

Dear Parents/Carers

The first half term of the new academic year seems to have flown by! We are very pleased with how well the children have settled into their new classes and are proud of their many achievements both at school and home.

Governors



I am pleased to inform you that **Kate Warren (Parent Governor) has been elected as the Chair of Governors of Cedars Primary** for this academic year. This will be Kate's second year as Chair of Governors whereby she will ensure that the Governing Body continues to provide strategic leadership and accountability.

Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to be effective. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has repeatedly noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management - including by the governing board. At Cedars Primary we have a talented team: Kate Warren (Parent Governor); James Taylor (Parent Governor); Mark Lombardo (Community Governor); Pat Herring (Community Governor), Julie

Eldridge (Co-opted Governor), Rachel Alger (Staff Governor) & Jane Mackie (Deputy Head).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them in advance for their time this year.

School Council Elections



We are very excited to announce that our new School Council has been elected. We had so many candidates and the children enjoyed voting. It was a close result but we are pleased to introduce you to the new Council members.

Charity	Community	Environment
Amelie McCabe	Eddie Smith	Amber Hinson
Isla Malins	Felix Russell	Charlotte Joyce
Cayden Dawson	Klaudia Jalocho	Freya Allen
Grace Puddifoot	Chris Irie	Jasper Yates
Huey Cessford -Row	Yashvina Vasanthan	Nicholas Morrell

Harvest Festival



It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Harvest Festival this year. The children's performances made us very proud. On Friday morning some of our School Council representatives went to Lovat Hall to deliver your donations to Milton Keynes Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity. We know that your donations will go directly to many families in need of support.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



Thank you to all those who donated cakes and/or came along to eat cake and drink coffee at our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised £148.00 for this very deserving cause. Thank you to the PTFA for organising.

Nursery and Reception

Ladybirds and Butterflies have had a fantastic first half term in full time school. We have had lots of fun learning the names of all our friends and exploring our new learning environment. Our topic has helped us form relationships with other children and adults. We have learned lots about each other's families and our favourite moment was having a shared breakfast with our teddies and grown-ups. The adults were very proud of our performance in The Harvest Festival and we are very excited to be joining the rest of the school for celebration assembly on Friday! We can't wait to explore autumn next half term!

Penguins class have settled in really well over the last half term. We have been learning about the reasons you love your child so much and finding out what the children love to do in Nursery. We have explored outside and inside and enjoyed re-enacting some of the favourite stories we love so much. We have completed our Celebration of Learning where we could show our grown-ups the daily welcome routine and songs we have started to learn. We are looking forward to investigating Autumn during our next topic and can't wait to see your Autumn treasures.

Years 5 and 6

On Monday, the Year 6 children had the special treat of going to Ousedale School to see their performance of Beauty and the Beast. They had a

wonderful time watching this incredible musical.

Years 5/6 have been studying World War II. They have learnt, among other things, how to make their own gas masks, how to build Anderson shelters to use in the Blitz and what life would truly be like for an evacuee. Their topic was rounded off at the end of term with a VE Celebration tea party with their families.



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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 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.

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.

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 97%+ which equates to less than 7 days' absence in a school year. Our school target is 100% attendance.

World Mental Health Day



On 10th October Cedars shone brighter than ever when we said #Hello yellow in support of Young Minds mental health charity.

Each class took part in activities to raise awareness of what mental health means followed by some yoga and meditation. The children also had fun dressing up their teachers with Mrs James winning the prize for the best dressed teacher.



Due to your generosity Cedars raised £240 for Young Minds, thank you so much for your support. If you would like to see how the money you raised is helping children and young people please visit www.youngminds.org.uk. Thank you to Jo Holman (HLTA) for organising the day.

Christmas Choirs

The choir have been busily learning Christmas songs since September in preparation for our busiest time of the



year. If your child would like to be part of the KS2 choir this Christmas season, then the final day for joining will be Wednesday 6th December. The choir practice is held in the Activity Room on Wednesdays at 12.15pm every week.

Little Voices, our choir for KS1 children, will start rehearsals following half-term. They will practice at 12.15 on a Wednesday in Miss Hudson's room.

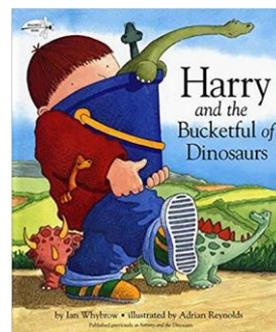
Both choirs will feature in our Christmas Carol Concert in the church on the last day of term. It would be lovely to have as many children as possible involved to make this year's choirs the best yet.

Years 1 and 2

We have had a great half term in Year 1 and 2! Year 1 have settled brilliantly into Key Stage One and their

independence has already developed so much since the beginning of term. Year 2 have been growing into being role models for the Year 1 children and it has been lovely to see them supporting the new members of the key stage.

Dinosaur Planet has been our topic and the children have really enjoyed History lessons and learning about the different types of dinosaurs and their characteristics. In Science we have been classifying animals and in Geography we have learned about the continents and animals which live in different parts of the world. Our writing has brought elements of the curriculum together, with the children



using their knowledge of dinosaurs and reptiles to write their own version of 'Harry and the Bucket Full of Dinosaurs', learn about the features of instructions and write facts about animal classifications in their Thoughtful Writing. The shared area provision has been a big success with all the children and they have loved being able to explore our topic through play and apply their learning in lots of creative ways.

