

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.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)

As part of paying our respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II, we wrote a whole school poem that we would like to share with you.

Elizabeth you were kind, caring, good and gentle,
Lilibet's love for everyone,
I will always remember your beautiful Platinum Jubilee,
Zealously leading our country through all the ups and downs,
Always there to support us,
Beautiful and brave our beloved Queen filled everyone with joy and courage,
Elegant and graceful, beautiful like a swan,
Throne, on which she sat for 70 years,
Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II will remain in our hearts forever.

Harvest Festival

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Harvest Festival. Thank you for your generosity 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 have now bagged the food and it has been safely delivered.



We were very grateful to Peter Young (Assistant Minister) of the Baptist Church, Lovat Hall for sharing taking the service with the children.

Early Years

Nursery

This first half term has been all about learning how to get along together, how to share and how to be more independent and care for ourselves. We encourage the children to say "I can't do it - YET!"

when faced with a challenge and celebrate when challenges are achieved.

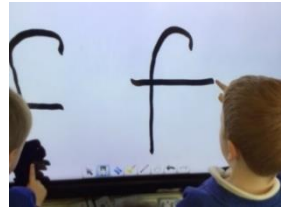
As well as learning to get along, the children have been doing lots of activities that support their physical development - from roller painting on the shed, rolling tyres and climbing trees.



As Autumn has arrived early this year, we have been looking at seasonal changes and watched the leaves in the nursery garden change colour and start to fall. To support the children's language development we have been reading lots of stories, singing nursery rhymes and learned the poem 'Roar' as part of Poetry Week.

Reception

Reception children have had a fantastic start to their first year at school. Since the first day, we have had lots of smiles and enthusiastic faces entering the classroom every day! We have spent this



half term learning the new rules and routines of the school day, learning our friends' names and enjoying finding out all about our school. We have started learning to read and write

individual sounds in phonics and have enjoyed taking home books to share with our grown-ups. We have worked on our fine motor skills and have had fun cutting playdough, making marks in different materials and completing weekly timed challenges. Well done Bears Class!



Staffing Update

At the beginning of next term, we shall be saying a fond farewell to Alison Smith (Nursery Nurse). Alison has been Cedars' excellent Nursery Nurse for just over 8 years. We would like to express our very sincere thanks for her dedication and hard work at Cedars and wish her well in her new role. We are currently recruiting for a new Nursery Nurse to join the Cedars' Early Years Team.

Laura Hurst (Nursery Lunchtime Supervisor) will also be leaving us at the end of this term. We are very grateful for the outstanding care Laura has shown to our children over a number of years

and for the flexibility in the hours she worked.

Next term we will be welcoming Gemma Smith as our new Nursery Lunchtime Supervisor. Gemma is very experienced working with early years children and is excited to be joining us.

Rachel Smith will also be joining our lunchtime team on a permanent basis alongside continuing to look after children in After School Club.

Years 5 and 6

We have had a very positive start to our new year, with lots of excellent learning taking place. The children have shown great positivity towards our topic of 'Darwin's Delight' and created some fantastic work that the teachers are very proud of.

Last week, we welcomed Dr Ian Parker-Heath - a pre-history and archaeology expert - into school to lead our 'Stone Age to Iron Age Workshop'. The children thoroughly enjoyed excavating artefacts, grinding grains to make flour and creating replica prehistoric pottery. It was so lovely to see them applying all that they have learned in our History lessons this half term and discussing their learning like historians.

Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Ousedale this week to watch their production of 'The Addams Family' as part of our transition work. The students from Ousedale put on a fantastic show and the children loved the performance.

Finally, it was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school for this half term's Celebration of Learning. I'm

sure you will all agree that the children are working incredibly hard and should be very proud of their achievements this half term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a safe and restful half term.

Years 1 and 2

Years 1 and 2 have had a great start to the year showing us what superstars they are in so many ways. The children have loved all the work we have done on the story of Little Red Riding Hood. If you managed to get to our Celebration of Learning, we hope you enjoyed our whole class re-telling.

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Hoffman (Lucas' Dad) into school to talk to the children about his experiences in Kenya. The children have been finding out where Kenya is and what it might be like there. Mr Hoffman showed photos of some of the people he met and the animals and landscapes he saw. He told us about life and schools in Kenya as well as sharing some stories about eating every part of a fish (including the eyes) and monkeys stealing biscuits! A lovely afternoon was had by all - thank you Mr Hoffman.



Mental Health Day



On Monday 10th October Cedars took part in World Mental Health Day. Our 'Hello Yellow' theme saw lots of children and staff come to school wearing yellow and we all took the time to think about our own and others' mental well-being. Years 1 and 2 children thought about what made them feel happy, sad, excited, frustrated and worried and talked about what they could do with those feelings. Years 3 and 4 children took part in mindful drawing and colouring. Years 5 and 6 considered stronger emotions such as jealousy and shock, and discussed unique qualities and how to help others. So far we have raised £250 and there is still time to donate if you are able: - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cedars-primary-school-helloyellow

Nut Free School



This is to protect children who have nut allergies. Please do not send your child to school with any nuts or nut products in their lunch box.

School Council Elections



Cedars' Primary School had great fun running the school election this year, with the candidates making excellent speeches to their year groups. The following children have been elected:

Years 1 and 2 Councillors: Phoebe Ridgeway, Theo Mercer, Ella Price and Sophie Lane-Alder.

Charity Councillors: Sonny Rew and Zak Cook

Community Councillors: Noah Izzo, Hattie Smith and Zabidhy Zahir.

