Newsletter

CEDAR PARK SCHOOL

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Welcome to the new school year. A message from Mr Redman

Welcome back to a brand new school year at Cedar Park School and Nursery! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. We're looking forward to an exciting year ahead, full of new learning, growth, and memorable moments. A warm welcome to all the new children and staff joining us this term – we're so pleased to have you and hope you quickly feel part of the Cedar Park family. This year, we're excited to be expanding our OPAL playground, giving children even more opportunities for creative and active play. We'll continue to celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school, and remain fully committed to ensuring every child is happy, safe, successful and thriving. Our doors are always open, and while many of you had the chance to meet the teacher earlier this week, please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything we can do to support you or your children.

Key dates

15th - 19th Sept - Bikeability week (year 5 only)
15th Sept - Doodle and Nessy begin
18th Sept - River Dart talk for year 5 parents
22nd Sept - Head pupil assembly
25th Sept - Head pupil election
25th Sept - Provision map meetings (no Doodle)

House points

At Cedar Park, children can earn house points by showing our school behaviours every day. These points add up over the term and go towards their house total. The house with the most points at the end of term wins a special non-uniform day!

Earrings

Please may we remind all families that if your child's ear/s are pierced please ensure they only wear stud earrings (no hoops). On PE and swimming days please remove their earrings at home. We will need to cover them with medical tape if they are not removed. Thank you for your support with this.

OPAL updates

We hope your children have already been buzzing with excitement about all the new additions to playtime fun! This is all part of our work with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), a programme that helps schools create richer, more enjoyable play experiences for children. Whether it's exploring the library during break, getting stuck into the sandpit (which will be opening very soon!), building dens, playing football or enjoying a wide range of ball games, there's something for everyone to enjoy. As the weather begins to cool, we're making sure the fun doesn't stop – the field will remain open for play, so all children will need a pair of wellies to keep them dry and comfortable. We'll be in touch again soon with more details about sending wellies in.

Bikeability for year 5

Year 5 will be starting their Bikeability course next week – an exciting opportunity for children to learn how to cycle safely and confidently on the roads. Bikeability is the modern version of cycling proficiency and is run by trained instructors who will guide the children through essential skills, from basic bike control to safe road awareness. During this time, we kindly ask that children do not bring in their own bikes or scooters, as the bike shed will be in constant use with lots of activity. We want to make sure everyone's wheels stay safe and don't get knocked or damaged and there remains space for 25+ bicylces.

Open morning and evening sessions

We're looking forward to welcoming prospective families to our Open Days on the 14th and 16th of October. If you have friends or neighbours who are looking for a school place for a 2026 start in Nursery, Reception, or any other year group, please do spread the word! Visitors will have the opportunity to meet Mr Redman and enjoy a guided tour of the school to see all the wonderful learning and opportunities happening at Cedar Park.

INSET days

Before the children returned, our staff team had the opportunity to come together for INSET training days. These were a valuable chance to learn about new curriculum initiatives, refresh our safeguarding knowledge, and update key aspects of our practice. It was a great start to the year and ensured we were fully prepared and excited to welcome your children back into school on Thursday.

Nut and egg free school

Just a quick note that we are a nut- and egg-free school to help keep everyone safe. If your child has a nutty snack at pick-up time, please save it for when you've left the school grounds. Whole eggs aren't allowed on site, but cakes and other baked treats made with eggs are absolutely fine. Thank you so much for your support!

Library update

We are delighted to share that our school library is beginning to go online, thanks to the introduction of Libresoft, a modern library management system. Libresoft makes it easy for pupils to browse our collection, check book availability, and leave reviews of titles, helping them to develop independence and a love of reading. Over the summer, more than 3,000 titles have been catalogued, including over 120 dyslexia-friendly books, ensuring our library is more accessible than ever. Thanks to the PTA's generous donation, we have also been able to purchase a wide range of exciting new books, including 50 recommended reads for each class, an inspiring new selection of non-fiction, and some brand-new releases. This investment not only enhances the library experience for every child but also supports a vibrant culture of reading across our school. We are so grateful to the PTA for making this possible.

Some fun in the sun!













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.



Oliver in year 5 demonstrated compassion towards younger year groups who were unsure of the rules for the den making area. Oliver took his time to welcome them in and explain how it works so that all the children enjoyed the den area and made a fantastic fort together!



This week we'd like to recognise Milana who has shown great perseverance in her learning. Even when tasks felt tricky, she kept trying, asked for help when needed, and didn't give up until she made progress. A brilliant example of resilience and determination.



Alana in Year 5 consistently shows great respect towards her classmates and staff across the school. Whether it's including others in games or thoughtfully stepping aside to let a visitor pass through the door, Alana demonstrates kindness and consideration every day. Well done, Alana – your positive attitude is always noticed and very much appreciated!



There was bumper number of children who trialed for the year 5 and year 6 football team - what a passion they have for the sport! Well done to you all.



Olive in Nursery has demonstrated courage throughout this week and we couldn't be prouder. Well done Olive, keep it up!



Our midday team have shown fantastic teamwork as we welcomed a new lunchtime provider. With lots of new processes to learn and adjust to, they have worked together brilliantly to make sure everything runs smoothly so that the children are happy and well fed. A big thank you to them all for their hard work and commitment!