Newsletter

CEDAR PARK SCHOOL

Issue No. 22 I 19th December 2025



Nativity season

It was truly wonderful to see all the nativities and concerts across the school—what a joyful way to celebrate the season! Well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm, and a huge thank you to the staff for their dedication in bringing each performance to life. We are also very grateful to parents and friends for coming along to support and cheer the children on, and a special thanks to the PTA for providing drinks and helping with fundraising, adding even more festive cheer to the events. This newsletter is a bumber newsletter full of information about what the school has been up to, a message from Mr Redman, a new Governor splotlight and more.

Key dates

6th Jan - INSET day
7th Jan - Welcome back!
8th Jan - Year 3 and 4 start swimming
8th Jan and 12th Jan - Provision map meetings (No Doodle)
16th Jan - Year 6 Bake Sale

Driving

This is a friendly reminder to all families who use Breakfast Club. Please ensure that you park on the road and do not drive down the school driveway. This helps keep everyone safe, as there are children walking on site, and also allows staff arriving for the school day to access parking without difficulty or the need to reverse along the driveway.Thank you.

Bake Sale

Please see the attached poster about the Bake Sale proudly organised by some year 6 girls.

Year 6 bake sale

Our Year 6 pupils are excited to be organising a Bake Sale! This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their entrepreneurial skills while raising funds. Please see the separate poster for full details. Cakes should be brought in with a list of ingredients, and they will be available for sale after school on Tuesday 16th January. We look forward to seeing all the delicious treats and hope everyone enjoys supporting this event!

Named Shoes

We are thrilled that children have easy access to their wellies for field play and outdoor learning, which has been wonderful to see. However, we have noticed that some school shoes are not clearly named, which can make it tricky for children to find them. Please take a moment to label all school shoes so your child can easily identify their belongings and avoid any mix-ups. Thank you for helping us keep everything organised.

Welcome back Mr Smith

We are delighted to announce that Mr Smith will be returning during the first week of January! His return is warmly welcomed by staff and pupils alike. A big thank you goes to Miss Mason for all her dedication and hard work with Year 3 this term. She has done a wonderful job, and the children will benefit from a smooth handover so that they can continue to thrive in their learning as the new term begins.

Do you work in Medical AI?

We received a comment on our recent tech survey from a parent mentioning medical AI, and we would love to hear more about your thoughts. Did you leave this comment? If so, we'd really appreciate the opportunity to discuss it with you further. Please contact the school office. Thank you!

Christmas Fayre

A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Fayre – an amazing £4,163 was raised! This could not have been achieved without the dedication of our volunteers, the participation of our children, and the support of friends and family. The Friends of the School will be holding their AGM in January, and everyone is welcome to join and hear about how the funds raised will be spent to support and enrich the children's learning experiences in the school.



End of year message from Mr Redman

Dear Cedar Park Families,

I love the Christmas period in school. It always feels exciting and there is a sense that something magical is around the corner every day. I have been treated to three wonderful Christmas performances that remind me that our children are confident, courageous and inspirational. It also reflects the hard work that the staff put in all year round.

Aside from performances, 2025 has been a great year. We equalled our best ever Year 1 phonics attainment- this means that children move into Year 2 with the best possible chance to be fluent readers. We are so happy with our Supersonic approach to phonics and I'd like to thank all of the staff that work across the infants, who enable children to make such good progress. The older children also did us proud before moving onto Year 7. 80% of the cohort achieved a combined pass in reading, writing and maths, which is significantly above the national average and maintains our position in the top 10% of Buckinghamshire schools. The work that goes in from Nursery to Year 6 and our terrific curriculum offer enable children to perform well in their national examinations.

On the sporting field, we had many great moments. The Year 5 football team, now in Year 6, reached the district cup final, narrowly missing out on the gold medal. We have also started to build girls football teams and have played three fixtures since summer term. We hope to give the girls more opportunities moving forward. In the pool, we took the gold in the Wycombe Swimming Gala- more evidence that the pool facility we have enriches the children's opportunities. Most recently, we have created new tag rugby and netball teams, with both playing their opening fixture in autumn term. We look forward to these teams playing more in the spring term.

Our enrichment offer continues to be outstanding, with numerous clubs and special learning events available to attend. We also had a re-launch of our trips and visits offer, ensuring that children access engaging and life-long learning experiences. Children tell us they have loved their trips or the special guests that have come in to do workshops. The revamped British Values Award incorporates community work- whether it be singing at care home, helping at the local Co-Op, litter picking or decorating areas of Widmer End Fields, children have had great fun and been proud of the value they have added to the local community.

Our PTA continue to be the best fundraisers I have ever worked with. I have been doing tours recently with prospective parents and it is only when you walk around, talking about the school's facilities do you realise just how much the PTA have made things possible for us. The summer and Christmas fayres raised thousands of pounds this year and I'd like to thank the co-chairs and all of the people that have helped at the numerous events they have put on

End of year message from Mr Redman cont...

One thing we could not have done without the PTA is the start of our OPAL journey. In 12 months, the landscape has changed significantly:
We can access the field all year round thanks to wellies being on the racks
We have a den building zone for those that like construction
The mud kitchen is great for those that love messy play
The sandpit (our most recent feature to open) is hugely popular
As a head, I'm pleased to see children having so much fun during the lunch hour, but I'm also astonished by the reduction in first aid and behaviour incidents. I am excited to see what year two of OPAL brings.

