



Cedars Park Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 7th March 2025

Notable Dates

Mon 10th Mar-Fri 14th Mar—Science Week (Details will follow)

Fri 14th Mar—'Wonderdome' Planetarium in School for Year 5

Fri 14th Mar—Non-uniform day in return for donation towards PTA's Easter Chocolate Bingo.

Fri 21st March—Red Nose Day

Wed 26th March—Year 3 Framlingham Castle

Thur 27th Mar at 2:30pm—Year 2 Sharing Assembly

Thurs 27th March—Year 1 Phonics Information Evening 6pm

Sat 29th March—PTA Chocolate Bingo

Thur 3rd Apr at 2:30pm—Year 1 Sharing Assembly

Mon 7th-Mon 21st Apr—Easter Holidays

Tue 22nd Apr—Children return to school for Summer term

Mon 26th—Fri 30th May—Half Term

Fri 20th June—Sports Day

Fri 4th July—Reserve Sports Day

Lunch Menu w/c 10th March

Monday
Margarita Pizza or Sweet & Sour Quorn

Tuesday
Pasta Bolognese or Garlic & Herb Sloppy Joe

Wednesday
Roast Gammon or Roast Vegetable Tart

Thursday
Toad in the hole or Vegetarian Toad in the Hole

Friday
Chicken Dippers or Lentil Moussaka

Jacket Potatoes available daily

Best Wishes, Miss Suhail

Miss Suhail's last day in school will be Monday of next week, as she leaves us to go on Maternity Leave.

Everybody at Cedars Park sends her their best wishes, as she embarks on a new adventure into motherhood!

Miss Suhail has shared a letter today updating parents on staffing—please read this carefully and do get in touch if you have any questions or queries via the school office.



PTA Chocolate Bingo

Next Friday is a non-uniform day for the PTA Chocolate Bingo. A letter with all the details of the event has already been shared with you.

We encourage children to bring in an Easter Egg or other chocolate based item to donate.

This annual event is always very popular and we thank you for supporting the PTA with fundraising for the school.



Red Nose Day 40th Birthday!

On Friday the 21st March, children are encouraged to wear non-uniform for Red Nose Day!

Children can bring in a voluntary contribution of £1 and all of the money raised will be donated by the school to this wonderful charity.

During the day, the children will take part in a Red Nose Day Fun Run which will take place in the school grounds.

This will include being on the school field, so we request that children bring a change of shoes with them so that muddy footwear isn't worn inside.



Class Cookies

Well done to **Nut-hatch Class in Year 5** for having the highest attendance this week.



No Nuts

We are a nut free school.



Cedars Stars

★ Well done to this week's Cedars Stars! ★

Reception Chloe H Airika R	Year 1 Darcey W Damien Q	Year 2 Summer W Thomas G
Year 3 Charlotte T Alabama K	Year 4 Marley C Marko H	Year 5 Gabe B Theo M
Year 6 Alfie M Ruby B		★

Attendance

This week's attendance was as follows:

Reception: 96.17%
Year 1: 95.78%
Year 2: 98.04%
Year 3: 96%
Year 4: 97.92%
Year 5: 99.21%
Year 6: 96.89%

Well done to Year 5 for having the highest attendance!



Considerate Parking

The beginning and end of the school day are busy periods on the roads around the school and parking is limited. We ask that parents are mindful of this and ensure that they remain respectful of all road users, as well as pedestrians, at these times of day.

Please remember that the Community Centre, next door to the school, has a large carpark which is available for parents to use.

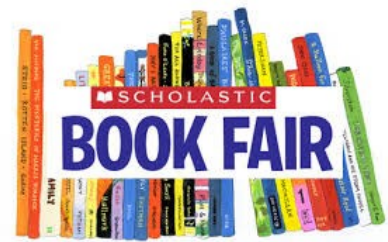


Book Fair Fundraising

It is great to see our children's continued love of reading and this was no better demonstrated than in the money raised from our recent book fair.

We sold an amazing £1609 worth of books, meaning that the school now has £965 of Scholastic points to spend on new titles for our library and classrooms.

Thank you to our parents and carers for their investment in reading for the children; we love being able to expand the broad selection of books on offer in the library and your generosity is allowing us to do that!



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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