

Notable Dates

Mon 5th Oct - Year 1 Local Walk

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

Mon 12th Oct—Year 5 & 6
Disco 4—5.30pm

Wed 14th Oct—Year 3 & 4
Disco 4—5.30pm

Thurs 15th Oct—Reception
Disco 2.30—3.10pm

Thurs 15th Oct—Year 1 & 2
Disco 3.30—4.30pm

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 5th October

Monday—

Sweet Potato & Chickpea
Curry with Naan

Tuesday

Chicken Noodles with
Prawn Crackers

Wednesday

Roast Chicken

Thursday

Margherita Pizza

Friday

Fish Fingers & Chips

*Jacket Potatoes available
daily*

No Nuts

We are a nut
free school!



Cedars Park Primary School School Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026

20th Anniversary Picnic

Thank you so much to all who attended the picnic on Tuesday. The children had the best time and we know the parents/carers who attended also loved being in school to share their lunch with the children.

With a fantastic performance from the choir, a rendition of our Cedars Park anthem—'Welcome to Cedars Park!' and the glorious sunshine, it was the perfect way to mark the occasion.

We will now collaborate with Art students at Stowupland High School to design and make a mural to mark the school's 20th anniversary—this will be placed on the side of our portacabin. A

huge thank you to our PTA who have agreed to fund this project for the school!

Finally—a note for your diary: following your feedback after the picnic, we have also decided to hold a picnic lunch on Sports Day this year, which will take place on Thursday 27th May 2027!



PTA Discos



Reception—Thursday 15th October 2.30—3.10pm

Year 1 & 2—Thursday 15th October 3.30—4.30pm

Year 3 & 4—Wednesday 14th October 4—5.30pm

Year 5 & 6—Monday 12th October 4—5.30pm

The cost of the school disco is £3.50 per child. This includes:

Entry to the disco

A selection of biscuits

Sugar-free squash or water

A small gift for your child to take home

PTA Break the Rules Day

Yesterday was the hugely popular PTA Break the Rules Day! The children loved wearing nail polish, football kits, dyeing their hair or wearing hats indoors!

Thanks to the PTA for organising this event—we will let you know how much was raised in next weeks newsletter.



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.



Guinness World Record—Reading!

On Thursday 8 October, we will be taking part in a Guinness World Record attempt for the most people reading online in 12 hours. Each class will have an exciting online session with world-renowned authors Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Frank Cottrell-Boyce which will include engaging activities as well as a reading session altogether. At Cedars Park, we love to read and can't wait to do this with thousands of other super readers around the country!

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!

In preparation for our upcoming TTRS day, the children have been asked to create an artistic piece for our very first Hall of Fame display! This needs to be no bigger than A4 and it should celebrate times tables. Mr Johnson will select some from each year group to be put on our display.



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 5 Macmillan Coffee Morning

Well done to Year 5 for hosting this year's Macmillan Coffee morning last Friday!

Thank you to all of our parents, carers and families for coming along and supporting the children in their fundraising.

An enormous **£519.72** was raised on the day—boosted by the impromptu bake sale at the end of the school day!

A great achievement for our pupils who

are proud to have raised so much for such an important charity.



Cedars Stars



Reception Maximus BM Kazim Y	Year 1 Harlee RB Zachary C	Year 2 Olivia B Chloe H
Year 3 Jasmine G Anyia H	Year 4 Lexie C Amelia L	Year 5 Charlotte T Eadie RS
Year 6 Harry H & Dexter K		

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!

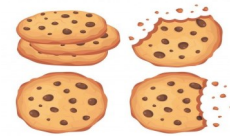


Class Cookies

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 **Dove class** in Year 2, **Swallow class** in Year 3, **Kestrel class** in Year 4 & **Jackdaw class** in Year 6 for having the highest attendance this week of 100%



Attendance

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

This week's attendance was as follows:

Reception: 97.37%

Year 1: 97.12%

Year 2: 98.78%

Year 3: 97.23%

Year 4: 97.76%

Year 5: 96.83%

Year 6: 98.3%

Well done to **Year 2** for having the highest attendance this week!





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

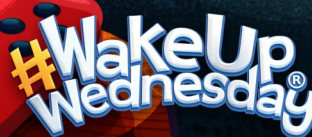
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and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