

Dear Parents

It's already almost the end of September - time definitely seems to go at an even faster pace!

We are really pleased with how well the children have settled into their new classes and are very proud of how our older children are taking great care of the younger children at Cedars Primary, particularly children beginning their learning journey with us in foundation.

As usual this week's newsletter has a number of updates for everyone.

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.

Cycling to School



We are delighted that children have been applying for a 'Cycling Permit'. All the places in the Cycling Shelter and Scooter Racks have

for the moment been filled. Parents are 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.**

From next week, on occasions, Mr Truelove will be asking the children to show their Cycle Permits in order that the school can monitor its use. Helmet lockers will also be open and we ask that the children use the locker above their bicycle.

E-Safety



Mrs Swannell has spent a lot of time updating the safety information on the school website. We strongly encourage all parents to read the information on this part of the website. There are also links to some very helpful websites which have many materials and support for parents to help keep your child safe online.

Water Bottles



Just a reminder, **from Year 1 upwards, we 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.

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.

In Foundation, children are encouraged and supported throughout the year to independently take their home school diary out of their school bag and place it in a certain place in their classroom. **Class Teachers supported by Teaching Assistants check the diaries each day and are expected to sign the Home/School Diary weekly and indicate if your child has followed 'The Cedars' Way'**. Reading with your child and/or your child reading aloud to you should be recorded in this diary too.

In Years 1-6, your child is expected to independently place their home/school diary in a certain place in their classroom each morning. **We ask that your child informs their class teacher of any messages sent from you and you check it daily. Class Teachers are expected to sign the Home/School Diary weekly and indicate if your child has followed 'The Cedars' Way'**. Your child's reading should also be recorded in this diary too.

Please see our Homework Policy 2016 for the required amount of reading for each year group. The Homework Policy 2016 can be found on our website under 'information', 'policies and procedures'.

Inside the Home/School Communication Book and Reading Record you will also find the Home School Agreement and E-Safety Agreement. If you have not done so already, at your earliest convenience please could you sign them.

Harvest Collection and Assembly

Just a reminder our Harvest Assembly will be held on **Thursday 6th 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.**

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Friends of Cedars Primary (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.**



Attendance

The government threshold at which children are considered to be 'persistently absent' is 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.

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.

Friends of Cedars Primary School (PTFA): Family Quiz Night

The Friends are organising a Family Quiz Night on Friday 14th October from 6pm at Cedars Primary. Look out for more details from the PTFA next week.

Achievers of the Week

In every Friday Celebration 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 so far this term:

Shaun - excellent effort in maths.
Grace - great start to Year 5.
Freya - a fantastic retelling of Dogger.

Arthur - an excellent understanding in maths.

Harry - excellent learning all week especially his number bonds to 20 and his story writing.

Milly - settling very quickly into her new class and always trying her best.

Elysia - fantastic writing all week.

Kaylin - trying very hard to be more independent by coming in to school on her own.

Keanan - his super guided reading work.

Finlay - being brilliant, contributing in every lesson.

Harry - his positive and hardworking approach.

Grace - 100% effort in all her work.

Harry - excellent attitude to all learning.

Amelie - participating and contributing to all lessons.

Finn - working hard in all lessons, 100% effort.

Alecia - a great start to the year.

Lola - great effort in maths.

Mikey - a fab start at Cedars and always following The Cedars' Way.

That concludes our news and updates for this week. Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Munday