

Notable Dates

Mon 28th Sept—Thurs 1st Oct
Year 5 Bikeability

Tues 29th Sept - Cedars
Anniversary Picnic

Thurs 1st Oct - Break the
Rules Day

Mon 5th Oct - Year 1 Local
Walk

Mon 5th—Thurs 8th Oct—
Year 5 Bikeability

Fri 16th Oct—TT Rockstars
Day

Tues 20th Oct -
Parent Forum 9am

Thurs 22nd Oct -
Parent Forum 6pm

26th—30th Oct - Half Term

Tues 3rd Nov - Parent
Consultations 3.30—6pm

Wed 4th Nov - KS1 Phonics
Workshop

Thurs 5th Nov— Parent
Consultation 3.30—6pm

Fri 27th Nov - PD Day

Lunch Menu w /c 28th September

Monday—
Savoury Rice

Tuesday
20th Anniversary Picnic
Cheese/Ham/Tuna Roll
(No Hot lunches)

Wednesday
Roast Beef

Thursday
Break the Rules Day
Burger & Chips followed
by a Ring Donut

Friday
Fish & Chips

*Jacket Potatoes available
daily (except Tuesday)*

No Nuts

We are a nut
free school!



Cedars Park Primary School School Newsletter

Friday, 25th September 2026

Happy 20th Anniversary Cedars Park!

Our special picnic lunch to mark the 20th anniversary since the school opened is just around the corner—and it looks as though the weather may be kind to us after all!

Please find key details about the picnic lunch on **Tuesday 29th September** below:

- Parents will be welcomed onto the school field via the side gate (next to the community centre) at 12pm.
- We ask parents to bring a picnic blanket/chairs so that they are comfortable eating their lunch on the school field. **Please remember that we are a nut free and allergy aware school.**
- All children will be offered a picnic lunch—there will be no hot dinners served on this day, including jacket potatoes. Instead, the children will have the option of a cheese, tuna or ham roll, along with fruit and other items in a packed lunch. There will also be a special treat included for this day only!
- Children will come out with their lunches and eat in zoned areas in their year groups with their parents.
- If you have more than one child at the school, we ask you to make your way over to your youngest child's year group area on the field—your other children will come and join you there.
- There will be time for the choir to perform as well as the school around 12:45pm.
- Lunch usually ends at 1pm, however we know that it may overrun on this day. We will ask parents to leave the school site, via the side gate, once the children are ready to return to their classrooms for the afternoon session.
- Parents will be permitted to use the toilets in the porta cabins; children will visit their toilets in the normal way in school. We ask parents not to enter the main school building without first checking with a member of staff.
- The PTA will also be on hand to sell refreshments to parents and carers, too.



We all continue to keep our fingers crossed for a dry day so that we can celebrate this occasion together.

If you have any further questions regarding the picnic, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Staff News

Congratulations to Mrs Adams who gave birth last weekend to her second baby girl. We wish Mr and Mrs Adams the very best as they enjoy this time together as a family of four!



Parking

Please remember that the bay parking spaces outside Cedrus House are only for use by the care home's visitors and staff.

Please also be aware that the residential car park on Pintail Road must not be used at drop off or pick up times—unless you are a resident.

The car park in the community centre can be used in the mornings so that we can continue a harmonious relationship with our local community and neighbours.



Behaviour in the Community

We have received reports of inappropriate behaviour observed by some of our pupils at the Big Park. Pupils, wearing our school uniform, were heard to be using derogatory language, including racist language, which understandably was upsetting for a number of parents and children who were also at the park. Race is a protected characteristic; we teach the children to be respectful and inclusive. We ask parents to join us in this pursuit, particularly in the wider school community.

TT Rockstars

On **Friday 16th October**, we will be holding a Times Tables Rockstars Day—please help your child come to school in their best Rock Star get ups!

Over the coming weeks, your child's teacher will be looking for who can represent the class as TT Rockstar Ambassadors! This will come with lots of exciting opportunities but their main role will be to encourage their class in battles and engagement.

They will be our go to pupils for anything times tables related!

Please encourage your child to put themselves forwards for consideration, if they are interested!