Governors have supported the OPAL as well as all of the other school improvement initiatives that the school have introduced in 2025. The governors are great critical friends, providing me with support and challenge that enables the school to move in the right direction. They are often unseen by children and parents, but their work is pivotal, so we thank them for their continued time and dedication to the school.

I'll end with a thank you to the staff. They work tirelessly throughout the year to make sure the children are safe, progressing with their learning and happy. It was lovely to have so many nominated at the 2025 Buckinghamshire Teaching Awards. But we don't need awards to know that they are amazing at what they do and put the children at the heart of everything. Well done the Cedar Park Team!

I hope that you all have a lovely festive period, spending it with the people you love. If you are like me, you will eat too much, watch a bit of darts and make a promise to get healthy from 1st January. Have fun, whatever you are doing over Christmas and new year. I'll see you in January

L Redman



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 first spotlight, we are featuring one of our co-chairs, Neil Maddock, 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?

I had just moved onto Cedar Park estate because we wanted to be at Cedar Park School and my eldest of three daughters had just started at Cedar Park so I knew my children were going to be at the school for the next 10 years, so felt it would be good to give back to the community and be involved with the school my children would be at.

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

There is no one particular passion, I suppose the overriding principal of my decisions is what do the children benefit from a certain decision. Is the decision made in their best interest

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

Cedar Park school is a warm, friendly community

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

A school doesn't just need good management and good teachers, parent involvement and the greater school community is what can make a good school special. Cedar Park has that and it shouldn't be forgotten or taken for granted

What do you enjoy doing outside of your governor duties?

Anything outdoors, I enjoy being on the water or up a mountain

And finally... any special plans for Christmas this year?

Going to Norway to be up a mountain!

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.



Niya showed compassion when she noticed another child did not have anyone to play with. She kindly invited them to join her game, helping them to feel included and happy.



We are incredibly proud of all our children and staff for persevering and giving their very best throughout what has been a long and demanding term. Their hard work, resilience and commitment have not gone unnoticed, and we would like to thank everyone for their continued effort, positivity and determination right through to the end.



Rudransh showed respect to his class friends when he helped them with their math work when they needed a bit more support.



Our children are showing real passion for learning as they engage with TTRS, Doodle, Nessy, Numbots and other online learning platforms. Their enthusiasm and commitment to practising their skills independently is fantastic to see, and it is helping them make great progress across different areas of their learning.



We have had lots of children take part in ballet exams, music exams and sports trials, and we are incredibly proud of every one of them. They have shown great courage in challenging themselves and putting their skills to the test, demonstrating determination and confidence both in and out of school.



The Year 6 monitors showed excellent cooperation while clearing out the OPAL sheds, working together to organise and sort the equipment so it is easily accessible and ready for the new year. Their teamwork, responsibility and positive attitude were a real credit to them and have made a valuable contribution to improving our play provision.

Nursery

In the first two weeks of January, the children will be exploring a range of exciting activities across the curriculum. In PE, they will be developing their skills through gymnastics. In Communication, Language, and Understanding the World, the focus will be on air travel, with the story The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers supporting their learning and sparking discussion. In Maths, the children will be working on the composition of the number three, building their understanding of how numbers can be made in different ways. In Phonics, they will continue with Aspect 3, focusing on general sound discrimination through fun body percussion activities.

Reception

When Reception return in January, we will be enjoying the story Juniper Jupiter by Lizzie Stewart in Literacy, using it to explore friendship, heroes and valuing what we already have. In Maths, the children will be developing their number knowledge by exploring numbers to 10. In PE, we will be focusing on gymnastics, helping the children build strength, balance and confidence through a range of movements.

Year 1

In English, Year 1 will be starting a new Read to Write book, Hermelin, where the children will learn to use noun phrases with adjectives, explore the prefix un– to change word meanings, and continue to practise using capital letters and full stops correctly. In Maths, our focus will be numbers to 20, including counting using tens and ones, finding one more and one less, and comparing and ordering numbers. In Geography, the children will learn that the UK is in Europe, name the four countries of the UK, and label the surrounding seas and oceans such as the North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, Irish Sea and English Channel.

Year 2

When we return in January, the children will be continuing to develop their diary writing skills in Writing. In Maths, they will be exploring lines of symmetry and creating repeating patterns using shapes. In Computing, the children will be learning to programme robots, building their confidence with sequencing and problem-solving skills.

Year 3

In year 3 we have been completing our information reports on foxes in English and have discovered lots of fascinating new facts! In Maths, we have finished our multiplication unit—well done! Keep up your TTRS practice to keep your skills sharp. In DT, our packaging project is complete, and the finished products are ready to be gifted for Christmas—what a fantastic effort!

Year 4

In January, Year 4 will be developing their writing skills by creating a narrative inspired by Arthur and the Golden Rope, focusing on characters, settings and exciting plot development. In Maths, they will be learning about factor pairs as well as practising multiplication and division by 10 and 100, linking related facts to strengthen their understanding. In Science, the children will be exploring living things and their habitats, learning how animals are classified and how different adaptations help them survive.

Year 5

When we return in January, the children will be working on writing cliffhanger narratives in English, learning how to build suspense in their stories. In Maths, they will be practising multiplication using the grid method and division using the bus stop method. In Geography, the focus will be on a local study of Hazlemere and the surrounding areas, exploring key features and landmarks in our community.

Year 6

When we return in January, the children will be exploring ratio and proportion in Maths, including working with scale factors. In English, they will be writing a discovery narrative inspired by Charles Darwin's amazing discoveries. In Science, the focus will be on how to look after our environment, including learning about climate change and ways to live more sustainably.









