

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

As usual we have a few updates and reminders.

EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT



Due to being closed early for the Spring Term we ran out of time to share with you and the children our final plans for the playground development this year. As you are aware, in November 2019 Cedars Primary was presented with a cheque for £8300 through the Co-op Community Fund organised by the PTFA. We also have £3500 Healthy Pupils Capital Funding from the government. Combined this gives us a total of £11,800 to spend. For this we have chosen to have built a **JUNGLE CLIMBER ON ARTIFICIAL GRASS**. Our initial plan was to have it ready for the children from the beginning of the Summer 2 Term, however we think we will have to revise this given school closure. Please be assured we will get it built as soon as we are able.



String Festival Winners

Our violinists worked hard this term to prepare for the Strings Festival which is



held each year in Christ the Cornerstone. At the Festival children from schools throughout

Milton Keynes perform

pieces to their peers. Musicians range from those who have been playing for just a few months to those who are accomplished players. Although there is a competition element to the Festival, with Gold, Silver and Bronze awards being presented following the judging by a strings expert, there is an exciting, encouraging and supportive atmosphere to the occasion.

On Tuesday 3rd March 2020, we had five of our children playing.



The children performed splendidly, playing well and presenting their pieces with confidence.

The judges awarded us first in the large ensemble category. The children listened attentively to all the other participants, making positive comments about choice of pieces, presentation and musical skill.

A huge well done to:

- Amelie Davison
- Evie Smith
- Ava Main
- Phoebe Mapley
- Elizabeth Jaimon

Dodgeball Match Report

Year 5/6 Dodgeball Tournament at Ousedale School, Olney Thursday 13th February 2020.



On Thursday we went to a Dodgeball tournament and played seven games. Most of the schools were very competitive. We beat most of the schools but only by a bit! When we lost or didn't do as well, we did not lose hope. At the end we found our score was 18 and we had come 3rd overall. We were very proud of ourselves. TEAM: Olivia, Grace, Scarlett, Rowan, Alfie H, Louie R
CAPTAIN Chester

Home School Learning

We hope the home learning packs which were sent home continue to be useful and the children are enjoying their projects. The second pack is due to be completed the weeks beginning 20th April and 27th April 2020 (this information can be accessed on the school's webpage in the COVID-19 tab and the document: [Coronavirus - School Closure](#). We have also attached a summary with this Newsletter.

Please remember if you have any questions regarding the home learning that has been set, you can contact us on the email addresses below. Staff will endeavour to respond to your enquiry when they are able to do so.

- Early Years (Nursery and Reception):
earlyyears@cedarsprimary.org.uk

- Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2):
keystage1@cedarsprimary.org.uk
- Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4):
lowerkeystage2@cedarsprimary.org.uk
- Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6):
upperkeystage2@cedarsprimary.org.uk

Some parents have been asking for advice regarding a daily routine and we have a suggested one below. Don't feel you need to stick rigidly to it, as you need a routine that is going to work for your family and suit their daily mood!

Daily timetable (Monday to Friday)

9:00	P.E. Joe Wicks on YouTube GoNoodle https://family.gonoodle.com/ Cosmic Kids Yoga on You Tube
9:30 - 10:15	English, Phonics and spellings
10:15	Break
10:45-11:30	Maths and Learning Projects
12:00	Lunch
13:00	In the afternoons we would recommend spending time as a family. Going for a daily outdoor walk, scoot or bike ride, doing some science, art, cooking, playing board games or working on Learning Projects.

It is worth watching BBC children's Newsround and discussing the content with your child. It is aired at 9:15 am,

12:10 pm and 4:00 pm. You can access it on CBBC, iplayer and

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>.

If you are looking for additional support for your child's learning, you could access these online resources (please be aware that we are not responsible for the content of these websites and you will need to check their suitability).

Reception

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/help-during-school-closure/> -

For daily RWI lessons (Reception Set 1 and/or Set 2, Y1 Set 2 and/or Set 3, Y2 Set 3)

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2> - for phonics games, choose phase 2 or phase 3.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks> - for maths activities related to number blocks

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> (All areas of the curriculum)

Key Stages 1 and 2

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> (Reading)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> (BBC Bitesize are launching daily lessons on April 20th that are Key Stage appropriate. All areas of the curriculum are covered.)

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> (All areas of the curriculum are covered)

<https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html>

Literacy Shed is an online tool which has lots of video clips and short films available. Choose a suitable Key Stage clip. Ask the children to watch this carefully, then ask them questions about the film. Extend their learning by asking them to write sentences about what they liked or disliked about the film. They could write a film review or create a comic strip about key events. They might like to create their own short film.

