

Dear Parents

Welcome back to another year at Cedars Primary! It was lovely to see everyone again on the first day looking so enthusiastic and happy at the prospect of the start of the new term.



I would like to extend a particular welcome to all of the new children who are joining Cedars Primary for the first time.

Cycling to School

We are delighted with the new Cycling Shelter and Scooter Racks. For safety reasons we would like to ask parents to complete a form if their child will be cycling or scooting to school. In return we will give your child a new 'Cycling Permit'.



Parents are also asked to ensure that their child is wearing a suitable helmet, have a roadworthy bike/scooter and have had basic instruction in cycle/road safety. **Children up to the end of Year 4 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.** If you would like your child to cycle to school please **collect a form from the school office.**

Playground



I am sure you have noticed the renewal of the line markings and the new games on the playground. The children have had great fun this week trying out some of their new requested games. I would like to again say a huge thank you to the PTFA on behalf of everyone at the school for their work in raising half of the funds needed for this project. Also thank you to Mr Truelove for overseeing the work so effectively over the summer holidays.

E-Safety

If you have purchased a new laptop, computer, tablet, iPad or phone over the summer in preparation for the new school year it might be a good time to freshen up on e-Safety. Our website features an e-Safety section with links to helpful websites that can help you ensure that you and your children are keeping safe on-line.

Go to our website and at the top of the home page click on "E-Safety" to get up-to-date.

Names of Classes and Teachers

Nursery

Elephants and Penguins
(Elee Perkins, Teacher)
(Fiona, Nursery Nurse)
(Alison, Nursery Nurse)

Foundation

Tigers (Mrs Whitehead, Foundation Stage Leader)
Lions (Miss O'Dell)
Mr Ahmed (Student Teacher)

Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2)

Hedgehogs, 1/2MA, (Miss Mazzone, Key Stage 1 Leader/Miss Alger)
Badgers, 1/2BL, (Miss Lewis)
Owls, 1/2AT, (Miss Turner)

Lower Key Stage 2 (years 3 and 4)

Zebras (Miss Hunt, Lower Key Stage 2 Leader)
Elephants (Mr Hoten)
Giraffes (Miss Taylor)

Upper Key Stage 2 (years 5 and 6)

5/6 JK (Mrs Koszykowska, Interim Upper Key Stage 2 Leader)
5/6 PM (Mr Mullett)
5/6JH (Mrs Harris & Mrs Jones)
Miss Synott (Student Teacher)
Mrs McGarragh (Upper Key Stage 2 Leader, currently on maternity leave)

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 Nursery, Foundation 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.

Start of morning Nursery is 8:50am and afternoon Nursery 12:20pm, children

should be in Nursery at this time. The Nursery morning session ends at 11:50am and the afternoon session ends at 3:20pm. **Nursery begins this year on Monday 19th September 2016.**

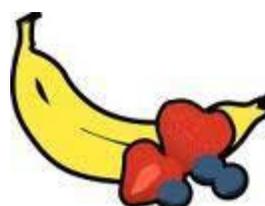
Start of school for children in Foundation to Year 6 is 8:55am. The doors open at 8:45am to enable children to arrive within this 10 minute 'window' and teachers set morning work and activities for children to complete in this time.

At the end of the school day (3:15pm) to ensure children's safety, we will continue to dismiss all children on a one by one basis 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. In keeping with our Healthy Schools Policy **all**



children in **KS2** 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 nut containing products into school as we have some children that have severe Nut Allergies.

School Lunches

A reminder that hot school meals must be ordered via the Bluerunner website (see link below) by **2pm on Monday** for the following week. Children also have the option of bringing a cold packed lunch if they wish.

<https://mealordering.bluerunner.co.uk>

Children in Foundation 2 and Years 1 & 2 receive their meals free of charge. The cost for children in Key Stage 2 is £2.30 per day. If you think your child is entitled to a free meal, please ask for a form at the school office. However, regardless of your child's year group, **YOU SHOULD STILL APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS** if you receive qualifying benefits.

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 Collection Sheets

Data Checking Sheets of your details will be sent home on Monday 26th September and need to be **returned by Monday 3rd October** 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 and have attached a copy of this for your reference. Please note that heateachers 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/tram lines etc are not permitted and nail varnish or make up must not be worn to school. Thank you once again for your support with upholding our school uniform policy.

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 - Homework

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.

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.** Homework will be set from next week.

The Homework Policy can be found on our website (under 'information', 'policies and procedures').

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.

Parking

I recognise that parking is a challenge at the beginning and end of the school day, however the safety of the children is paramount - please therefore make sure you are not parking on the pavement or blocking pathways.

Harvest Collection and Assembly



Our Harvest Assembly will be held on **Thursday 6th October at 9.30am 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 Monday 26th September.**

Parent Teacher Friends Association

The Friends Annual General Meeting will **be held on Thursday 15th September at 6pm** (meet at the office). It would be lovely to see new parents wishing to be involved with the PTFA - raising funds for our children.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



The PTFA will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning following the Harvest Festival at Lovat Hall. Do come along for some delicious cake, a coffee and a natter! **Donations may be sent into school any time during the week beginning the 3rd October.**

School Clubs

Miss Pollendine has written to you today about school clubs for the Autumn Term. Please remember to return your child's choice to the school office by Wednesday 14th September 2016.

Parent Mail

Please can I remind you that we do not usually send home paper copies of newsletters. This is to try and reduce copying costs and administration and in many cases we often find that newsletters stay crumpled in the bottom of children's bags. We publish newsletters on our school web site and our **preferred method of post is email** - this means that newsletters can be emailed directly to parents on the day of publication and saves the age-old problem of the lost newsletter in the bottom of a bag!

If you are happy to receive newsletters by email, and have not signed up already, please sign up to Parent Mail. Please contact the school office for further details on how to register.

Newsletters will usually be published on a Friday at the end of each month.

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

- **Home School Agreement**
- **E-Safety Agreement**
- **Asthma/inhalers**
- **Cycling to School**

Thank you all for such a great start to the new school year and we look forward to a really successful and happy year at Cedars Primary. As always, we greatly appreciate your support and involvement!

Yours sincerely

Lisa Munday