

Dear Parents

It's been a whirlwind of a half term with everything from snow to blustery, windy wet days. Let's hope some lovely spring weather is with us soon!

As usual we have some news items and updates for everyone.

### Staffing News

I am sure you will all be aware that Mrs McGarragh has an exciting time ahead of her as her baby is due to arrive very soon! We shall therefore be saying good luck and best wishes to Mrs McGarragh from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February when she will be taking her maternity leave in preparation for the arrival of her baby. We wish Mrs McGarragh every happiness (and lots of unbroken nights' sleep!) for the future. We look forward to welcoming Mrs McGarragh back to Cedars Primary some time at the beginning of 2017 and we will of course keep you all posted with news of baby's arrival!

Mrs Koszykowska will be taking up the Senior Leader's post as the Year 5/6 Leader during Mrs McGarragh's maternity leave.

### School Travel

I would like to thank everyone who completed our Travel Survey. We received 148 responses. The full report can be found on our website, <http://cedars.milton-keynes.sch.uk/events/school-travel>. Following the analysis of views, we will now begin planning the detail of

installing the new cycle storage. I will keep you updated on developments.



### Exciting Curriculum

It has been wonderful to see so many of you sharing your children's learning in school this week. The children are very proud of their many achievements.

### KS1 London's Burning



On Tuesday KS1 welcomed parents and carers to visit the London of 1666! Everyone worked hard together to produce whitewashed buildings with black beams and timber roofs. We assembled in the activity room to build our street and sang 'London's Burning' in one and two parts. We were very good at this and let the mums and dads have a go on their own to practise!

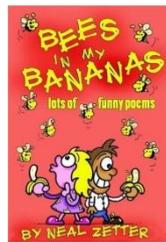
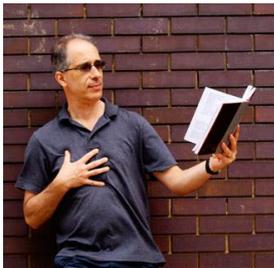


We exploded party poppers and ran with flaming streamers to reproduce a fiery effect. Our buckets were filled

with 'water from the Thames' (shredded paper!) and we sang heartily as the 'flames' were extinguished. Hurrah!!



### Poet Visit



Cedars Primary school was thrilled yesterday (11/2/16) to welcome the well-known poet Neal Zetter to our school. He performed some of his most popular poems and allowed us a sneak preview of his new poetry which is being published this summer!

He worked with a variety of children throughout the school to engage both the writing and performing of poetry. All the children were thrilled for the opportunity to meet someone who makes a career out of writing!

Some children bought his book 'Bees in my bananas' and Neal autographed it for them. It was a fantastic experience for both the children and adults in the school and we hope he has an opportunity to return to work with us all soon!

### Sports Update

In the last newsletter I mentioned dreams about winning the league and appearing at Wembley in front 90,000 plus people. Unfortunately our dreams for the season are over...although it wasn't for not trying.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 8 Year 5/6 boys travelled to MK Dons Indoor Academy for a 6-a-side tournament. Drawn in a very tough group, playing 6 matches all the boys tried their very best, but on the day just didn't have that bit of luck and our dreams of a Wembley appearance are over.

Our league campaign finished on January 20<sup>th</sup> with a very creditable 0 - 0 draw against the then league leaders, and then a narrow defeat to the eventual league winners Middleton. Overall we had a really good season finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league, winning 4 and drawing 1 of the 8 matches and scoring 15 goals. All the boys should be really proud of themselves for all the effort and commitment they put in...a credit to the school. WELL DONE!

Also a massive thank you to all the parents for transporting the children to and from the various venues and their support...much appreciated!!!

This term has seen the end of the Korfball League for our squad of 21 players. Cedars entered two teams who played four games on four nights throughout November and February and although neither team went through to the play-offs, both teams made it difficult for the opposition to score. In fact we limited usually high scoring teams to only 1 or 2 goals in every game! All the children have enjoyed it and some went on to trials for the regional East Midlands team. Special mention to Tyler Davey, Finlay Hughes, Haydn Nixon, Harry Knapman and Sam Rigby for attending the trials. Finlay won

a place and played in a tournament at the end of January - well done Finlay!

### **Achievers of the Week**

Well done to the following children for being 'Achievers of the Week':

Lana - excellent behaviour all of the time, an excellent role model.

Vinnie - a fantastic character description.

Jessica - a fantastic map design.

Aibhlinn - her perseverance and hard work in Maths.

James - writing a fantastic Kenning about the abstract noun 'fear'.

Layton - writing a non-chronological report.

Alex - For being so enthusiastic about our new topic.

Kaimanpreet - super effort in Maths.

Joseph - good effort when writing a newspaper report.

Nathan - good effort in writing and Maths and coming into school on time every day.

Hesham - for being a good contribution to the class.

Phillip - brilliant effort in drama for the class assembly.

5CF - excellent behaviour and supporting each other.

Orlaith - creating and retelling a fantastic myth.

Eva - always working hard to produce beautiful and thought out work in Topic.

6MCH - trying your best and working hard on the class assembly.

Jay - a very positive, hardworking start to the term.

### **CoderDojo**

CoderDojo is a volunteer led, global movement of free clubs aimed at getting children and young people to learn code and get to grips with computer programming. It is open to young people from the age of 7 to 17. We are intending to start an evening club in the near future at Cedars which our pupils will be welcome to attend.

The organisers are still looking to recruit mentors with some knowledge of coding. If you would like more information about this role, please contact the school office.

### **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**



Once again we will be collecting Sainsbury's vouchers to help us get sports and cooking equipment. Please send in your vouchers with your child or place in the box in reception. Thank you.

### **Governor's Update**

I wonder what you remember about your primary school - was it the English and Mathematics lessons, the Science investigations or the special events that took place.

I have recently been into school to learn about the new curriculum which has been implemented since the beginning of the new school year. Having looked at the resources and talked to the children, I am impressed by the excitement and enthusiasm which the new curriculum has generated and how it has been embraced by both children and staff.

Who could fail to be excited by a visit by "Her Majesty the Queen" who dropped in as an introduction to a topic looking at London past and present, encompassing all areas of the curriculum with particular focus on the Fire of London.

A walk around the school looking at the displays reveals the breadth of study included in each theme, and the innovative ways in which the subjects are

presented and recorded by the children. The learning has been great fun and generated work of high quality in all areas of the curriculum.

The children have been proud to share their work with the celebration sessions at the end of each half term, with a whole range of activities to showcase, including a Dinosaur Museum, a D-Day Party, a range of Messy Science Activities, an Art Gallery and a Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

I am confident that this exciting new curriculum will continue to inspire the children and be the source of many happy memories.

*Jenny Turner*  
*Vice Chair of Governors*

**And finally ...** thanks as always for your support and involvement of the school - it's always so much appreciated.

Enjoy half term.

Yours sincerely

*Lisa Munday*