<https://www.ictgames.com/> (KS1)

<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html> (the KS1 pack is free to download and has an answer booklet)

<https://mathszone.co.uk/> (KS2)

E-Safety

The Department for Education have asked schools to share the following: if you choose to supplement the school home learning offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors, it is important that you secure online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:

[Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC

[Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

[Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

School Care

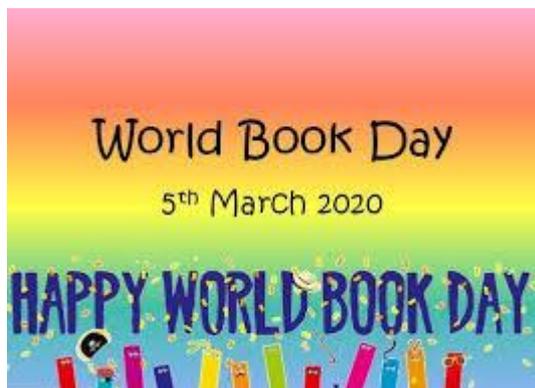


Where possible, parents must keep their children at home. School are closed except for children

who are vulnerable, and children whose parents are critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

All educational settings remain safe for children, but fewer children making the journey to educational settings, and fewer children in these settings, will help to protect the NHS and save lives by reducing the risks of spreading the virus.

Reading



Our termly reading initiative this half term was World Book Day. It was lovely to see all of the children and staff participate and share our love of reading here at Cedars. Every class took part in

different activities (quizzes, crafts and drama) linked to sharing stories to celebrate.

The Drama workshops were a great success. Children got to take part in a drama workshop

focusing on *The Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson, *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl and *Billionaire Boy* by David Walliams.



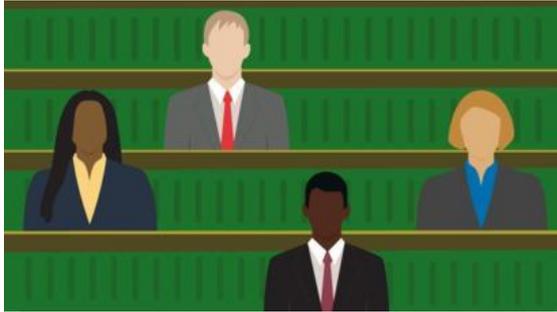
The children worked in role as different characters and got to retell parts of the



story through poetry, freeze frames and short scenes retold using actions and facial expressions.

We were also lucky enough to have The Scholastic Book Fair come and visit Cedars for a week. With the money raised, we can buy some new books for our library and book corners for the children to enjoy. Thank you and all of the children who attended to support our love of reading.

MP Visit



Conservative MP for Milton Keynes North Ben Everitt, visited Key Stage 2 on Friday 6th March. He began his first ever talk to Primary aged children by telling them that the Houses of Parliament are a bit like Hogwarts! Needless to say the children (and staff) were hooked. He went on to describe the size of the place and how complicated it can be to navigate your way around. Ben spoke enthusiastically about his job and the challenges, including having 92,000 bosses! He then went on to answer children's questions, which were many and varied. He stayed longer to continue to take more questions from Year 5/6 which included 'how much do you earn' and 'have you got Boris Johnson's phone number' (he answered both without a pause - £77,000 and yes). Chatting afterwards Ben said he had thoroughly enjoyed his experience talking to the children and was impressed with their level of knowledge and interest. We would like to thank Ben and Liam (his adviser) very much for their time and encourage them to come back and see us again.

Falconry UK Visit

Year 3/4 were visited by Jason from Falconry UK on Tuesday 3rd March. Jason visited with a range of unusual, rare and exciting predatory birds. The children learnt lots of information about how the birds have adapted to hunt and what

food they eat. They also learnt about where they originate from and any special features each bird has. A very smelly part of the day was



dissecting the birds pellets to find animals bones! Some of the children got to hold the birds to have a closer look. They all had a fantastic day.

Nursery

In Nursery, we have been finding out about 'How does that building stay up?' We launched with the story of The Three Little Pigs which has captured the children's imaginations and endured for the following weeks, interspersed with celebrations of World book Day and Mother's Day. We have explored the properties of straw, bricks and sticks and the children have enjoyed relocating the builders shed equipment and being adventurous with the contents. A highlight was an incredible trim trail some of them created, devised with planks, palettes and bricks. We have printed brick patterns and created houses and discussed the numbers on our front doors. Look for our display near the library next time you are in school. The children have enjoyed phonics sessions and are becoming speedier when blending Freddie the Frog's speech sounds. It was lovely to chat with many of you on parents' evening and to look at the children's learning journeys together. Life in the Nursery has been a bit different over the last few weeks

without Alison. We send her our love and wish her a speedy recovery. Thank you to the Nursery staff who have been flexible and to the children who continue to amaze us every day!

