

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. We are excited to share the latest updates, achievements and events from the last few weeks at Cedars.

## Nursery

In Nursery, we enjoyed our topic of 'growth and change'. We started by exploring trees - the children learnt how to age a tree and drew their own rings on a tree slice. They were able to talk about what they see when they look at a tree and widened their vocabulary of words associated with trees and plants.

As spring arrived, we enjoyed outdoor learning, observing seasonal changes such as blossom on trees and daffodils sprouting up. The children helped to fill our sand pit with new sand and have been fascinated with burying objects in it, even themselves!

We enjoyed sharing your child's favourite story and dressing up for World Book Day.

Our Maths focus has been hearing and saying number names. We have used familiar rhymes to support this learning such as '1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive' and 'one potato, two potatoes...!'. We have been learning about what emerges from an egg and what gives birth to live young. Another activity was planting beans and decorating plant pots. Finally, the busy half term has ended with learning about the traditions of Easter.



## Reception

We have really enjoyed our 'Ready, Steady, Grow' topic this term in Brown Bears. We started by learning about where foods come from, had an online tour of a farm and came up with some good ideas about why food packaging is important. We looked at how some foods change when they are cooked, exploring both dry and cooked pasta. We also learnt the names of and matched baby animals to their adult. St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Pancake Day, Internet Safety Day and World Book Day have all been celebrated too!

We have been Scientists, using our senses and magnifying glasses to investigate, then record what we noticed

about a variety of fruits, vegetables and things we grew ourselves. Our carrot tops have grown leaves, some of our beans are starting to grow a root and a shoot and our cress sprung up over the weekend! This has all helped us to learn about what plants need to grow. Brown Bears have created some lovely artwork including: fork painted chicks; pastel daffodils; farm animals and a tractor from junk modelling, as well as numerous farm related constructions with the wooden blocks, Lego and magnetic tiles. In music, we worked really hard to learn 'There was a Princess Long Ago' with words, actions and our own musical accompaniment. Everyone played an instrument in our performance. We are a very creative class!

This week we made butter. After watching a short video to show us how, we worked together to shake a jam jar of double cream for 20 minutes, poured the buttermilk out and tipped the butter into a bowl. Then the best bit! We all used our knife spreading skills to spread butter onto a piece of bread and ate it. All of the children said that they liked it and many came back for more. Here are a few quotes from the children:

'It doesn't taste like shop butter, but it's better.'

'It's the best butter I have ever tasted.'

'It's really creamy.'

'I wish I could have this butter every day.'

'It was hard work, but great teamwork.'



### Year 1

Year 1 have worked incredibly hard this half term, demonstrating a wonderful attitude of perseverance and enthusiasm towards their learning. Throughout the term, they have enjoyed participating in a range of subjects, including Maths, English, Science, Art, PSHE, Music, Religious Education, History and PE. In every lesson, the children have been actively engaged, developing their skills, knowledge and curiosity.

One of the highlights this half term has been our History lessons, where we explored toys from the past. The children were fascinated by the variety of toys that were played with long ago and loved comparing them to the toys



they enjoy today. It was wonderful to see them eagerly discussing their favourite toys and making connections between past and present.

Another highlight has been PE - Year 1 absolutely love PE! This half term, we had a mix of football and Pirate Fitness, which was enjoyed by all. The children demonstrated fantastic balance and ball skills, impressing us with their energy!

As we look ahead to the next half term, we are excited for even more learning opportunities. Hopefully, the sun will shine for us!

#### **Years 2, 3 and 4**

This half term has been busy in Years 2, 3 and 4. The children in Years 3 and 4 have enjoyed working towards their performance of 'The Legacy of Lord Shaftsbury'. Their acting and singing was fantastic, and the children should be very proud of the high quality performances they put on.

In Art, Years 3 and 4 have been inspired by Stone Age art. They used natural materials to create a cave background and then made their own paint to create animal paintings. We made lots of mess, had great fun and have produced some fantastic work to be put together to make a cave in our corridor!

Year 2 have enjoyed a virtual author visit with Huw Aaron. He read his story of 'Sleep Tight Disgusting Blob' live to the children, talked about his writing process and shared with them how to create illustrations of the characters. They have also enjoyed learning about the history of flight and how different

significant people in history have influenced modern air travel.



#### **Years 5 and 6**

Year 5/6 enjoyed a super World Book Day where many books were represented by the children and staff dressing up as their favourite characters. All genres were represented from fairytales to graphic novels to Where's Wally? We celebrated by taking part in a Premier League Primary Stars fun, live-streamed interactive quiz hosted Ben Lyttleton (author of football fiction books for children), Alex Bellos (a writer of maths, puzzles and football books) and Kit Brown (a Year 5 teacher, Tik Tok

phenomenon and BBC Bitesize presenter). The questions were a mix of book and character knowledge as well as football facts and stats. I think it is fair to say we had just the right mix of knowledge between the staff and children and we did really well - even on the added bonus questions about random facts such as which is the highest football stadium in England! Thank you for supporting the children in dressing as their character of choice for the day.

### World Book Day

Cedars had a wonderful day Celebrating World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The theme this year was heroes and villains and our Reading and Library champions enjoyed organising the posters and some activities for the classes across the school. We had catwalks to show off our fantastic costumes, different adults sharing books and a 'design a giftcard' competition. As we all know, reading is an important life skill and we appreciate all of your efforts to help us promote this.



### Comic Relief Red Nose Day

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we joined the fundraising for Comic Relief. The children enjoyed coming to school in their own clothes. Thank you for all of your generous donations, we raised an amazing £175.

### General reminders

- Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time every day.
- Encourage regular reading habits at home to enhance literacy skills.
- Kindly inform the school of any changes to contact information or emergency contacts.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible educational experience for our children.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Best wishes

*Mrs Goldsmith*