

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now fully immersed into the Academic Year and I can't believe that we are already at the end of the first half term. It has been wonderful to see the progress the children have made and the enthusiasm that they are putting into their learning. I have been particularly impressed by our youngest children in Nursery and Reception who are already demonstrating an excellent aptitude for learning and I look forward to continuing to see all of the children's progress as the year develops.

Please find below highlights of term so far!

Bikeability

Some of our Year 6 children completed their Bikeability training in September. They learnt how to control their bikes and how to cycle safely on the road. After a session on the playground, they developed their confidence on the roads and Redways in Newport Pagnell. They practised crossing the road and using a roundabout. Well done to all!



School Council Elections



Our School Council elections have taken place. The children were able to put their names down for a certain priority: charity, community or environment.

KS2 children made speeches to their peers, explaining the importance of them being voted for their cause.

The children voted using ballot cards, placed them into boxes and the results were counted.

The School Council for 2023-2024 is:

Lewis W
Anastasia A
Jasmine A
Avery H
Anna W
Eli C-R
Harry L
Meadow M
Lois C
Zac P

Mental Health Day



On Tuesday 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.

So far we have raised £209 and there is still time to donate if you are able: -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cedars-primary-school-helloyellow>

International Day of Sign Language

To celebrate International Day of Sign Language on the 23rd September, we have been learning about the importance of sign language to the deaf community. We looked at finger spelling which is the 'manual alphabet' for words without a sign.

In our classes we looked at British Sign Language and learnt to spell our names as well as use different numbers.

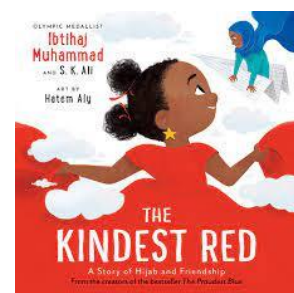
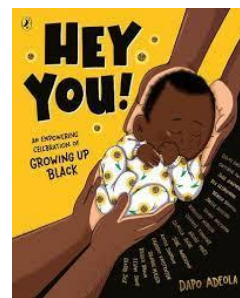
Harvest Festival

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. Thank you to the staff at Lovat Hall for helping us deliver the food to the Milton Keynes Food Bank.



Black History Month

October is Black History Month, which honours the history, traditions, arts and culture of Black people both in the UK and across the globe. In Reception, we have discussed how we're all different from each other and that makes us all really special! Throughout October, we have read a number of different stories that relate to Black History Month and represent people and families of different cultures and heritages.



The Parks Trust



A Ranger (called Keira) from The Parks Trust visited our school and explained that they are a charity who cares for the parks, woodlands and lakes in Milton Keynes. Keira told the children that The Parks Trust looks after 45 parks and 3 ancient woodlands. The children learnt about littering and the impact it has on wildlife and the environment. They were very keen to ask lots of questions and they all understood they should put their litter in a bin or take it home.

Attendance Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

We have been positively promoting and celebrating attendance in school this half term. Each week, the class with the highest attendance receives a certificate during the Celebration Assembly. We will be continuing to positively promote attendance throughout the year. Next half term, we will be holding a 'Attendance Celebration Week' with the opportunity for children to win prizes, keep an eye out for further information.

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

Free School Meals

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at Cedars Primary School. You could be eligible even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receiving Universal Free School meals.

The benefits of registering for Free School Meals are:

- A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
- Savings for you, worth over £420 a year.
- Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium, worth at least £900 a year.

Remember, just registering your child for Free School Meals means that Cedars Primary School receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

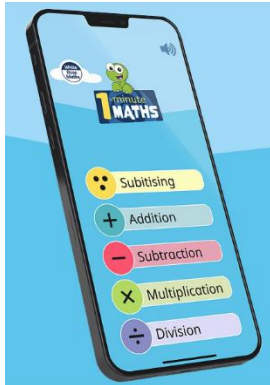
If you would like further information then please talk to Mrs Swannell (School Secretary) or email her at office@cedars.milton-keynes.sch.uk. Everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Checking whether you qualify and registering is really quick and easy - do it online at -

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>

Please note that if you have an older child who is currently receiving Free School Meals, you still need to apply for any younger children.

White Rose 1-Minute Maths



In our school, we use a scheme called White Rose Maths to teach our children. There is a free maths app which can help children of all ages build greater number fluency and confidence. Your child can choose any topic and then they answer a unique series of questions. If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button will give a helpful clue by showing the question in a different, but familiar way. When one minute is up, they'll see a feedback screen telling them how they've done. You can download the app free from the Amazon Store, Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Website

We are continuing to review and update our website. Please visit the website to have a look. We will be sending out a survey to request feedback on the website next half term.

Volkswagen Group Volunteers

We would like to say a massive thank you to the volunteers from the Volkswagen Group who signed up to spend a day at Cedars over the course of the Summer Holidays. The group of 14 volunteers undertook painting of the outside play

equipment within the Nursery area and also helped with some gardening. It really has made a positive impact on the area and made a massive difference for the children. THANK YOU!

Car Parking

We kindly ask that parents and carers do not park in front of the gates to the school staff car park when collecting children from the after-school club. The gates are in constant use and are also access for emergency vehicles if required.

Nursery and Reception Open Days

We will be holding open days for both Nursery and for children starting school in September 2024. Please see below for further information:

Nursery



Cedars
Primary School and Nursery

"We want every child to be happy, caring and successful."

**Nursery Open Sessions for
January, April and September 2024 Intake**

- Tuesday 14th November 2023 10am
- Monday 4th March 2024 1:30pm





If you are currently considering a Nursery place for your child, we would be delighted to show you around our early years setting.
We look forward to welcoming you.
**If these times are not convenient, please contact us to arrange a different time.*

- 3 & 4 year old
- Teacher led provision
- Wrap around care 7:30am -6:15pm



"Pupils thrive at Cedars Primary School."
May 2021

Cedars Primary School, Bury Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0DT
01908 610561 office@cedars.milton-keynes.sch.uk
www.cedars.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Reception



"We want every child to be happy, caring and successful."

Reception 2024 Intake Prospective Parent Tours

- Thursday 2nd November 2023 - 1:30pm
- Friday 24th November 2023 - 9:30am & 10:30am

**If these times are not convenient, please contact us to arrange a different time.*



Are you currently considering a reception place for your child?
The staff team and children would be very proud to welcome you.

"Adults and pupils share high expectations for work and behaviour"



"Pupils thrive at Cedars Primary School."
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Please feel free to share this information with family and friends.

And finally ...

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 School and Nursery on **Monday 30th October 2023.**

Kind regards

Mrs Goldsmith