

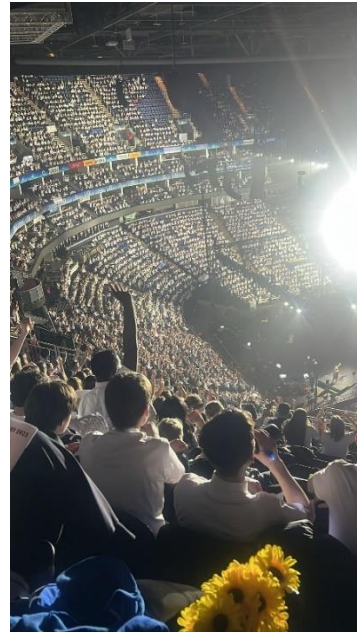
Dear Parents/Carers,

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.

Young Voices Concert

For the second year running, the Choir took part in a fabulous day of singing. 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, where we were joined for a live performance by the extremely talented composer and up-and-coming artist Jacob Collier, followed by a spectacular 'Young Voices' concert in the evening. As well as performing to a sell-out crowd, we were entertained by education content creator and rapper MC Grammar, Urban Strides Street Dance Crew and the voice of Strictly Come Dancing - Tommy Blaize. The children (and adults) had such a fantastic time (I believe there is video footage of the teachers taking the instructions to get up and move to the 90's bangers very seriously!). Although we faced road closures and long delays on the way home, I know everyone had an amazing time.



Reception

This term, our Reception children have been exploring hot and cold places. We have discussed the different types of clothing needed for warm and cold weather, helping them understand how we dress for different climates.

On chilly days, the children have loved discovering ice outside and using it in their mud kitchen for imaginative play. They have also been investigating where ice melts the fastest and came up with brilliant ideas to free small toys trapped inside ice!



As part of our learning about winter, we explored foods that keep us warm. The children had the opportunity to touch and smell a variety of vegetables,

including potatoes, carrots, leeks, swede and onions. After learning how to hold a knife correctly, they carefully chopped carrots, which were added to a delicious vegetable soup—and, of course, they got to enjoy a warm, tasty sample!

In addition, the children have been learning about Chinese New Year. They have enjoyed reading stories about the celebrations and have created beautiful, colourful lanterns as well as Year of the Snake bookmarks to mark the occasion.

It has been a fantastic term full of curiosity, creativity and hands-on learning!

Year 1

Year 1 have continued to impress the staff with their perseverance and resilience in our structured timetable. Over the course of the term, they have enjoyed participating in a wide range of lessons, including Science, Art, Music, Religious Education, Geography and PE. Each subject has offered fresh opportunities for the children to discover, develop and expand their knowledge.

This half term, the children have particularly loved PE, where our focus has been gymnastics. They have enjoyed learning new shapes, while improving their strength and balance. Another highlight was our Design and Technology Day, where the children enthusiastically prepared, cut and tasted different fruits before designing and making their own smoothies. They all demonstrated excellent listening and safety skills throughout the day while having lots of fun!



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for the contribution towards our Design and Technology Day. Your support is truly appreciated in helping us create these valuable learning experiences for the children.

We look forward to seeing the children continue to grow next half term, making more memories and embracing new learning opportunities!

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed sewing in their Design Technology lessons. They were extremely resilient when learning to thread a needle and use running stitch. After practicing this new technique, the children sewed two pieces of fabric together to create a pouch. They were all very excited to take their creations home.

Nursery

In Nursery this half term, the class have enjoyed learning about winter through hands on exploration of ice, using streamers in the wind and playing in the rain with their wellies on. They have been learning the vocabulary associated with different everyday materials and sorted them into hoops.

They have experimented with colour mixing in the water tray and by painting rainbows.

As well as individual drawings and model making, the children have also worked together to create a large box dragon - learning to share resources and ideas. The children were fascinated to learn about the celebrations associated with Chinese New Year. They tasted Chinese food, created their own 'Chinese writing' with charcoal sticks, made a lantern and even performed a dragon dance!

In Maths, we have been focusing on patterns with repeats. We have been listening out for rhyme and repeats in stories and songs, and we have created line patterns and sequences with objects.

Our new January starters have settled well and are learning our Nursery routines. We love having them with us.



Years 3 and 4

Across Years 3 and 4, the children have been working hard during rehearsals for the Spring performance that is fast approaching. They are linking their history learning to drama and music to share the story of Lord Shaftsbury. We are looking forward to showing the school and our families the finished performance next term.

Year 3 Hazard Alley

Year 3 had a great day out at Hazard Alley. The children spent part of their day exploring Hazard Alley town and what to do if they come across a dangerous situation or something that they know requires help. They learnt how to call 999 to get help and during a first aid session, how to put someone into the recovery position. They also completed an online safety session.



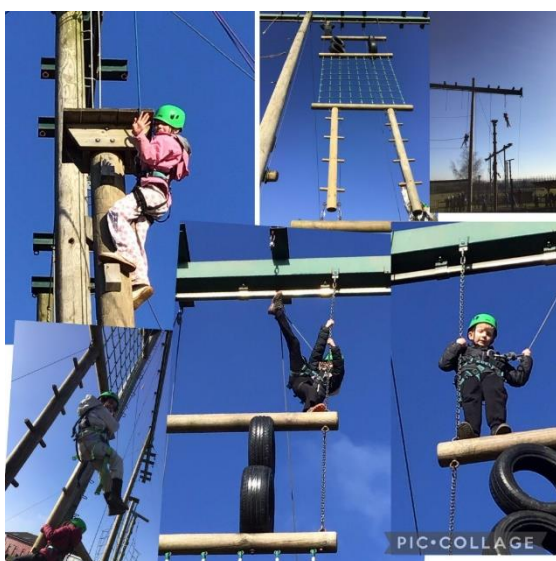
Years 5 and 6

Years 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed this week's Celebration of Learning. It was lovely to share some of the work we have been doing on Growth Mindset, being resilient and persevering when things are tricky. We applied some Growth Mindset principles to a variety of maths tasks - some required more resilience and perseverance than others! Thank you to

everyone who joined us. It was a positive learning experience for all.

Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes Residential

Some pupils in Year 4 visited Whitemoor Lakes for an adventurous activity residential trip. They took part in climbing, fencing, fire making, team challenges and even a disco. The children pushed themselves to try new things and conquer their fears. They worked brilliantly as a team and their independence shone through the whole time we were away. Well done to all children involved.



Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 11th February 2025 marked Safer Internet Day 2025. The theme this year was online scams. The day was launched with a whole school assembly, highlighting the importance of identifying what could be a scam and what to do if faced with a potential scam. The children then completed a variety of activities in their classrooms to deepen their understanding further.

Parents' Evening – Tuesday 4th March & Wednesday 5th March 2025

We are looking forward to seeing you at the second Parents' Evening next month. The front and rear gates to the playground will be open for access during these evenings.



If you have not done so already, please book an appointment via ParentMail. Please note that bookings close on Wednesday 26th February 2025.

World Book Day – 6th March 2025

On Thursday 6th March we will be celebrating World Book Day 2025. Children are invited to come to Cedars dressed as one of their favourite book characters.

And finally....

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

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 24th February 2025.**

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

Best wishes

Joanne Goldsmith