Well done Key Stage 1 for a fantastic first half term!

DHL UK Foundation in partnership with Coram Beanstalk



On Wednesday 9th October a small group of employees from DHL and DHL UK Foundation visited Cedars Primary in their role of supporting the Coram Beanstalk Reading Programme.

Cedars Primary have been working in partnership with Coram Beanstalk for over two years. This charity has provided trained volunteers who work with some of our children on a one-to-one basis to develop their reading skills and their confidence.

The DHL employees enjoyed reading some stories to our reception children and learning how the Coram Beanstalk Reading Programme works.

"It was a pleasure to meet the staff and children at Cedars. We could all see how much the children value having role models coming into the classroom to help make reading fun. Through the DHL UK Foundation, we're committed to finding DHL colleagues to volunteer on a regular basis, not just at Cedars Primary but at other Coram Beanstalk schools nationwide too."

Andy Button-Stephens, DHL UK Foundation



As a thank you for hosting them, DHL have kindly donated £100 for us to purchase more guided reading books for Key Stage 2. We are extremely grateful.

Thank you to Mrs McGarragh (Assistant Head) for organising this successful event.

Years 3 and 4

This term Year 3 /4 have been busy learning about natural disasters in the topic Tremors. They have produced



some excellent story books based on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and used paint

flicking to create erupting volcanoes. We have also learnt about what tsunamis are and created a model to understand the devastation they can cause.

Parents Evening - 13th November and 14th November

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.

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 Early Years/National Curriculum - their strengths and next steps to date
- ✚ how you can help your child further at home

Gardening Club

A huge thank you to all members of Gardening club who have worked hard each Thursday after school clearing the large bed outside the hall. We have been busy trying to remove stubborn grass roots and been pleasantly surprised to find many worms amongst the soil - definitely a healthy sign! We plan to plant Spring bulbs after half term and more plants in the spring. We are hoping for some



donations from local garden centres so please see Mrs Morrell if you have any contacts. Finally, we have a few spaces so if anyone else in Years 3-6 would like to join Gardening Club, please see Mrs Morrell.

Attitudes and Behaviour Policy

Governors have recently reviewed the Cedars Primary School's Attitudes and Behaviour Policy. An updated policy has been posted onto our website under Information/Policies and Procedures with the amendments highlighted in yellow. The amendments will remain highlighted in the policy until the end of the Autumn Term.

Easyfundraising



Please help us in raising donations for Cedars Primary School PTFA - every time you shop online with your favourite e-retailers, go through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and we are given a small donation. It costs you nothing.

It's so simple to get going all you have to do is, go to:

1. <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cedarsprimaryschoolptfa>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping and start raising

No catches, no hidden charges and Cedars Primary School PTFA - get the donations. So far we have raised £232 through Easyfundraising. With your help we have the potential to raise a lot more!

Staffing Update

Mrs Brocklesby (School Business Manager) will be retiring at the end of this half term. Mrs Brocklesby has been the School Business Manager of Cedars Primary for the past 11½ years and has worked tirelessly every day to ensure the business side of the school runs as efficiently and smoothly as possible. We would like to thank Mrs Brocklesby for her hard work and commitment to the school and wish her a long and happy retirement. I am delighted to inform you that Jade Carter has been appointed as Cedars Primary School's new School Business Manager from next half term.

Celebration Assembly

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

Certificate of Achievement and Recognition

Lewis B, Scarlett, Sofia, Chris, Emir, Chester, Lucius, Finn, Aston, Gracee, Jess, Lilly, Zavier, Ana-Maria, Carmen, Edie, Alessandro, Ava, Louie, Cody, Nellie, Jack P, Cayden, Krystal, Chloe M, Tazmin, Poppy, Evie, Lyla, Alana, Ava M, Malachy, Jaylon, Jay, Vinnie, Amelie C, Oliver, Harry, Imogen, James, Max, Joshua L, Freddie, Ollie, Bonnie, Jacob, Amelie Mc,

Eddie, Amber, Georgia, Phoebe, William, Rafael, Freyja, Sally, Ellie H, Sylvia, Klaudia, Ellie-Mai, Thomas, Jayden, Edward A, Isla M, Ava, Chase, Jemima, Cleo, Riley, Iris, Jacob, Roman, Hattie, Rose, Julie, Ryan, Keevah, Harrison, Thea, Amaya, Chloe, Taylor, Isabella, Meadow, Zac, Laura, Artie, Sekinah, Talia, Amelie D, Esme, Maisie.

The Cedars' Way Award

Sofia, Deacon, Matilda, Amelie, Louie, Connie, Albert, Macy, Lana, Noah, PJ, Krystal, Chloe M, Nellie, Liam, Joseph, Chloe-Leigh, Andre, Ronnie, Vinnie, Nicholas, Joshua, Taym, Riley, Josh C, Harry T, Evelyn, Amy, Cooper, Oakley, Emily, Francesca, Lily-Mae, Calum, Henry, Bastian, Sophie, Max, Jessica S, Maddie, Sonny M, Iris Mc, Tomas, Ferris, Letchan, Kendall, Tommy, Jason, Ruben, Chase, Christopher, Jude, Caelan, Amelie D, Zach, Freya.

We do hope you all have an enjoyable half term and are able to spend some quality time together as a family.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Cedars Primary on Monday 4th November 2019.

Best wishes
Lisa Munday