

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been extremely busy and I continue to be proud of the children and all we achieve at Cedars Primary School. The staff are so committed to providing an excellent education for each and every child, in every classroom, every day.

We have had many memorable trips and visits this term, with my personal favourite being the incredible day the choir went to London to sing at the Young Voices concert. The children sang beautifully, were amazing and an absolute credit to the school!

Young Voices Concert

The Choir took part in a fabulous day of singing at the end of January. We learned over a dozen songs, some with actions, and then joined over 9,000 other primary school children to create the largest school choir in the world. We travelled to the O2 in London to take part in an all-day rehearsal followed by a spectacular 'Young Voices' evening concert. As well as performing to a sell out crowd, we were entertained by education content creator and rapper MC Grammar and Urban Strides street dance crew. The children (and adults) had such a fantastic time, and everyone agreed that although it was a very long day, it was an experience of a lifetime!

A snippet of Urban Strides from the concert:



Reception

What a busy half term Reception have had! We have learnt lots about winter and places where it is cold all the time. We have learnt about cold and hot places

especially comparing the animals that live in these climates and how they have adapted for the environment they live in. We have celebrated Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday (we made and ate delicious pancakes!) and Valentines Day. We have worked hard on our letter formation when we are writing and have enjoyed writing for different purposes. Next half term, we are looking forward to learning all about life on a farm and exploring where food comes from.



Years 1 and 2

We have had great fun this half term with our DT projects. First of all, we made windmills, investigating how to join parts together to make a stable structure and how to attach 'sails' that would spin. Then we moved on to looking at attaching and joining fabric to make puppets. Glue, staples and safety pins always make for an interesting lesson! We hope you enjoyed the results.



Parents' Evening - Tuesday 5th March & Wednesday 6th March 2024

Parents Evening

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon at the second Parents' Evening. 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/Carers to help themselves to a cuppa in between appointments.

If you have not done so already, please book an appointment.



Spring PTFA School Discos - Monday 18th March 2024

SAVE THE DATE!

Nursery

Nursery have welcomed new starters into the Penguin's class and have enjoyed showing their new friends how to play and learn in Nursery. We have explored winter and talked about things that are cold. We have been developing our fine motor skills through threading, cutting and using lots of different tools for mark making like paintbrushes, pencils and crayons. We have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentine's Day. We have read lots of different stories - Elmer the colourful elephant has been our favourite!

Years 3 and 4

This half term, Year 3 and 4 have been busy with many different curriculum areas. The children have taken part in a design and technology day where they explored mechanisms involving pneumatics. They then designed and made a working toy. The children and staff were very proud of the final outcomes.



The Year 3 children also enjoyed a visit to Hazard Alley where they took part in an online safety session as well as a session taking part in different scenarios to learn about how to keep them self-safe. We followed this up back at school with the whole Year group taking part in activities on Internet Safety Day.

Years 5 and 6

This half term has been very busy for Upper Key Stage 2; we have taken part in many special days around school and also been out on a school trip.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Bletchley Park and demonstrated their excellent codebreaking skills as part of their 'intelligence to interception' workshop. During this, the children learned all about the significance of the D-Day landings during World War II. They also had the opportunity to explore Bletchley Park and learn about the different roles people took on here and the role they played in the success of World War II for the allies.

As a school we observed Safer Internet Day 2024 and Children's Mental Health week. During both of these days, we discussed how to keep ourselves safe both physically and mentally and the importance of speaking out if something doesn't feel right or something worries you. The children created some lovely work following these days.

In their lessons, the children have continued to make their teachers proud with the wonderful work they have been creating and sharing. They enjoyed sharing their mastering number session

with their grown-ups during our celebration of learning this half term.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Aim High Maths Day

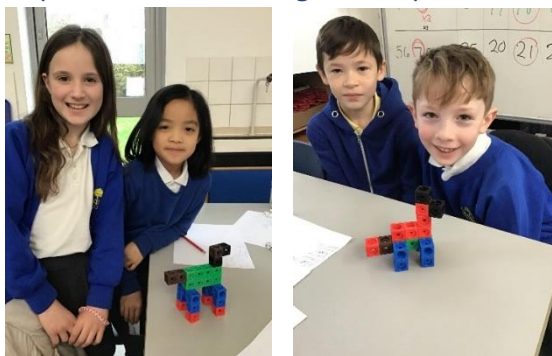
On 25th January 2024 Harvey, Bellamy, Willow, Albert and Mrs Smith visited Long Meadow Primary School to take part in a maths day with other schools from Milton Keynes and maths magician, Liz Gibbs.

