

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term, it's a wonderful time to reflect on all that has been achieved over the past few months. From the joy of welcoming new pupils to the excitement of festive preparations, this term has been full of learning, growth and community spirit. I'm incredibly proud of the hard work and enthusiasm shown by our pupils, staff and families.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a place where everyone can thrive and be happy, caring and successful.

Nursery

It has been a very busy half term, with lots of fantastic learning happening.

With our core text being 'We are going on a Bear Hunt', the children enjoyed a sensory bear hunt in the trim trail area. We have learnt new vocabulary and can retell the story.



We looked in the garden for signs of autumn and enjoyed hands on exploration of leaves, pinecones and pumpkins. We have created artwork focusing on bears, hedgehogs, robins and squirrels.

We enjoyed learning about seasonal celebrations including Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Remembrance Day. We then dived straight into Christmas and rehearsing new songs from our 'Hushaby Nativity'.

The children have made lovely friendships and enjoy spending time in the home corner caring for dolls and shopping.



We hope you are ready for lots of fun with your families, and are looking forward to coming back and meeting our new friends who will be joining us in January.

Reception

What a wonderful and very busy half term we have had in Brown Bears! The children have embraced every learning opportunity with curiosity and enthusiasm. They were thrilled to discover ice in our outdoor area and spent lots of time exploring how it melted, making predictions and watching the changes closely. We then painted with ice cube paint! We have also been

incredibly proud of how hard they have worked on their phonics sounds and their enthusiasm for word reading, writing and Maths this term.

A real highlight was our Christmas Nativity. It was such a joy to see the children try so hard with their singing and actions, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Throughout the half term we have been learning about Remembrance, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. The children loved decorating our Christmas tree together, and also showed how creative they were by creating a Christmas dinner in their construction area.



Their learning about autumn has included exploring animals and their habitats, particularly nocturnal and diurnal creatures and thinking about how they keep warm in the cold weather. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading *Owl Babies* and re-enacting the story in the role-play area, as well as reciting rhymes during Nursery Rhyme Week. Well done for persevering with putting your own coats on and fastening those tricky zips, buttons and poppers Brown Bears!

We are very excited to welcome Mrs James back to Cedars after having her baby, but also sad to say goodbye to Mrs Chilton—we would like to thank her for the valuable contribution she has made to our school and wish her all the very best for the future. As we approach the festive break, we hope you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday with your families.

Here are some more pictures of our learning.



Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed gymnastics sessions in PE, and a particular highlight was using apparatus to perform point and patch balances. The children were able to perform their movements brilliantly and offer peer feedback to performances. They have also enjoyed observational drawings which help to develop sketching techniques, as well as creating imaginative sketches of plants during art lessons. They created a final piece of digital art work where they showed mouse control and were really proud of the final pieces produced.



Year 4

Zebra Class has loved going swimming this term and the children have all made lots of progress. It has been great to see their confidence increase each week, but it was the fun session during the last week that they enjoyed the most!

Year 5

Year 5 had a fascinating time experimenting with transparent, translucent and opaque objects. They used a light meter to investigate the intensity of light, which is measured in lux, to see how much light was absorbed by different materials. We were all surprised to find out how much light coloured plastics let through, even though they are often considered to be opaque. We also enjoyed the beautiful coloured shadow patterns we created during the investigation!

School Council

The School Council has been extremely busy this term with Children in Need, non-school uniform days, Christmas Jumper Day and the Christmas Fayre! We would like to thank you for all the donations we have received and look forward to running more events next term.

Children in Need

On Friday 14th November, we supported Children in Need by wearing all things spotty! Thank you for your support, we raised £280.

Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have continued to impress all staff with their perseverance and resilience as they have settled into our structured timetable. The children have embraced the routines of Year 1 wonderfully and shown a real enthusiasm

for learning. Throughout the term, they have enjoyed taking part in a wide range of subjects including Science, Art, Music, Computing, Religious Education, History and PE. Their curiosity and engagement across all lessons has been a joy to see. One of our biggest highlights was the Year 1 Christmas performance. The children loved learning the songs and were so excited to perform for their grown-ups and the whole school during our dress rehearsal. They showed incredible courage, especially as it was a much larger audience than they were used to in Reception, and we are extremely proud of them all. Another favourite moment was in History, where the children brought in their baby and toddler photos. They had great fun guessing who was who, were so keen to share their own pictures and loved looking at each other's photos.

We have had such a fantastic start to Year 1 and are really looking forward to continuing to watch all the children grow and develop in the New Year. We hope you have a magical Christmas!

Year 2

Year 2 have been working really hard rehearsing for the Nativity. They've learnt songs, lines and even dance moves and put on a wonderful performance to the whole school, family and friends. They learnt all the words, spoke with expression and sang beautifully so we couldn't be more proud. Bravo Tigers and Leopards!

In November, Year 2 had to opportunity to paint their own Christmas pottery. After a rainy walk to 'Kilning Me Softly', the children used paints to decorate their own figure. All of the children

really enjoyed the painting and were thoroughly engaged for the whole session. This week the figures were delivered to school and look fantastic!

Christmas Cracked

This half term, Year 6 had a wonderful opportunity to visit Lovat Hall and take part in the 'Christmas Cracked' session, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The session explored the true meaning of Christmas in a fun and interactive way. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Geoff and the church team for organizing this engaging experience. The children reflected well on the significance of Christmas for Christians.

And finally... a reminder that we return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026. In the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Best wishes

Mrs Joanne Goldsmith

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November - we raised a fantastic £221.90.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a great success, thank you for all the donations and help towards making it happen. We raised an incredible £400.

A big thank you!

We have been incredibly grateful for all of the donations that we have received since the introduction of the Weekly Wish List. Your generosity has been amazing and every bit really does help!