

Dear Parents

With Christmas fast approaching, it is a busy time in school with preparation for Nursery, Foundation and Key Stage 1 Christmas Performances, the Christmas Fair and of course our Christmas Church Service. We look forward to welcoming our Parents and Carers to these events!

Children in Need



Our children (and staff!) were a sea of colour last Friday to help in supporting

Children in Need. Thanks to your generosity, we managed to raise an amazing **£718.03** for this very worthy charity. This includes £303.61 from the cake sale. Thank you to the Charity Committee - Eloise, Bret, Millie, Jacqueline and Miss Turner for organising.

Having Fun with Numbers

Thank you to all of you who attended yesterday's maths lesson with your child. We hope this gave you a really useful insight into our methods of teaching our wonderful children, which can really reinforce learning at home. Thank you to Mrs McGarragh and Miss Mazzone for planning the event. Information regarding the school's Maths Calculation Policy can be found on the school website. If you have any



questions about how best to support your child at home with their maths, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's Class Teacher.

PTFA Christmas Fair



Just a reminder that this year's PTFA Christmas Fair will be held on **Friday 1st**

December from 3:30pm-5:00pm. Thank you for your donations today.

Sports Achievements

On Saturday 4th November, a number of our children were involved in the Cross Country Championships. Thank you to those children, parents and Miss Pollendine who gave up their time on a Saturday to represent our school so marvellously.

This year the competition was held at The Bowl which provided a more challenging run, but was better for the spectators as the runners could be seen across the entire course. The weather was not kind to those who ran in the morning, but had dried up for us in the afternoon. Just the ankle deep puddles to contend with! All the children ran with pride and great determination.

Well done to Grace, Zoe, Maya, Jade, Edie, Dinithi, Isabelle, Bret, Chris, Leo, Josh and Andy.

A special well done to Leo Deacon for his 'Highly Commended' achievement in the Townsend Trophy. This new award was

for those who had produced an excellent performance on the day.

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

Training has started for the Year 5/6 boys' football in preparation for our first competition in the EFL Kids Cup at MK Dons in the New Year. If successful we could be playing at Wembley in front of 90,000 people. We wish the team lots of luck!

Well done to all of our children in these sporting events. We are very proud of you.

The Importance of Regular School Attendance

It is the time of year when we look at the patterns of attendance of our pupils for the Autumn Term.

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Children who frequently miss school often fall behind and there is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving well across the curriculum. For example, only 12% of pupils with below 80% school attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, including English and Maths, at secondary school compared to 68% for pupils with attendance greater than 95%.

At Cedars Primary, we want to encourage our children to develop positive habits about attendance, so that this becomes embedded as they grow older.

Tips for good school attendance

- ✚ Good habits start early in life, so even before your child starts school, establish good routines, such as reading before bedtime and going to bed on time
- ✚ If your child is off school, you must let the school know why on a daily basis and tell them when they can expect your child back
- ✚ Make all appointments for the doctor, dentist, optician etc. after school hours or during the school holidays where possible
- ✚ Take an active interest in your child's school work and offer support with homework (see the Homework Policy on our website for more details)
- ✚ Attend parents' evenings to discuss your child's progress
- ✚ Make sure your child understands the benefits of regular attendance at school
- ✚ Don't let your child stay off school for a minor ailment
- ✚ Take all holidays during the school holiday periods

Breakfast and After School Club



If you would like your child to attend our Breakfast and/or After School Club next term, bookings can now be made. You can find all of the information on our website under Information - Breakfast and After School Club. For all enquiries please speak with Mrs Swannell (School Secretary).

Congratulations Bret Griffin

Bret entered The Learn2Think Young Journalist competition 2017, a national competition and was a runner-up in the 8-9 year old category.

Bret wrote a thought provoking piece called "Inside Poverty", recognising the problems and the need to address them. His writing was assessed against four main criteria:

- Topic - matters to the child, makes a difference to their community
- Reasoning - depth of thinking; argument
- Research - breadth; showing sources
- Their own voice - their own words; moving and persuasive

Bret's writing certainly covered all of those points! It is currently on display on our 'Writer of the Week' board. I think we have a budding journalist in our school community!

Achievers

In every Friday Celebration Assembly we celebrate children's achievements both at school and from home. Each week the Class Teacher chooses three children for a special award: 'Certificate of Achievement and Recognition', 'The Cedars' Way Award' and 'Writer of the Week'. Many congratulations to the following children for their special awards so far this half term:

Certificate of Achievement and Recognition

Poppy - for coming into school with a smile.

Alfie - super attitude towards learning.

James - fantastic maths.

Isabelle - working hard in maths at division.

Ryder - beautiful handwriting.

Finley - an amazing diary entry.

Tazmin - fantastic firework painting.

Nellie - great problem solving in fractions.

Joshua - persuasive letter.

Jacqueline - working hard in class.

Gracee-Mae - fantastic times tables.

Sophie - brilliant Antarctica flag.

Adam - great maths.

Grace - great maths.

5/6JK - class assembly.

Jessica - excellent maths.

Alfred - great effort across all subjects.

Imogen - excellent fractions work in maths.

Chase - fantastic capacity work in maths.

Ronnie - trying really hard with writing at home and school.

Chloe-Leigh - subtraction on a number line.

Evie - fantastic effort in school.

Joshua - working hard at fractions and maths.

The Cedars' Way Award

*Zachary, Bret, Leo, Edie, Millie-Grace,
Elizabeth, Felix, Josh, Maya, Alecia,
Finley, Isabelle, Finn, Florence, Louie,
Riley, Caitlin and Kirsten.*

Writer of the Week

*Evie, Jessica, Leon, Amelie, Ellis, Ava,
Carmen, Maddie, Dylan, Lola, Charlotte,
Isla, Harry, Victoria, Zoe, Alfie and Ava.*

And finally...

This is such a busy half-term in our wonderful school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to you joining us later in the term at one of our Christmas celebrations.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Munday