

Dear Parents/Carers

First Half Term

We are so proud of the children's attitude and behaviour and approach to learning in the first half term of the school year! 😊

The new Cedars' Safety Way is now firmly established and has effectively supported the children to understand the expectations and new rules linked to COVID-19 ensuring they are kept safe. The children are able to talk confidently about the things that are in place to help keep them safe, such as staying in their bubbles, facing the front towards the teacher, being provided with their own personal equipment and regular reminders to wash their hands. Children have explained that they feel safe and well supported by their teachers. They are positive and happy about starting or being back at school. They are enjoying time with their friends. Cedars' children are, as always, behaving sensibly, and warm, nurturing relationships are the norm.

We have sensibly given immediate priority to reading, writing and maths and to establishing children's baselines in these areas of learning. We have identified gaps in children's learning which are now being systematically addressed. In Parents' Evening your child's class teacher will talk to you about how you can further support your child at home.



World Mental Health Day



On Friday 9th October 2020, along with thousands of other schools, offices and community groups, Cedars took part in **#HelloYellow for World Mental Health Day**.

The children had a yellow-filled day of activities to raise awareness of what mental health means. Lockdown has had a devastating effect on some children's and young people's mental health but thanks to you, we raised £372 of vital funds.

Thank you to Jo Holman (HLTA) for organising the day.

Harvest Festival



Thus year we missed holding our annual whole school Harvest Festival at the Baptist Church. Instead we had mini harvest festivals throughout the week in school for Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2), Lower key Stage 2 (years 3 and 4) and Upper Key Stage 2 (years 5 and 6) Thank you for your generosity in aid of the

Milton Keynes Food Bank. We harvested lots of food which we know is greatly needed for many families.

Parents Evening

- 11th November 3:40pm-6:00pm
- 12th November 4:00pm-8:00pm



Novembers Parents' Evenings will be held virtually this year. Please see the separate letter sent to you today for details.

At Parents Evening 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, social and emotional development
- ✚ how well your child is achieving in Reading, Writing and Maths
- ✚ how you can help your child further at home

Virtual Celebration of Learning



National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration that encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. This year, National Poetry Day took place on 1st October 2020. Each class has recorded a poem for you to enjoy as the Celebration of Learning for this half term. You can listen to your child's class poem by going onto Cedars' website and clicking on <http://cedars.milton-keynes.sch.uk/national-poetry-day-2020/>

We hope you enjoy!

Halloween Guidance



Milton Keynes Council is asking local families to take extra precautions if they are planning Halloween activities this year, in light of COVID-19.

Milton Keynes Council's Deputy Director of Public Health, Oliver Mytton explains: ***"Cases of COVID-19 have been rising rapidly in Milton Keynes. We all need to continue to take action to keep our families and communities safe and protect our NHS. When celebrating Halloween please be sensible and stay safe - and look for different ways to enjoy Halloween this year."***

Should we go trick or treating?

Milton Keynes is currently at the lowest Government COVID-19 alert level,

medium, which means gatherings inside and out of up to six people are allowed. However, local cases of the virus are rising, and the council's public health experts are asking people to think twice about whether to go trick or treating at all. Stops at multiple houses - where some vulnerable people may be shielding and may already feel concerned about answering the door - increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Please remember:

- ✓ People with any symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, raised temperature, change or loss of sense of taste or smell) must isolate and shouldn't take part in any activities
- ✓ Groups should be no larger than six, indoors or outdoors
- ✓ Social distancing rules apply, so if you're trick or treating please step back when you knock at a door
- ✓ Use hand sanitiser regularly, and wash hands before going out and when you get back - before eating sweets
- ✓ If someone doesn't feel comfortable answering their door, don't keep knocking
- ✓ Buy packaged sweets to share, and consider leaving them on your doorstep individually - rather than unwrapped treats in a bowl

Five alternatives to trick or treating:

Have a pumpkin trail in your street or neighbourhood... Help children carve or draw pumpkins and place them in your window. Neighbouring children can have fun pumpkin spotting. You could give your children prizes for the number of pumpkins they spot.

Watch a Halloween film.... Even young children can enjoy some family favourites. MK Council is funding MyCinema throughout the October half term with 12 spooky drive in films shown. Thanks to council funding it costs just £5 per car with all proceeds going to MK Food Bank. Films will be announced on 19 October on the booking site at mymiltonkeynes.co.uk/my-cinema

Have a virtual trick or treat with friends and family... Arrange to be around in advance and share your costumes via video call or just share a spooky joke over the phone - every call made could mean a treat goes in the trick or treat bucket/bag.

Have fun decorating your house... There are lots of templates and crafting ideas online.

Have a Halloween scavenger hunt... Give children a list of Halloween themed decorations to look for on a walk, such as spiders, cobwebs or ghosts. Or hide treats around your house and set clues to find them.

Covid Email Contact during Half Term Holidays

If your child, who attends Cedars Primary, tests positive for COVID-19 during the half term holidays please inform us **immediately** using the following email address:
covid@cedarsprimary.org.uk

Be safe!



Unfortunately this week a Cedars' child was knocked by a car. Thankfully the child escaped physically unharmed but was emotionally very upset. Please can we ask that you take extra care when dropping off and picking up children at the beginning and end of the school day.

Also please **DO NOT PARK on yellow marked school areas**. They are to be kept clear for everyone's safety. Thank you in advance.

Governors

Meet your
Governors

I am very 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 third year as

Chair of Governors. Please be assured that Kate will continue to ensure that the Governing Body provides strong strategic leadership and accountability.

Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it 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) & Claire McGarragh (Deputy Head).

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

And finally ...

We do hope you all have an enjoyable half term.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Cedars Primary and Nursery on **Monday 2nd November 2020.**

Best wishes
Lisa Munday