✦ CEDARS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY ✦

NEWSLETTER

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Autumn 1 2026 | Celebrating our learning, achievements and community

Welcome from Mrs Goldsmith

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and brilliant start to the school year it has been! We are delighted to welcome our new families in Nursery, Reception and across the school. We are so proud of how well the children have settled in and how enthusiastically they have embraced their learning.

There is always lots happening at Cedars. Come and see some of the wonderful things we have been learning, making and celebrating this term!

Our Learning Adventures

EYFS – Nursery and Reception

Our Nursery and Reception children have had a wonderful start! They have been getting to know their classrooms, learning each other's names and practising their new routines.

The children have explored different parts of the school and learnt about the adults who help us every day. Cubs have been singing nursery rhymes and learning new songs, while Brown Bears have been learning sounds to help them read words.

Autumn has brought lots to discover! The children have explored pumpkins of different shapes, sizes and textures and learnt about Halloween traditions around the world.

For Harvest, the children practised poems to share together. Cubs also sorted fruits and vegetables and made a delicious vegetable soup. What a lovely way to learn!

We are very proud of how well everyone has settled in. We can't wait for more exciting adventures!







Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic start! The children are settling into their new routines and showing lots of enthusiasm for learning.

We have enjoyed Science, Design and Technology, Music, Religious Education and Geography. One big highlight was our Geography walk around the school using an aerial map. Afterwards, we made our own maps and designed our dream playgrounds.

The children have also loved earning Dojos. Well done, Year 1 — keep up the great work!





Year 2

Year 2 have completed their Design and Technology topic on healthy eating. They explored balanced diets, different food groups and the nutrients each provides. The children then designed their own healthy wraps, learning important preparation skills including chopping, peeling, slicing, grating and snipping. They thoroughly enjoyed creating and eating their delicious, healthy wraps!

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy designers this half term! In Design and Technology, we designed, made and evaluated autumnal pastry tarts. We loved making models of our ideas — but eating our finished tarts was definitely the best bit!

We also joined a live lesson from the British Museum about the Bayeux Tapestry. We discovered how the artwork travelled from France and what some of its pictures and symbols mean.

Year 4

Zebras have had an excellent start to the year!

In Science, we explored the digestive system and learnt how our bodies process food. We also compared the teeth and diets of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

In Design and Technology, we chose, cut and sewed fabric to make brilliant book pouches, then added fastenings to finish them.

In PE, we practised balance and coordination through gymnastics rolls and jumps, as well as skipping in multi-skills. In Geography, we explored the rainforest layers and discovered which animals live in each one.

Year 5

Year 5 had a fantastic day at Caldecotte a few weeks ago. Despite the October date, the weather was glorious and we took full advantage. Archery and caving were first up and everyone had a go at being resilient in the face of uncooperative arrows and crawling into small, dark spaces! Next up, some headed to the lake and

although the heavens did not open on us, the wind was a little too gusty for individual kayaking so the children took part in challenges on group boats which ended with almost everyone voluntarily jumping into the lake – brr! After lunch, we moved around and everyone faced the challenge of the climbing wall before finishing with some unscheduled rolling down hills. It was amazing to see the children face fears, push harder and further or find a liking for something never tried before. A thoroughly fab day was had by all.



Year 6

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their residential at Woodrow High House! The children took on a range of exciting challenges, including the high ropes Leap of Faith, low ropes, archery, shelter building, team exercises and the challenge course. They showed amazing teamwork, determination and resilience throughout, supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way. We were incredibly proud of how brilliantly they all behaved, and they ate well, slept well and made some wonderful memories together. Well done, Year 6!

Our Brilliant School Community

School Council Elections

Our School Council elections have taken place! Children chose to stand for charity, community or the environment. Key Stage 2 pupils gave speeches to explain why their cause mattered, then everyone voted using ballot cards and ballot boxes.

Meet our School Council for 2026–2027:

Role	Representatives
Year 1	Louie
Year 2	Georgiana
Community	Freya and Isla
Charity	George and Willow
Environment	Ernie and Avery

Congratulations to our representatives! We look forward to seeing the great ideas you bring to Cedars.

Eco Council

We had amazing applications for this year's Eco Council. It was wonderful to see so many children keen to help our planet!

- Year 2: Penny, Maia, Casper and Faye
- Year 3: Sophie and Sadie
- Year 4: Ernie, Adriana and Georgia
- Year 5: David and Shivi
- Year 6: Evie and Shanaya

Well done to everyone who applied, and congratulations to our new Eco-Council!

Head Boy and Head Girl

We are delighted to announce our new Head Boy and Head Girl for this academic year!

Congratulations to Jack and Phoebe F on being chosen for these important roles. They will be wonderful ambassadors for our school, helping to represent their fellow pupils, demonstrate our school values and set a positive example for others.

