

Dear Parents/Carers

With our Foundation Stage children now fully settled, it is wonderful to see all of our children eager to learn and following 'The Cedars' Way.

As usual this month's newsletter is the usual round up of news and reminders!

### School Council Elections



It has been a very exciting time at Cedars Primary School because lots of children have been busy campaigning to be part of the School Council. There are five sections to the School Council: Charity, Community, Environment, Play Leaders and Sports Mentors. All the children who wanted to be part of the School Council created brilliant posters, which were displayed around the school and presented in front of their classes. The following week, the whole school voted for who they wanted to be part of the School Council.

The following children are those elected and this exciting news was presented during Celebration Assembly.

Charity - Eloise Payne, Brett Griffin, Millie Burns and Jacqueline Rolfe-Jones.

Community - Alfie Gilbert, Huey Cessford-Rew, Rojpreet Sandhu and Emily Snowden.

Environment - Sally Main, Jasper Yates, Zoe Griffin and Phoebe Clark.

Head Sports Mentor - Sophie Parker.

Head Play Leader - Tilly Weedon.

The 'Pupil Voice' board has been updated to proudly display the photos of all the children on the council and to keep the whole school informed about what the School Council are planning and doing.

Since the elections, the School Council have been very busy meeting to talk about ideas and suggestions that the children have. Thus far, we have made a suggestion box, been to the local church to pass on the generous food donations received from the Harvest Festival and discussed upcoming charity events within the school and community.

We are very much looking forward to continuing to listen to all of the children's ideas and suggestions to make Cedars Primary the best it can be!

### Harvest Festival

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Harvest Assembly. The children performed wonderfully. Thank you for your generous contributions in aid of the Milton Keynes Food Bank. We know that your donations will go directly to many

families in need of support. The School Council children enjoyed delivering the food with Miss Turner and Mr Truelove. The Food Bank has expressed their appreciation of our support.

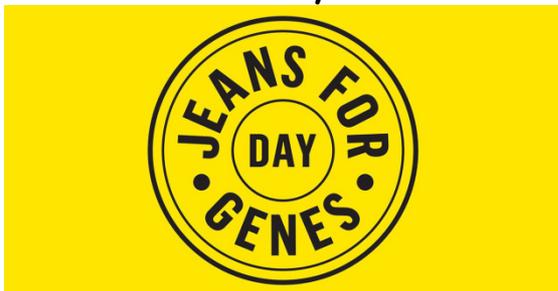


### Macmillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to all those who donated cake and/or came along to eat cake and drink coffee at our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. With your generous support we managed to raise £148 for this very deserving cause. Amazing! Well done to everyone involved.

### Jeans for Genes Day



Half a million children in the UK are affected by a life-altering genetic disorder. On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September we raised £249.85 to help transform their lives. Well done Cedars Primary.

### Parents' Evening – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon at the Parents' Evenings in November. 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 Monday 6<sup>th</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

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, as well

as 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.
- how you can help your child further at home.

### Attendance

May I politely remind Parents that 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 five or more days' absence without authorisation then this may be referred to the Local Authority for consideration of a fixed penalty notice.

The government threshold at which children are considered to be 'persistently absent' is 90%. This means that if a child has attended for 90% (fewer) school sessions in a school year, they are considered as 'persistently absent' and may be referred to the local authority.

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. We expect every child to be in school every day school is open. Our school target is 100% attendance.**

### Sports Update

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October seven Year 3/4 children attended the annual swimming gala at Stantonbury. Against some very tough opposition, everyone performed really well and we finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 12. Well done to Louie, Josh, Dinithi, Anosh, Edie, Jessica and Leo - an excellent performance and a credit to the school.

A small team of Year 3, 4 & 5 girls had an exciting introduction to High 5 Netball in the second week of the new term. They completed a series of game drills before having the opportunity to play against other schools. For some of the girls it was their first fixture and a great afternoon was had by all.

The Year 5/6 Hockey team have made a good start in the league this year. Although very low scoring they have been excellent in defence and only conceded a few goals across all the games so far. Well done 'super goalie' Robert and thanks to Daniel for stepping up to goalie sub!

Coming up we have more Hockey, Activity Challenge afternoons, Cross Country, Korfbal, Basketball and Football.

## Playing a Musical Instrument



Instrumental lessons are now well underway. The children will be featuring in a monthly musical assembly for their friends.

There are a few vacancies left in the brass and violin beginners' groups. Please contact the office or write a note in your child's home/school diary if you would like your child to take up this opportunity to learn an instrument at Cedars.

## Parent Mail

Thank you everyone who has signed up for Parent Mail. There are now only 13 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. Parent Mail 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!

## Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

Did you know that there is a citizen portal to help you find out if your child qualifies for Free School Meals? Please visit

[https://emsonline.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://emsonline.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE) to sign up, even if your child is in Foundation, Years 1 or 2 and receiving universal free school meals, or

if you have applied before and do not think you are eligible. In doing so you will help us to find out whether we can claim pupil premium funding for your child. This additional funding is essential to enable us to provide appropriate extra resources such as books, school visits or extra staff provision for eligible children. The system is quick and simple to use and can be accessed via a smartphone or hand held device. If you qualify, you will receive a reference number that you can simply bring into school to show us and this will enable your child to start receiving meals without charge.

## Celebration of Learning

Just a quick reminder, that next week we are hoping to see as many of you as possible at our Celebration Mornings and Afternoons. Here are the dates just in case you missed them:

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
9am - **Foundation 2**
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
9am and 12.20pm **Foundation 1**
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
9am - **Year 1 & 2**  
2.30pm - **Year 5 & 6**
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October  
9am - **Year 3 & 4**

Tea and coffee will be available in the Activity Room (Blue Hall) after if you have time for a natter!

## 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:

*Taym - an amazing week with mature attitude to learning.*

*Maya - trying her best in everything.*

*Jessica - adventurous adjectives.*

*Ted - always trying his best.*

*Ruby - Good effort in writing all week.*

*Kirsten - trying hard and good independent work.*

*Archie - great letter formation and trying hard.*

*Zoe - a fantastic letter home as an evacuee.*

*Lana - trying her best and a great start to the week.*

*Kingsley - writing a fantastic volcano poem.*

*Skye - trying hard and completing all her work.*

*Maisie - brilliant writing.*

*Chloe - a fantastic fact file about Mary Anning.*

*Noah - super effort with all of his learning this week.*

*Kisha - for an amazing week completing all of her learning.*

*Isaac - for his adaptation of a recipe and following a recipe to make his own cake.*

*Mae - being kind and helpful to others.*

*Jessica - being a superstar in Maths and always having a smile on her face.*

*Callum - for having a great week, working hard and following the Cedars Way.*

*5/6MCH - for working as a team to practise their class assembly.*

*Robert - for being a super member of the hockey team.*

*James - for always following the Cedars Way.*

**And finally ...**

May I remind parents that children break up for half term on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and return to school on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** as Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October is an INSET Day.

Thank you all so much for your continued support of our wonderful school!

Yours sincerely

*Lisa Munday*