



# Cedars Park Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 11th October 2024

## Notable Dates

**Mon 14th Oct to Fri 18th Oct**  
Book Fair (open every day after school and during Parents' Evenings)

**Tues 15th Oct**—Second Hand Uniform Sale

**Wed 16th Oct**  
Parents' Consultation evening  
3:30-6pm

**Thur 17th Oct**  
Parents' Consultation Evening  
4:30-7pm

**Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov**  
Half Term

**Tues 19th Nov**—Individual / Sibling photos

**Wed 4th Dec**—Reception Christmas Sing Along

**Tues 10th Dec**—KS1 Christmas Performance 1.30pm & 6pm

**Wed 11th Dec**—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

**Tues 17th Dec**—Year 6 Christmas Market

**Fri 20th Dec**—End of Term

## Lunch Menu w/c 14th October

**Monday**  
Chicken with Gravy & Vegetables or Spicy Bean Burrito

**Tuesday**  
Bolognese & Pasta or Veggie Bolognese

**Wednesday**  
Roast Gammon or Roast Quorn Fillet

**Thursday**  
Sausage or vegan Sausage

**Friday**  
Chicken Burger or Southem Fried Veggie Burger

Jacket Potatoes available every day.

## **Plea to all green-fingered parents/carers/grandparents:**

We are keen to re-instate our raised beds on the school site to widen our curriculum offer to all pupils, and engage the children in the wonders of growing and observing a range of plants.

Each year group will be asked to take responsibility of specific garden areas across the academic year, with the aim of growing a variety of species that match their science curriculum.

As well as our pupils visiting these areas within lessons, we also intend to run a gardening club through the spring and summer months, for those with a more avid interest.

Purchasing compost, seeds, bulbs and plants can be costly. We are therefore asking for any donations from our local community and parents to help us see our plans 'grow.' This term we would really appreciate any spare bulbs or compost to begin our venture.

All donations, however small, would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Miss Burch and Mrs Chapman  
(Science Leaders)



## **Cedars Stars**



Well done to our recent Cedars Stars!



<b>Reception</b> Blue A-H Olivia B	<b>Year 1</b> Thea B Skylar W	<b>Year 2</b> Oscar B Jaxon P
<b>Year 3</b> Leonardo P-S Archie M	<b>Year 4</b> Jack G Nylah K	<b>Year 5</b> Ella M Reuben F
<b>Year 6</b> Betsy A Anthony G		



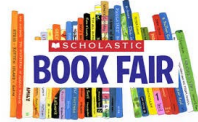
## **Meet the Teachers**

Thank you to all those who could join us this week for our 'Meet the Teachers' sessions.

For those who were unable to make it this time, we will upload the information presented onto the children's Google Classrooms for you to access there.

### Book Fair

- Next week, the Scholastic Book Fair will be back in school.
- You can visit the fair with your child every day after school. In addition, the fair will be open during next week's Parents' Consultation evenings.
- This year, the Fair will be unable to accept card payments. Instead, there will be a QR code available so that parents can pay online, or alternatively, we will be accepting cash.



### Attendance

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

This week's attendance was as follows:

- Reception: 98.36%
- Year 1: 96.61%
- Year 2: 96.69%
- Year 3: 96.54%
- Year 4: 96.68%
- Year 5: 97.64%
- Year 6: 96.22%

Well done to Reception for having the highest attendance!

### Parent Consultations

You will be aware that parent consultations will be taking place on 16.10.24 and 17.10.24—book your appointment on Arbor if you haven't already.

### Class Cookies

Well done to Kittiwake Class in Reception and Swallow Class in Year 3 for having the joint highest attendance this week!



### No Nuts

We are a nut free school!



On Tuesday 15th October at the end of the school day, the PTA will be holding a second hand uniform sale.

They will be located under the gazebo in the playground, and also in the exhibition area.

The cost of the uniform will be 50p per item; both cash and card payments are accepted.

### Second-Hand Uniform Sale

### Important December Diary Dates

We know Christmas isn't for a while yet, but we have had queries around the dates for some key events taking place during the festive season this year.

Please find these below:

Date	Event	For Whom
Wednesday 4th December	Reception Christmas Sing-Along	Reception Parents/Carers
Tuesday 10th December at 1:30 and 6pm	KS1 Christmas Nativity Performance	Year 1 and 2 Parents/Carers
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day	All children and staff
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Dinner Day	All children and staff
Tuesday 17th December	Year 6 Christmas Market	Year 6 Parents/Carers



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure children understand the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school, or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Sources: <https://www.thisishow.co.uk/118/lets-talk-about-socialising-online/group-chats/> | <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>