We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing them grow in confidence as they take on their new responsibilities.

Well done to you both! We wish you every success in your new roles. 👏🎉

Harvest Festival – Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donations to the Milton Keynes Food Bank. Your kindness will help families who need extra support.

We were delighted to welcome Minister Steve Wood to our Harvest Festival. We are very grateful that he took the time to join us for this special celebration and share his thoughtful reflections with the children. It was a pleasure to have him with us, and we thank him for his support and encouragement.



Milton Keynes Primary Schools Cross Country Championship

On Friday 16th October, the Cedars cross country team proudly represented the school at the Milton Keynes Primary Schools Cross Country Championship, held at The National Bowl. The children have worked incredibly hard during training sessions, with some attending twice a week after school. Their dedication and determination were evident in their fantastic performances throughout the afternoon.



The junior girls got the competition off to a brilliant start, followed by the junior boys, who also delivered some outstanding performances, with Ralphie securing an impressive second place. The senior girls demonstrated excellent teamwork to achieve second place overall, earning themselves a well-deserved medal and trophy. The afternoon concluded with the senior boys, who showed great determination to complete their race. Following the competition, six children were selected to represent Team MK at the National Cross Country race early in the new year — a fantastic achievement! Well done to all our runners for their hard work, commitment and a very successful afternoon. We are incredibly proud of you all!

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day

The children and staff wore something yellow to mark World Mental Health Day and help raise awareness of mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Together, we have raised an amazing £151 so far!

There is still time to donate if you would like to support our fundraising:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/cedars-primary-school-hy26

School News and Reminders

Attendance Stars



Every week, the class with the highest attendance receives a certificate in our Celebration Assembly. We will keep celebrating attendance all year. Thank you for helping children come to school regularly and enjoy every learning opportunity!

Parents' Evening

Please remember to book a Parents' Evening appointment. It is a great chance to talk with your child's teacher about how they are settling in, their personal and social development, their progress in Reading, Writing and Maths, and ways to support learning at home.

Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5

- Tuesday 10th November 2026 • 3:30pm–6:30pm
- Wednesday 11th November 2026 • 3:30pm–6:30pm

Year 6

- Tuesday 10th November 2026 • 3:10pm–6:30pm
- Wednesday 11th November 2026 • 2:00pm–6:30pm

Nursery

- Thursday 12th November 2026• 3:00pm–4:30pm

Free School Meals

From September 2026, the government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). All children whose households receive Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of how much the household earns, if an application is made and eligibility is confirmed.

Who can apply for Free School Meals?

Your child may be eligible if you or your child receive one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit

Some families who have no recourse to public funds may also be eligible under separate government guidance.

Please note that you must apply for Free School Meals, and your eligibility must be checked and confirmed by the school or local authority before your child can receive them.

What are the two types of Free School Meals?

From September 2026, there will be two categories of Free School Meals for families receiving Universal Credit.

1. Targeted Free School Meals

These are for children whose household receives Universal Credit and has annual earnings of £7,400 or less (excluding benefits).

Children eligible under this category may also qualify for additional support, including:

- Pupil Premium funding for their school
- The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme
- Additional help with school travel costs, where eligible

2. Expanded Free School Meals

These are for children whose household receives Universal Credit but has annual earnings of more than £7,400.

Children eligible under this category will receive Free School Meals but will not automatically qualify for the additional support available through the Targeted FSM category.

If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please contact the school office or click the link below to apply.

https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims

The Poppy Appeal

We are supporting the Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal again this year. After half term, School Council members will sell poppies and other items in the Activity Room during morning break. From Monday 2nd November to Tuesday 10th November, children are welcome to bring some small change if they would like to support this important cause.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 4th November	1:30pm	Prospective Parent Tours – Reception 2027
Tuesday 10th November	3:30pm–6:30pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 11th November	3:30pm–6:30pm	Parents' Evening
Thursday 12th November	3:00pm–4:30pm	Nursery Parents' Evening
Friday 20th November	10:00am	Nursery Open Morning
Friday 27th November	9:30am & 10:30am	Prospective Parent Tours – Reception 2027

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 8th December	2:30pm	Reception Christmas Performance
Wednesday 9th December	9:15am	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Performance
Thursday 10th December	2:15pm	Years 1 & 2 Christmas Performance
Tuesday 15th December	10:00am	Christmas Service at St Peter & St Paul's Church
Wednesday 16th December	All day	Years 1 & 2 trip to The Stables – The Gruffalo
Thursday 17th December	2:15pm	Nursery Christmas Songs
Friday 18th December	All afternoon	Christmas parties

And Finally…

Thank you for all your support this half term. We are very proud of our children and grateful to our families for being such an important part of Cedars.

Have a lovely half-term break! We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November 2026.

Warm wishes,

Mrs Goldsmith