

Dear Parents

Well it's October half-term - doesn't time fly. As usual this month's newsletter is the usual round up of news and reminders!

### Harvest Festival

Thank you all so much for your generous donations for our Harvest Appeal in aid of the Milton Keynes Food Bank. We know that your donations will go directly to many families in need of support and the Food Bank have expressed their appreciation of your support. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Harvest assemblies and the children, as always, sang beautifully!



### Macmillan Coffee Morning



I am pleased to inform you that the PTFA's Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £170. Thank you for your donations, the cakes, biscuits and pastries were delicious!

### Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon at the November Parents' Evenings. The front and rear gates to the playground will be open for access during these evenings. We will also set up a 'self-serve' refreshments base in the Activity Room (Blue Hall) for parents to help themselves to a cuppa in between appointments.

### Nursery and Foundation

If your child is in Nursery or Foundation, you will receive a **short written summary of your child's achievements** to date in each of the 7 overall areas of the Foundation Curriculum. Your child's class teacher will send this home with your child prior to parents' evening **on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. In the early years it is good practice for parents to be involved in the assessment process on a regular, ongoing basis and for this reason we ask that you write a comment about your child's learning at home on your child's written summary.

Your child's class teacher will discuss the written summary with you at Parents' Evening.

### Years 1-6

If your child is in years 1-6, prior to Parents Evening on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, your child's class teacher will send home information detailing how you can support your child at home as well as specific information on what your child is working towards achieving in English and Maths this academic year.

At Parents' Evening this term your child's class teacher will provide you with an oral summary of the following:

- how your child has settled into their new year and class
- your child's personal and social development
- how well your child is achieving in relation to the National Curriculum - their strengths and next steps to date

## Pupil Voice

This year we have had a change to how the school council has been organised



resulting in sub groups that will work on different areas around school. The new areas of the school council are Key Stage 1 Rep, Key Stage 2 Rep, Environment, Sports and Charity and Fundraising. The children were given a week to decide which area they would like to run for and then campaign to tell other children why they would make a successful school council member. This was very popular and the children did a fantastic job preparing high quality posters and speeches. Well done to all children who stood and presented their ideas in front of their year group as this can be a difficult and nerve wracking thing to do! To finish this exciting week off, we then held an election where all children were given a vote for each area. Last Friday the votes were counted and the new positions were announced.

Key Stage 1 Rep - Olly and Jessica

Key Stage 2 Rep - Nathan and Colby-Louise

Environment - Melody, Zoe, Hannah, Jasper and Francesca

Sports - Gemma and Alex

Charity and Fundraising - Jessica, Alexandra, Lacey, Fylo, Alfred and Daniel

We look forward to getting started on different projects throughout the year led by the children and their suggestions.

## NEW: Touchscreens in the Classroom

Over the half term break we will be replacing our old Interactive Whiteboards with new touchscreens. Governors have approved a lease to enable CLEVERTOUCH touch screens to be fitted in each classroom throughout the school. The teachers are very much looking forward to learning how to use them as an exciting teaching tool. We are sure the children will enjoy and benefit from using this latest technology in their learning too.

## Packed Lunches



Please may we remind parents that children who bring a packed lunch are encouraged to bring a healthy packed lunch to school with a good portion of fresh fruit. We ask parents to use due discretion when packing lunches to ensure children do not have too many sweet items and have a **balanced and healthy lunch**. Fizzy drinks and cans must not be brought into school and sweets/chocolate are not appropriate. **In addition, we have a number of children with severe nut allergies and therefore we ask that parents do not use peanut butter/Nutella in their child's sandwiches or include cereal bars containing nuts in their child's lunch box.**

As you will appreciate, even a small trace of peanut can cause a severe reaction in some children and we would like to thank you all for your understanding with this.

## Sports Update

We would also like to acknowledge and congratulate the fabulous sporting contributions of our children in years 3 - 6. This year has got off to a great start with around 50



children competing in gymnastics, hockey, korfbal, netball and swimming competitions and leagues. Well done to all the girls in the korfbal team who had never played before the first set of games - you picked it up really quickly and scored! Coming up after half term we have cross country, basketball, dodgeball, football and more korfbal.

The weather has been kind so far and many children are enjoying a range of after school sports clubs, mostly outdoors - long may it continue!

Good luck to the cross country team for the big race on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

## 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:

Joe - fantastic drawing and shading in his fossil homework.

Luca - working hard and following the Cedars Way.

Keira - working really hard on subtraction.

Isabelle - always working hard and trying her best.

Millie-Grace - working hard in all lessons.

Millie - fantastic drawing and shading in her fossil homework.

Callum - trying really hard to use his phonics to write a sentence about animals.

Noah - trying exceptionally hard with his writing.

Thomas - always trying his best.

Joshua - always following the Cedars Way and being a great role model.

Ted - being such a good role model and always following the Cedars Way.

Lana - always following the Cedars Way.

Louie - trying really hard on all his learning and coming in to the classroom on his own.

Riley - a fantastic description of crocodiles.

Aston - a fantastic tessellation design using 3 2d shapes in maths.

Anosh - following the Cedars Way and having a really mature attitude.

Zoe - a fantastic description of a Roman gladiator battle.

Edie - for always following the Cedars Way.

Phoebe - a fantastic retelling story of Boudica.

Phoenix - a great non-chronological report on Roman food.

Jade - for always being a good role model.

Louie - finding a line of symmetry.

Rowan - a fantastic description of a Roman gladiator battle.

Eden - an excellent homework poem.

Ashley - a fantastic diary entry in RE.

Alex - super effort in maths.

Ruby - always following the Cedars Way and being an excellent role model.

## ParentMail

Thank you everyone who has signed up for ParentMail. There are now only 30 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!

**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 remind parents that children return to school on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** as Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October is an INSET Day.

Have an enjoyable half term!

Yours sincerely

*Lisa Munday*