



Cedars Park Primary School School Newsletter

Friday 29th November 2024

Notable Dates

Mon 2nd Dec at 6pm—Choir performing at Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival

Wed 4th Dec—Reception Christmas Sing Along

Thurs 5th Dec at 10:45am—Choir performing to residents at Cedrus House

Tues 10th Dec at 2:10pm and 6pm—KS1 Christmas Performance

Wed 11th Dec—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Fri 13th Dec—Year 3 Church Trip

Fri 13th Dec—EYFS local walk to postbox (posting letters to Santa)

Mon 16th Dec—Santa Fun Run

Tues 17th Dec—Year 6 Christmas Market

Fri 20th Dec—End of Term

Tue 7th Jan—Children return to school for Spring Term

Lunch Menu w/c 2nd December

Monday
Chicken with Gravy & Vegetables or Spicy Bean Burrito

Tuesday
Bolognese & Pasta or Veggie Bolognese

Wednesday
Roast Gammon or Roast Quorn Fillet

Thursday
Sausage & Mash or Vegan Sausage

Friday
Chicken Burger & Chips or Southern Fried Veggie Burger

Jacket Potatoes available daily

Dear Parents and Carers,

In true Cedars style, it has been a very busy and enriching time for our wonderful pupils at school who returned following the half term break with renewed enthusiasm for learning!

There have been a number of trips that have taken place recently: Year 2 have had visits to the Stowmarket library, where they have strengthened their love of reading and most excitedly, become the owners of their very own library cards.

Year 6 have been immersing themselves in their history learning about World War Two, paying a

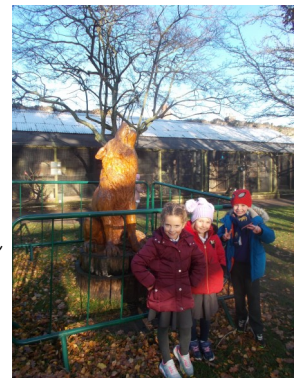


rather chilly but informative visit to Duxford War Museum. The children loved seeing all of the aircraft, boarding Concorde and exploring the exhibits.

Yesterday, Year 1 had a lovely day exploring Bury St Edmunds. They looked for different statues and artwork that helped to tell the story of St Edmund. They also looked at the ruins where St Edmund was initially buried and spent some time drawing the ruins and Cathedral. A wonderful day enriching their geographical

knowledge!

There are more trips planned for later this term as well as the rest of the year. We thank all of our parent helpers, who give up their time to support the staff in ensuring the day is enjoyed by all. Your support is invaluable and very much appreciated!



This month, we welcomed back Mr Massey and his hugely popular Skipping Workshops. The children once again had a great time learning new skills and relished challenging the teachers to head to heads!

It has also been so lovely to see many of our parents and carers with children in Years 3 and 4 in school for their recent sharing assemblies. The children do so love to perform and show off what they have been learning in school. Year 4s particularly impressed us with their developing musicianship as they played their brass and woodwind instruments along with a little help from their music teacher, Mr Taber!

We look forward to welcoming even more parents into school later on this term: the Early Years Christmas Sing-along, the KS1 Christmas Performance of 'Baa, baa, Bethlehem' and the Year 6 Christmas Market are all upcoming events and keenly anticipated!

Our school choir will be performing on Monday 2nd December at St Peter's and St Mary's Church in the annual Christmas Tree Festival. Rehearsals with Mr Cole are coming along beautifully—the children, as always, rise to the occasion and their enthusiasm is truly infectious!

As we say goodbye to November, and welcome December, we can't wait to celebrate the upcoming festive season together with you!

With best wishes for the weekend,

Miss Suhail
Principal



Parking

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

Please also be mindful of parking on the road—be safe, be considerate.

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.

Thank you.



Santa Fun Run

This year's annual Santa Fun Run—a Cedars Park tradition—will be on **Monday 16th December**. This is a non-uniform day in the theme of Christmas—ideally we ask everyone to dress as Santa!

The fun run consists of Christmas-related 'obstacles' for the children to overcome on their way around the school field. A change of shoes is essential on this day as the field is very muddy at this time of year!



No Nuts

We are a nut free school!

Cold Weather

Children must be sent to school wearing a coat and ideally a scarf, woolly hat and gloves as we experience the more wintry weather.

In addition, we kindly ask that children no longer wear shorts to school during this season as we go outside in all weathers and temperatures and wish to protect the children's knees! Black joggers should be worn for PE, where possible.

Thank you for your support with this.



Cedars Stars

Well done to our recent Cedars Stars!

Reception Reginald H-A Summer M	Year 1 Ivy S Corey S	Year 2 Mave W Eva B
Year 3 Tommy S Max W	Year 4 Adam L Samson J	Year 5 Oscar G-J Alfie D-B
Year 6 Phoebe P & Davidking PA		

Children in Need

Thank you for all of your generous donations on Children in Need Day. A fantastic **£293.85** was raised on the day!



Head lice

We have a number of year groups in school being affected by head lice.

Please help us keep these pesky critters away by checking your child's hair regularly, and treating any 'visitors' you may find there!

Thank you.



Changes to Home time Arrangements

Please can we request that parents/carers inform the office about any changes to end of day/pick up arrangements by 12pm on the day.

Whilst we appreciate that there may be emergencies and therefore exceptions to this rule, we politely ask for all planned changes to be reported earlier in order to ensure key messages can be passed onto class in good time.

Thank you for your support with this.



Lost Property

Our Lost Property boxes are getting rather full once again!

Please ensure children's names are on their belongings so that staff can return them to the right child.

Please also do pop in—either at the start or end of the school day—to check the lost property boxes to reclaim items that belong to your child(ren). Thank you.



Attendance

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

This week's attendance was as follows:

Reception: 94.8%
Year 1: 90.2%
Year 2: 95.4%
Year 3: 95.5%
Year 4: 96.1%
Year 5: 98.1%
Year 6: 97.3%

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

Class Cookies



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

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account, their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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