

Dear Parents

Half term is finally here and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a rest and a break over the holiday. As usual we have a few updates for everyone.

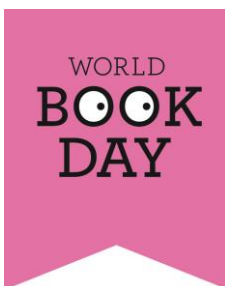
Staffing News

We are very pleased to welcome back Mrs McGarragh from her year long maternity leave. For those Parents new to the school and who have not met Mrs McGarragh, she is the substantive Year 5/6 Leader and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Whilst Mrs McGarragh has been on maternity leave, Mrs Koszykowska has been the interim Year 5/6 Leader. Mrs Koszykowska has been an excellent leader and I would like to thank her for all of her hard work.

World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

In keeping with previous years we are organising some book-related activities in celebration of World Book Day. In addition, all children are invited to come along to school dressed in a book character or wearing something book-related. Each class will be making a new story sack. To link to our Science Week (6-10 March), each teacher is choosing a picture book with a science theme as the stimulus.



Book Fair

The Book Fair is returning to Cedars Primary on **9th March** and will be open in the activity room on the following afternoons from



3:20 to 4:00 pm:

Thursday 9th March, Friday 10th March, Monday 13th March, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.

Parents' Evening - Wednesday 1st March and Thursday 2nd March



We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon at the second Parents' Evening. 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 23rd February**. 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

For parents of children in year 1-6 at Parents' Evening your child's class teacher will provide you with an oral summary of the following:

- how well your child is achieving in relation to the National Curriculum - their strengths and next steps to date
- your child's personal and social development
- how you can help at home

E-Safety

Thank you to the parents that joined us for our E- safety morning. The children enjoyed finding out about how they can keep safe online.



If you were not able to come to this event, please take a look at our E-safety section of our website which will give you more information.

Sports Update

The Korfbal team have continued to play well in the Milton Keynes League and we eagerly await the final matches to see if we are through to the finals.



Wednesday 25th January saw a 16-strong Year 5/6 team take part in the Indoor Athletics Competition at Oakgrove Leisure Centre. Each athlete took part in 1 'track' and 1 'field' event. Although we performed well and tackled turning quickly in the 'up and down the sports hall' running races we did not qualify for the next round. The team spirit was exceptional and commented on by other schools. Go Team Cedars!

From the beginning of the Spring term, we have incorporated the Golden Mile into our daily timetable. The Golden Mile is a nationwide safe, simple and measurable health and physical activity initiative accessible to all age groups regardless of ability. Each class goes out once a day to complete, by running or walking, at least one lap of our 260m marked course which goes from the main entrance and around the outside of both playgrounds. These laps are recorded and transferred to a database which keeps a running total of the distance covered. Children and staff have been really enthusiastic about this and have been clocking up some impressive totals. Certificates will be awarded for particular 'milestones' along the way. For more information about the

initiative please visit <http://www.golden-mile.org/>.

Consulation on Charging for Clubs

In November we conducted a survey to find out your views on charging for extra-curricular (lunch-time and after school) clubs in order to extend and enhance our provision, and the maximum amount you would be prepared to pay.

Thank you to all those parents who responded. We had 75 responses, of which 11 were not prepared or able to pay. Of those parents who stated that they were prepared to pay, the most popular amounts were between £3 and £5 per club per week.

In view of this, in the Summer term we will be trialling charging for some clubs to cover materials, equipment and staffing. Clubs such as tennis, which are run by outside professionals, will continue with parents making payments directly to the organiser.

We are mindful of the comments made by some parents who stated very understandably that they would be prepared to pay as long as clubs were not cancelled and that charging should depend on the specialist nature of the equipment and staff skills needed. Following the trial we will be reviewing the situation for the new academic year.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

If you shop at Sainsbury's please send in your vouchers to the school. We are collecting these vouchers which can be exchanged



for much needed equipment. All donations much appreciated!

Uniform

We still have some school uniform for sale, which is brand new and comes from John Lewis. Fleeces (ages 8/10 and 10/12) are priced at £9.00, and blue polo shirts (ages 5/6 and 9/10 years) are priced at £4.50. Please contact the school office (after 9am in the mornings).

PTFA Quiz Night, Friday 10th March 2017 at 6pm

The next PTFA event is the upcoming Family Quiz Night. This is planned for Friday 10th March at 6pm and will be an evening of fun, food and fantastic company!

Entry and order forms will be coming out after half term for those of you who would like to put together a team.

The quiz always ends up a great evening. So be sure not to miss it! Prizes to be won!

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:

Jack - excellent speaking
Sam - super winter writing
Jude - being a fantastic friend
Noah - perseverance

Charlotte - amazing writing
 Charlie - super reflection work
 Jerry - ready to learn listen and follow instructions
 Bobby - using cursive handwriting all week
 Kirsten - using number bonds
 Destiny - super organised week
 Hannah - super maths
 Haydn - presenting a mummification accurately
 Harry - presenting a mummification accurately
 Chloe - for being an excellent friend
 Samuel - keeping all his golden time
 Freya - amazing writing
 Yashvina - settling in to her new class
 Jessica - presentation about space
 Huey - excellent fraction work
 Dinithi - fantastic work in maths
 Daniel - being a caring friend
 Braden - wonderful gift box as an Egyptian pyramid
 Aedan - creating a fantastic clay pot
 Zac - super maths
 Jacob - trying his best
 Ethan - super effort with writing
 Colby - being enthusiastic about the golden mile
 Ryder - showing improvement in writing
 Daniel - improved presentation
 Olivia - excellent progress in maths
 Megan - fantastic ending to a story
 Nylarose - fantastic writing
 Kaveen - trying hard with writing
 3/4OH Class - super performance in the class assembly
 Poppy - forming letters correctly
 Joseph - positive attitude to learning
 Amelie - following the Cedars Way
 Ronnie - super space sketch
 Harry - super space sketch
 Taym - fabulous newspaper report
 Amelie - a fantastic journal entry
 Finn - a fantastic journal entry
 Chris - excellent singing in the production rehearsals
 Melody - excellent script

Ellie - super homework on an Egyptian god
 5/6JMC Class - a totally Egyptian class assembly

And finally ... thank you for another great half term at Cedars Primary and we look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 20th February 2017.**

Warm regards

Lisa Munday

2017 - 2018 Term Dates

	Open on the morning of:	Close at the end of the afternoon session on:
Autumn Term 2017	Monday 4 th September	Friday 20 th October
	Tuesday 31 st October	Friday 15 th December
Spring Term 2018	Wednesday 3 rd January	Friday 9 th February
	Monday 19 th February	Friday 23 rd March
Summer Term 2018	Tuesday 9 th April	Friday 25 th May
	Tuesday 5 th June	Friday 20 th July