Newsletter

CEDAR PARK SCHOOL

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Welcome to the Spring term

Welcome back to what has already been a busy and exciting start to the Spring term. Over the first two weeks, classes have been immersed in creative writing hooks designed to spark curiosity and enthusiasm for the new books they will be reading this term. We have had surprise visitors searching for their missing cats, mysterious scrolls flying into school, escape room style clues to solve in order to find keys and crack codes on backpacks, and even strange aliens landing in ponds. It has been a fantastic way to capture children's imaginations and enthusiasm for learning. The class pages have been updated with knowledge organisers, curriculum overview and other helpful learning resources.

Key dates

Week of 19th Jan - netball, scrapbooking and Stay and Play clubs begin this week

20th Jan - Govenors meeting
20th Jan - EYFS maths workshop
27th Jan - Year R and 6 NHS Height and Weight clinic (in school)
30th Jan - Year 5 geography walk

Cake Sale

There will be a bake sale after school today in the school hall. There will be cakes, cupcakes and donuts on sale for a donation. All proceeds will be donated to the RSPCA. Well done year 6 girls for organising this.

Wellies

Children are loving having their wellies in school so they can access the field and sandpit. If you haven't yet sent a pair in, please do!



Thank you

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated following the Nursery flooding. We have been truly overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown by our school community. Your support will make a real difference as we replace damaged resources and restore the learning environment for our youngest children. There is still time to donate for anyone who would like to contribute, and we are extremely grateful for every donation received.

INSET day

Our recent INSET day was a valuable opportunity for staff to upskill and reflect on practice. Teachers spent time learning about the latest OPAL developments, strengthening our understanding of cyber security, and sharing best practice to support children across the school. These days are vital in ensuring we continue to provide a safe, engaging and high quality learning experience for all pupils.



Parent Voice Survey Results Special assemblies

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the recent Parent Voice survey. We are pleased to share that 76 percent of parents are happy with the current performance schedule, and 81 percent believe that their child should perform at Christmas. This suggests there is no strong need for change at this time. In addition, 51 percent of parents would like to see the Harvest Assembly continue. We appreciate your honest feedback and will use it to inform future planning.

Provision Map Meetings

Provision map meetings have been taking place to ensure the right support is in place for some children, with a strong focus on equity for all learners. These meetings help us carefully plan and review targeted support so every child has the opportunity to succeed. A huge thank you to our teachers and to Mrs Harper for the time, care and commitment shown in developing and reviewing these provision maps.

Math workshops

Thank you to all parents who attended the Power Maths workshop on Wednesday, and to Mrs Franklin for leading such an informative session. We hope parents found it useful in understanding how maths is taught in school and how learning can be supported at home. Further information about maths resources can be found on your child's class page. Please also remember that the EYFS maths workshop will be taking place next Tuesday and we look forward to welcoming families to that session.

Nursery

Over the next two weeks, Nursery will be exploring emergency services in Understanding the World, with a focus on the fire service, as well as learning about machines and mechanisms. In PSED, the children will begin the Jigsaw Dreams and Goals unit, learning about challenges, perseverance and setting simple goals. Our focus book will be Barn on Fire by Usborne, supporting Communication and Language, and in Expressive Arts and Design we will be learning and enjoying songs about different transport vehicles.

Reception

Reception have been retelling the story of Juniper Jupiter, bringing the story to life with their own words and ideas. In Maths, they are comparing numbers within 10, using vocabulary such as more than, less than, and fewer. In PSED, the children have been exploring the theme of appreciation, learning to recognise and value the people and things around them.

Year 1

In English, the children will be learning and practising the rules for adding s or es to make plurals. In Maths, they will be comparing and ordering numbers to 20. Our Geography learning will focus on naming and locating the seas and oceans surrounding the UK, as well as identifying the four countries that make up the United Kingdom.

Year 2

Year 2 will be planning their stories in English while continuing to build their understanding of suffixes. In Maths, the children will be comparing different amounts of money. In Science, they will be discussing and investigating which materials are best suited for making a bridge.

Year 3

Year 3 will be practising their multiplication skills in Maths, continuing to use Times Tables Rock Stars to build fluency. In English, the children will be writing a setting description inspired by the book Rhythm of the Rain. In Art, they will be exploring the work of Hannah Raye and Alice Kettle as they prepare to create their own textile art.