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 have had a brilliant few weeks enjoying our Enchanted Woodland Topic. In Science we have been learning about the parts of plants and have had the chance to dissect Spring-flowering plants to identify roots, stem, flower and leaves. We then conducted an experiment with the key question 'can plants grow without roots' and used our observational skills to analyse the results. Geography has also been fun as we have been looking at maps and aerial photographs to help us understand the features of a forest. We have learned how to use grid references to read a simple map and problem solve using different directions and routes between places. In English we have looked at stories with forest settings, particularly focusing on the traditional tale Hansel and Gretel. We explored how different language choices can help to describe contrasting forest settings and use these in our own forest story!

Foodbank Xtra

Milton Keynes Council and MK Food Bank have teamed up to offer more help to local people in crisis. Across Milton Keynes, as in other areas of the country, demand on food banks has significantly increased whilst donations have sharply declined.

For more information about how to donate and how to get help please visit: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/food-bank-xtra>

Reception

Reception had a busy and exciting start to our topic 'Do cows drink milk?' this half term. We read a variety of different books about farm animals. Our two favourites were 'What the ladybird heard' and 'Farmer Duck'. After reading them both we talked about what was the same and what was different in the books before choosing a duck to show that we preferred Farmer Duck or a ladybird for 'What the ladybird heard'. It was interesting to see which books our friends liked! We have really enjoyed all the messy play in this topic especially cleaning mud off the farm animals. We also started looking at plants and found it interesting to watch cress grow so quickly. Our next topic is all about African animals so we can't wait to learn about what the animals in Africa are like. The adults from Ladybirds and Butterflies would like to say a big hello and we're all missing seeing you in school.

School Closure: Free School Meals

As you are aware, in line with government guidance, we are doing all that we can during school closure to ensure that eligible children have access to free school meals. Chartwells, our current food provider, are at present able to continue to provide children with a packed lunch and therefore at this time Cedars Primary does not need to use the government supermarket voucher scheme.



[Please note schools are only expected to provide school meals in term time. Packed lunches will be available for eligible children from the school](#)

[entrance between 12:00pm and 1:00pm from Monday 20th April 2020.](#)

Team Cedars PTFA Sponsored run 2020

The Milton Keynes Festival of Running went ahead on Sunday 15th March and Cedars Primary was really well represented.



Thank you so much to everyone who supported the PTFA and our group of runners, we raised an amazing £2,297! A special thank you to our parent and teacher runners, who despite the rain, all completed their distances. Rachael &

Natalie; 5k. Lee, Andrew, Ryan, Damian, Claire & Matt; 10k. Jamie, Cris, Heather, Rachel & Bas; ½ Marathon. Well done Team Cedars!

The Milton Keynes Mayor Visit



Key Stage 1 had the pleasure of the Mayor visiting us this half term. He introduced himself as Sam and told the children a little bit about what he does as Mayor of Milton Keynes. The children loved asking him lots of questions and found out all sorts of interesting facts such as the gold ceremonial chains that Mayors wear are handed out by the Queen! It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the role of a Mayor, Milton Keynes and things that are going on in the country. Thank you for coming to visit Key Stage 1 at Cedars!

Year 5 Residential



Year 5 spent 3 days in a sunny (but very windy) Cromer! The trip began with lots of singing on the coach and this continued as soon as we met our instructor Ross who did the first of many call and response 'Banana' songs! The children enjoyed a team-building (trust

me because you are wearing a blindfold) exercise in which many children honed their verbal instruction skills. The next day saw us tackling the high ropes - Jacobs Ladder, The Jungle and Leap of Faith. It was fantastic to see so many children have a go and then achieve far more than they ever thought they could. In the afternoon we went to West Runcton beach for our environmental studies. It was a great place to explore rock pools and have run about, although it was definitely blowing a Force 5 gale! Back in the warmth of the house, we enjoyed another fabulous dinner - the food was exceptional quality and there was plenty of it. I think it is safe to say, that we all had a brilliant time. Thank to everyone at Kingswood - see you next year.

And finally ... we can't wait to see you all soon!

Warm regards

Lisa Munday

Staff Update



Veryan Regan (Teaching Assistant) is retiring at the end of this term after supporting the teaching and learning at Cedars Primary for 21 years. Mrs Regan is an excellent Teaching Assistant who will be greatly missed. May I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Regan for everything she has done for Cedars Primary over many years and wish her a long and happy retirement. We look forward to giving Mrs Regan the sending off she deserves when we return to school.