Assessment without Levels

Last year the government changed the way children in years 1, 3, 4 and 5 were assessed. From this year, it also includes children in years 2 and 6. The previous National Curriculum 'levels' are no longer used to assess children. Instead, each school is able to determine their own means of assessing children against age-related-expectations. In Year 2 and Year 6, children will continue to have Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs), and these will be reported to parents in the usual way. These tests are set externally and the tests in Year 6 will continue to be sent off for external marking. However, instead of a levelled assessment, children's learning will be judged against age-related-expectations.

If you would like further information about our new assessment practice at Cedars Primary please speak with your child's Class Teacher or Key Stage Leader (Jane Mackie, Amy Hunt, Claire McGarragh)

Parents' Evening

In the most recent Parent Survey (Summer 2015) many of you requested that during the academic year you would like to receive further written

information about your child's progress in Years 1-6 and how you could further support at home. In response to this, during Parents' Evening this term you will receive from your child's class teacher a short summary record detailing your child's current attainment and end of year expectations, their current writing and maths targets as well as how you could help at home.

Morning and Afternoon Punctuality



Please can everyone remember that the start of school is 8:55am and children should be in school by this time. The doors open at 8:45am 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 8:55am they will be marked late in the register and any children who arrive after 9:00am 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.

Sporting News

Phew, a busy start to this year for sports and festivals! So far this term 67 children have represented the school in hockey, swimming, running, football, gymnastics, basketball and korfball.

Competitions and festivals are organised as one-off events, heats and finals or

leagues. Cedars children have tried their best, scored goals, defended well and won praise for achievement, effort, attitude and sportsmanship.

Korfball and football leagues will continue into the Spring term but special mention to date must go to the Hockey team who finished in the top 10 Milton Keynes primary schools.

For information on upcoming fixtures, please go to the school website and look under 'Information' and 'Clubs and Fixtures'. There is plenty more to come!

PE Kit - reminder

As we approach the winter, please make sure your child has the appropriate kit for doing PE outside. This should include jogging bottoms or tracksuit trousers, a PE t-shirt, a jumper or tracksuit top and trainers. All PE kit should be named and be contained in a named bag.

Trainers are essential for ankle support and grip on the playground. They do not have to be branded or expensive but should fit properly and be checked for size and wear every half term. Girls wearing tights to school must have a pair of socks in their PE bag to use with trainers.

PLEASE NOTE: Plimsolls are not required for any part of the PE curriculum or after school sports clubs. Earrings should be removed or taped and long hair must be tied back.

Football News

On Wednesday 11th November the Yr 5 and 6 Boys travelled to Tattenhoe for the second round of football matches. On what turned out to be a very

successful evening, first up we faced Summerfield School. The boys produced some excellent football, with their passing and movement to overcome Summerfield 5 - 0. With the goal scorers being Tyler x2, Sam x2 and Bek. Second up was the local derby against Green Park, where not only did the boys want to beat the local school but also their mates. In a very close and competitive game both teams played some excellent football. Cedars took the lead through Tyler and not long after Green Park equalised, however Cedars won the day as Bek raced through to score the winner.

Congratulations to all the boys and a big thank you to all the parents for their support.



Attendance

Many congratulations to all of the children who had 100% attendance last half term. Each child has received a new 'Cedars Attendance Badge' to wear this half term.

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 and hard work :

Joshua - for super use of adjectives in your English work.

Chris - for reading every day with his family this term.

Jerry - for writing a fantastic set of instructions for how to survive a volcanic eruption.

Bobby - for fantastic work in Maths.

Haresh - an outstanding contribution to all lessons.

Alfie for creating a fantastic label for his potion.

Hannah - an excellent contribution in all lessons and brilliant quality of work.

Freya - excellent vocabulary choices in writing.

Abigail - a super start to Cedars.

Finlay - for a fantastic effort, both in behaviour and in work.

Dates for Next Year

A number of parents have been asking about term dates for next year. Milton Keynes Council has now published these as follows. (INSET days have already been accounted for.)

	Open on the morning of:	Close at the end of the afternoon session on:
Autumn Term 2016	Wednesday 7th September Tuesday 1 st November	Friday 21 st October Friday 16 th December
Spring Term 2017	Wednesday 4 th January Monday 20 th February	Thursday 9 th February Friday 31 st March
Summer Term 2017	Wednesday 19 th April Tuesday 6 th June	Friday 26 th May Friday 21 st July

Parent Mail

Well done to everyone who has signed up for ParentMail. There are now only 32 children who do not have a parent signed up - if you are one of them please sign up as soon as possible. Please check your phone as you should have received a text message with information about how to do this - if you're not sure or need any help please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the office team. ParentMail enables us to give reminders and updates to parents more quickly and is often more reliable than the usual 'pupil post'! Thank you in advance for your support with this - if we could get everyone signed up that would be great!

Poppy Sales

The total raised from the sales of poppies and accessories was £223.54. Fantastic, thanks to all those who donated.

And finally ...

As always we greatly appreciate and value your support and involvement in the school.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Munday