Year 4

Year 4 will be developing their multiplication skills in Maths by solving two-digit by one-digit and three-digit by one-digit problems using their times tables, with a continued focus on recapping all times tables and securing the 7 and 8 times tables. In English, the children will be writing their first myth narrative based on Arthur and the Golden Rope, focusing on using fronted adverbials and abstract noun phrases, as well as editing their work for capital letters and commas after fronted adverbials. In Geography, they will be learning about volcanoes, rivers and earthquakes.

Year 5

In Maths, the children will be developing their multiplication and division skills, focusing on four-digit by two-digit calculations and solving related word problems. In English, they will be writing a cliffhanger narrative inspired by Sherlock Holmes. In Music, the children will be learning to play Make You Feel My Love by Adele on a range of instruments.

Year 6

In Maths, the children will be using scale factors, applying them to scale drawings, and beginning to explore algebra. In English, they will be writing a discovery narrative with a focus on using punctuation to join independent clauses. In Computing, the children will be learning how to use and change variables in games, working towards designing and creating their own games using Scratch.















School core behaviours achievements!

We will continue to celebrate our school's core behaviours, recognising and rewarding pupils and staff who demonstrate Compassion, co-operation, courage, passion, perserveance or respect.



Rosie noticed that a friend was feeling upset at lunchtime and showed true compassion by moving to sit with her. She listened carefully, offered kind words, and helped her friend feel supported and valued. Her thoughtful and caring actions demonstrated empathy and kindness, which is why Rosie has been awarded the Compassion recognition.



Mrs Iyer receives the perseverance mention this week for an incredible personal achievement. She has overcome a long held fear of water and, through determination and commitment, has recently become a qualified PADI diver while in Egypt. This is a wonderful example of resilience and courage, showing our children that with perseverance it is possible to overcome challenges and achieve something truly remarkable.



Thank you to Jenson who was so helpful and demonstrated a lot of respect this morning as he saw Mrs Collins was (happily!) overwhelmed with the number of cakes we had received - he very kindly offered to help younger children walk to and from the cooking room to deliver their cakes. Thank you Jenson!



The Year 6 girls have shown outstanding passion by taking the initiative to organise a cake sale to raise funds for the RSPCA. From planning and promoting the event to working together on the day, they demonstrated commitment, teamwork and a genuine desire to make a positive difference. Their enthusiasm and determination to support an important cause is something to be very proud of and a fantastic example to our whole school community.



Year 3 and Year 4 have been showing great courage during their swimming lessons. Many children are challenging themselves to try new strokes, and overcome any nerves in the water. Well done all!



We would like to say a big well done to our new MITPS, who have been working with children across the whole school. They have been supporting their peers with friendship issues and general disagreements, helping to promote positive relationships and calm problem solving. Their willingness to help others and take pride in their role has already made a positive impact on our school community.

Governor Spotlight

We are excited to introduce our new Governor Spotlight, a chance to celebrate the incredible work that our governors do to support the school. Governors play a vital role as a critical friend, offering guidance, challenge, and support to help ensure the school continues to provide the best education for our children. In this second spotlight, we are featuring one of our co-chairs, Becky Benning, who will share a little about their role and the important work they do behind the scenes to help shape the future of our school.



What inspired you to become a school governor, and what part of the role means the most to you?

Back in 2021 I noticed the school was looking for new governors. I was curious about the role, and with both my children having started at Cedar Park, it seemed like a great way to support the school, its parents, and try to give something back.

Which area of school life are you most passionate about supporting i.e. curriculum, safeguarding, wellbeing, community links, other?

Safeguarding is an area I'm particularly passionate about in my governor role. The school has built a strong culture of safeguarding, and I'm glad to support and contribute to that work where I can.

If you could describe Cedar Park School in three words, what would they be?

Supportive, encouraging, friendly

What's one thing you've learned about schools since becoming a governor that surprised you?

What's surprised me most is the day-to-day reality schools are facing — tight budgets, growing needs and constant challenges. Seeing this from a governor's perspective has given me a real appreciation of how much work goes on behind the scenes.

What do you enjoy doing outside of your governor duties?

If I'm not working, you'll often find me stomping around the fields near the school with my dogs. I love a good book — The Names was my latest read — and a good film too. I Swear was really moving.

And finally - a genie grants you the wish to do whatever you want for one whole day.....what are you up to?

My first thought, if I'm being honest, is one more day with my granny. On a lighter note, with this weather, I'd happily be on a warm, sunny island.