The day focussed on problem solving and we had a fantastic time, even though, by the end of the day our brains were packed with numbers (and Albert's was fried).

We were challenged with puzzles and learnt how to unlock the key to solving them by noticing patterns in their numbers. We were amazed by how easy it was to solve v and x shaped puzzles as well as Chinese magic squares.

The best part of the day was building dinosaurs with multi - link cubes where each colour had a different value. Our dinosaurs had to equal 540 points. We were very proud to complete our dinosaurs before any other school.

We would recommend inviting Liz Gibbs into our school so more of us can be inspired to love solving maths problems.



Year 6 Knife Crime Workshop

On Tuesday 13th February 2024, Year 6 were visited by an Educational Officer from Hazard Alley Safety Centre who delivered a workshop all about knife crime.

The workshop was designed to educate the children all about the dangers of carrying knives and the consequences they could face if caught with a knife or with someone else who is carrying a knife. The children engaged in scenarios where they had to decide on the most appropriate action to take and role-played what they could say to someone who was trying to get them involved in something they shouldn't be doing and didn't feel comfortable with.

The children learned that the criminal age of responsibility is 10 years old and this means that at their age, they could be given a criminal record if they are found with a knife (along with other crimes) or found to be with someone who is carrying a knife. This is known as 'joint enterprise'. The children ended the session by listening to a story from someone who is currently serving a prison sentence of 7 years for being involved in a knife crime, even though they themselves were not the ones who committed the crime but they were at the scene and knew the other person was carrying a knife (joint enterprise).

Maths Celebration of Learning

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have been able to attend the Celebration of Learning sessions. As a school, we teach maths mastery and are involved in projects with our local maths hub and the National Centre of

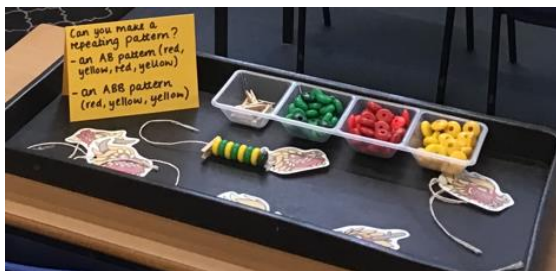
Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

MASTERING NUMBER AT RECEPTION AND KS1

Supporting pupils to develop good number sense



Our school delivers Mastering Number to our children in Reception and Key Stage 1. The Reception session focused on number sense and staying within numbers to 10. The children were spotting patterns, making numbers to 10 in different ways, they played games and read maths stories.



In years 1 and 2, we are taking part in a homework project which will run for the second half of the spring term. During the Celebration of Learning, we were able to share some of the STEM sentences (mathematical talk) that we use in our lessons and activities that could be used at home. We look forward to hearing your feedback about the homework tasks. All the resources and instructions will be provided for you to use next half term.

MASTERING NUMBER AT KS2

Secure firm foundations in multiplicative relationships



In years 5 and 6 we are focusing on developing pupils' fluency with multiplication and division facts. We want them to be confident and flexible with numbers and have good number sense. During our Celebration of Learning we shared how square numbers are taught and modelled the mathematical language (STEM sentences) that we are using.

All the children have really enjoyed sharing their learning with you and we hope you feel more confident talking about maths with your child and helping them. Please come and speak to us if you have any questions.

World Book Day - 7th March 2024

On Thursday 7th March we will be celebrating World Book Day 2024. Children are invited to come to Cedars dressed as one of their favourite book characters.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all back after the half term break where we have so much more planned.

Children are expected to return to school on **Monday 26 February 2024**.

Wishing you all a very happy half term break - Enjoy!

Best wishes

Joanne Goldsmith