Environment Councillors: Summer Harrington, Bonnie Fielding, Sara Kacprzycka and Meadow Merner.

Eco Gardening Club



It has been fantastic to see so many green-fingered children every Tuesday after school - the Years 3&4 gardening club is well and truly underway this term! We have had a good look around our beautiful school grounds and we have had a think about what we can plant and grow at the different times of the school year. We have also started to prepare the soil in the school vegetable patch for

any planting we will do, which was great fun.

Equally this year, Cedars will begin its journey in becoming an 'Eco-School' by working towards the Green Flag Award! Gardening club will take the lead on this and help us all think about how we can become more 'eco'.

It has been a brilliant start to the year, and I am looking forward to continuing this exciting journey! Miss Turner

National Poetry Day



This year, Cedars had a wonderful time celebrating National Poetry Day on 6th October. We shared our favourite poems, listened to poets read their work and wrote our own poems about the environment. Purple Mash are running a competition to celebrate National Poetry Day and Cedars will be entering 3 lucky poets from our school to be in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes! We have really enjoyed sharing all of our poems with each other.

Parents' Evening



If you have not yet done so, please book a Parents' Evening appointment.

- 7th November 3:30pm-6:00pm
- 8th November 4:30pm-8:00pm

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

School Hot Lunches



From Tuesday 1st November 2022 our school meals will be provided by Dolce School Catering. Dolce are a family firm who have been providing school catering for over 20 years.

We feel there are a number of benefits for changing to Dolce including: you will be able to order a meal on the same day, up until 8.30am; they provide locally sourced fresh produce; and are zero waste focussed. The cost of the meals for parents will remain the same at £2.50 per day.

You will have received an email with your log in details for SchoolGrid and a link to start pre-ordering meals and managing your child's account online.

Governors



I am pleased to inform you that **Kate Warren** (Parent Governor) has been elected as the **Chair of Governors** again for this academic year. **Julie Eldridge** has been elected as the **Vice Chair of Governors**. Kate and Julie will continue to ensure that Cedars' Governing Body provides strategic leadership and accountability.

We also welcome Cate Colborn, Lesley Harrison and Paul Wilson onto the governing board. We are pleased that James Etherton is continuing this year as a governor along with myself, Mrs McGarragh and Miss Alger.

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

Years 3 and 4

This half term the children have enjoyed learning about the Roman impact on Britain during the 'I am Warrior' topic. They were interested to hear about different invasions and how successful they were as well as the inventions and creations the Roman's developed. The children have written fantastic adventure stories using a Roman soldier as the main character but also added humor to their stories.

In Religious Education, the children have been developing their knowledge of how Diwali is celebrated and the sense of



belonging this may bring to a Hindu child. We were very lucky to be visited by Cinty (a parent/carer), who explained how she celebrates Diwali and shared decorations she uses at home with the children. The children asked some excellent questions to learn more about the festival. Thank you Cinty for your time.

We have also been impressed with the children always offering to lend a helpful and supportive hand to one another.

Next half term we will be busy tasting, planning and making soup in our Scrumdiddlyumptious topic.

Achievers of the Week

Many congratulations to the following children this half term for their special awards.

Achiever of the Week

Isaac, Evie, Calum, Jessica, Willow, Poppy, Zachary, Klaudia, Jemima, Warith, Emillia, Jack, Roman, Henry, Ava, Lucas, Arty, Isla, Harley, Evie, Jack, Woody, Zach, Anna, Ensar, Oliver, Esme, Lula-Belle, Avery, Oscar, Ella, Ruby, James, Tilly, Caleb, Willow, Cooper, Ewan, Georgia, Ozir, Summer P, Lewis, Ollie, Summer H, Phoebe, Poppy, Maddie, Amelie, Francesca, Edenaya, Sekinah, Sam, Iris, Jacob, Chase, Sophie, Lois, Amber, Zac, Lyla, Zak, Ellie, Taha, Ella, Oliver B, Berat, Harley,

Jay, Marcelo, Letchan, Suri, Taylor,
Phoebe, Ferris, Hattie, Addison, Juli,
Zubaida, Teddy, Jenifer, Eli, Oliver,
Quincy, Liliana, Ismail and Charlie.

The Cedars' Way

Macie, Sophie, Lyla, Zachary, Nellie,
Liam, Sonny, Chloe, Amelie, Joseph,
Rowan, Harry, Phoebe, Damian, Ava,
Max, Casey, Mya, Esmee, Theo, Darcey,
Issy, Jacob, Phoebe, David, Ensar, Seb,
Esme, Matilda, Grace, Avery, Ivan, Ella,
Elijah, Cassidy, Olivia, Emery, Jasmine,
Caleb, Emily, Archie, Thea, Chloe P,
Amaya, Joshua, Maddie, Bonnie, Lucy P,
Amelie, Alex M, Riley R, Sidney, Evie,
Noah, Siyar, Laycie, Amber, Ely,
Ibrahim, Krystal, Sonny, Lexi,
Francesca, Louis, Sara, Zabidhy, Cleo,
Bellamy, Oliver M, Syd, Oscar, Archie,
Dakshana, Chris, Ferris, Taylor, Eddie S,
Evie, Hattie, Harrison, Eddie E, Willow,
Albert, Felix, Harry, Anna, Harvey,
Rosalie and Lena.

Thank you for your support this half
term. We wish you a lovely half term
break. We look forward to welcoming
you back to Cedars Primary and Nursery
on **Tuesday 1st November 2022.**

Best wishes

Lisa Munday