Breakfast Club Doorbell

Did you know our Breakfast Club starts at 7:30am?

When you arrive, please ring the doorbell to the right of the door—a member of the team will then meet you at the door to check your child in.



Reporting Pupil Absence

If your child is too unwell to attend school, we ask you to report this using the school telephone number or send in an email to the office on each day of absence.



Please remember to report your child's **symptoms**—simply stating they are 'ill' or 'unwell' is not enough information.

Below is a useful link to NHS guidance about when to keep your child off school:

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

Parent Forums

Behaviour at Cedars Park, and how we teach, nurture and develop it, is a real focus for us.

Over the last year or so, we have been moving towards a more intentionally therapeutic approach—without lowering our usual high expectations of course.

To hear more, and to have a chance to share your thoughts and ask questions, we will be holding Parent Forums, as below. We hope these will be helpful in keeping parents and carers better informed about why we do what we do.



Tuesday 20th October at 9am

Thursday 22nd October at 6pm

Both sessions will take place in the school hall—we hope to see you there.

KS1 Phonics Workshop

We will be holding a Phonics workshop for our Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) parents and carers on **Wednesday 4th November at 9am** in the school hall.

This will be a great opportunity to see some phonics teaching in action with the children, learning about how we teach letters and sounds to children, as well as how to apply this knowledge to blend for reading and segment for spelling. We'll also share information about the Phonics Screening Check, and what this looks like for your child.

Most importantly, you'll find out how to help your child at home too.

We hope you can make it!



Year 6 Bawdsey Manor



Many of our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic three-day residential trip to Bawdsey Manor last week.

The children embraced a wide range of exciting activities and challenges, showing great courage, teamwork and resilience throughout. It was wonderful to see them supporting one another, trying new things and growing in confidence as the trip progressed. A brilliant few days were had by all, creating lots of happy memories that the children will treasure!



Cedars Stars



Reception Remi R Leo H	Year 1 Archie B Tilly S	Year 2 Arlo C Frankie C
Year 3 Toby L Darcey W	Year 4 Bobby L Harry H	Year 5 Stanley TW Israel K
Year 6 Alice S & Naomi MC		

Each week, teachers choose a child in their class who has really stood out that week for following our school rules (The Cedars ABC) or showing our school values (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication).

Well done to this week's Cedars Stars!

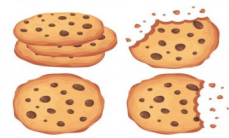


Class Cookies

Attendance at Cedars Park is a real strength.

Each week, we celebrate the class that has the highest attendance—the children each get a cookie as a treat!

Well done to **Cormorant class in Year 5** for having the highest attendance this week.



Attendance

Good attendance to school supports pupils' attainment, progress and well-being.

This week's attendance was as follows:

Reception: 96.98%
Year 1: 96.95%
Year 2: 96.32%
Year 3: 98.94%
Year 4: 98.57%
Year 5: 98.67%
Year 6: 94.53%

Well done to **Year 5** for having the highest attendance this week!



Cedars Park PTA

BREAK the RULES DAY



Rules to be broken include:

1. Must wear school uniform, no football kits allowed
2. Have neat and tidy hair, no hats to be worn
3. No make-up, glitter or tattoos
4. No nail varnish
5. Fill your water bottle with water only

Here's how it works:

When?
Thursday
1st
October



Parentkind
Member Association

Pay 50p for every rule you would like to break!
Funds go to the PTA to help us help your school in creating an amazing learning experience.



Cedars Park
Primary School
NO LIMIT TO LEARNING

"Pupils enjoy attending a vibrant and welcoming school." Ofsted 2023



EYFS open days

We would love to welcome you to our school!

Our open days are on:

5th October - 6pm

7th October - 9:30am

9th November - 9:30am

12th November - 6pm

2nd December - 9:30am

9th December - 9:30am

6th January - 9:30am

Book via the school office on:

01449 778230

admin@cedarspark.net



Feel free to contact us if you are unable to make these dates as we would love to show you around!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

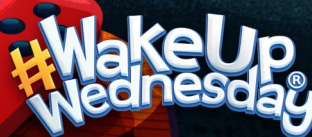
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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