



Cedars Park Primary School School Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

Notable Dates

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

Tue 7th Jan—EYFS Dress as a Superhero Day

Mon 13th Jan at 4—5pm—Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 PTA Disco

Mon 13th Jan at 5:30—6:30pm—Years 5 and 6 PTA Disco

Fri 17th Jan—TT Rockstars Day (Details to Follow)

Mon 20th Jan at 4:30—5:30pm—Years 3 and 4 PTA Disco

Tue 21st Jan—Owl Sanctuary Visiting Year 6 (Details to follow)

Thur 23rd Jan—Year 1 trip to Hollytrees Museum

Mon 3rd February—Year 5 Chocolate Workshop (details to follow)

Mon 3rd February-Friday 7th February—Book Fair in School

Wed 5th February at 3:30—6pm—Parents' Consultation evening

Thursday 6th February at 4:30pm—7pm—Parents' Consultation Evenings

Mon 17th February-Fri 21st Feb—Half term

Lunch Menu w/c 6th January

Monday
Margarita Pizza or Philly Quorn Hotdog

Tuesday
Minced Beef Pasty or Cheese & Onion Pasty

Wednesday
Roast Beef or Roast Quorn Fillet

Thursday
Cajun Chicken Tomato Pasta or Spicy Vegetable Turkish Pide (flat bread)

Friday
Fish Fingers or Spicy Bean Burrito

Jacket Potatoes available daily

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe it is the last day of the Autumn term—whilst it feels like it's all gone past in a blur, it has also been a very long term for all of us!

Amongst the festivities of the run-up to Christmas, children have been enjoying a whole host of wider curriculum days—from computing to art and DT. Here are just some of the highlights!

Year 1 designed and made windmills—the children certainly impressed their teachers with their fantastic use of technical vocabulary; my favourite quote being “my windmill is stable so it doesn't fall over.” Fantastic engineering, Year 1!



Year 2 enjoyed an Art day recently, where they were hard at work creating art inspired by Kandinsky and Anthony Frost. They explored different colours, textures and shapes. Looks like we have some budding artists in Year 2—well done!

Year 3 enjoyed their DT day this week, applying their sewing skills to design and make cushions. They practised the cross stitch and even used applique! Their cushions had a Christmas theme and were creatively designed—well done all. Fantastic resilience from all—especially with those fiddly needles!



Last week, Year 3 also had the opportunity to walk to the local church to enrich their RE learning around 'The true meaning of Christmas'. They were able to walk around and look at the Christmas trees that were on display celebrating the Christmas tree festival. The church warden and the vicar also spoke to the children about the meaning of Christmas and how it is celebrated. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were amazed by the trees within the church. Thank you to our lovely parent volunteers who helped on the day!



At the start of December, our Choir had teamed up with the Choir from Combs Ford Primary, and under Mr Cole's lead, performed a number of Christmas Carols as part of the annual Christmas Tree Festival—what joy they brought to all those listening! Choir members from Years 5 and 6 also paid a visit to our neighbours—the residents at Cedrus House. Again, they continued to spread their Christmas cheer to all who listened and were great representatives for the school.

This week, Year 4 have enjoyed designing and making Christmas-themed biscuits. The children enjoyed working in groups to design their biscuit for a target audience and then produce the eye-catching packaging. The children proudly said that their biscuits were delicious!



Christmas cookies were also being baked elsewhere too; for those children who have earned 20 gold awards already, they had the choice to spend their gold award card on all of the usual rewards on offer (such as Library lunch or Lucky dip) but there was an additional prize on too—seasonal baking with Mr Main! The children had a great time and no doubt next term's seasonal baking will be even more popular!



Speaking of Christmas food—this year's Christmas lunch was simply delicious—thank you to our fantastic catering team for their hard work in preparing a thoroughly enjoyable meal! The children also looked great in their Christmas jumpers!



Children in Reception performed most admirably for their adults at home during their recent Christmas Singalong—they confidently performed a range of songs—from classics like 'Away in a Manger' to more modern pieces such as 'When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney' and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'. It hasn't all been singing for Reception though—they very carefully wrote letters to Santa and made their way to the Post-box, a short walk from school, to post them. How excited they all were when the Postman arrived to take their letters to the North Pole!



Finally, well done to children in Years 1 and 2 who performed 'Baa...Baa...Bethlehem' with great gusto this year for our KS1 nativity. It was great to see so many parents and carers there, encouraging the children.



Well done also to Year 6, for putting on another great Christmas Market for their parents and carers. An enormous £253.29 was raised for the Salvation Army, and the children's rendition of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' was most enjoyable. Thank you again to everybody who came along and supported the children, taking part in the market stalls they had prepared to raise money for a very important cause.

After all the hard work and busy Christmas-related events, I am sure we are all in need of a rest! On behalf of everyone at Cedars Park, I wish all of our children and families a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—and look forward to seeing everyone back in school again on **Tuesday 7th January 2025!**

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Miss Suhail
Principal

HAPPY
Holidays



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.



FA—Equality Award

Our efforts to ensure that our girls have the opportunity to take part in competitive football has been recognised by the Football Association!

The FA have awarded Cedars Park in recognition of our commitment to ensuring that all girls can dream of one day being Lionesses! Thank you to Mr Nurse and Miss Cobbold for championing this commitment on behalf of the school and our pupils!



Cedars Stars



Well done to this week's Cedars Stars!



Reception Amir K Theo B	Year 1 Tillie K Bryony S	Year 2 Olivia-May W Alfie W
Year 3 Leo M Charlie L	Year 4 Amy K Lily O	Year 5 Max C Amelia B
Year 6 Grace B & Olivia W		



TT Rockstars Day

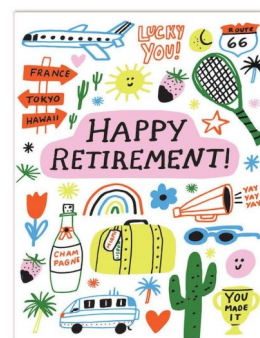
All children in school are invited to dress up as Rockstars for the day on **Friday 20th January 2025**, as we will be holding a special maths-themed week! Further details will follow soon.



Staff News

We say goodbye to our long-standing caretaker, Edd Dearlove, who is beginning his retirement in the new year following 15 years at the school!

We thank Edd for his hard work and commitment to the school, and wish him the very best for his retirement.



A message from the PTA...

We will be meeting in the studio at the school from 5.15/5.30pm to 6.30pm on the following Tuesdays:

4 February, 18 March, 13 May, 10 June and 8 July.

Please do come along and support the PTA – all monies raised are fed back into the school towards trips, projects, new equipment, books etc.

If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to help, please email ptacedarspark@gmail.com.

Thank you, PTA

Reception Dress Up Day

Children in Reception are invited to dress up as Superheroes on **Tuesday 7th January 2025**, as they begin learning their new topic about real life superheroes!



PE Days—Spring Term

Reception: Tuesdays

Year 1: Mondays and Thursdays

Year 2: Wednesdays and Fridays

Year 3: Mondays and Thursdays

Year 4: Mondays (swimming) and Fridays

Year 5: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Year 6: Wednesdays and Fridays



Attendance

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

This week's attendance was as follows:

Reception: 96.5%

Year 1: 96.2%

Year 2: 92%

Year 3: 95%

Year 4: 98.1%

Year 5: 97.3%

Year 6: 96.1%

Well done to **Year 4** for having the highest attendance this week!

Class Cookies



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

Nuthatches have also had the best attendance of all classes this term—this means they have earned a non-uniform day on **Friday 10th January!**

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS



More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES



Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD



Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>