



The Cedar School

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Communication – Empowerment – Discovery – Aspiration – Resilience

20th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Amazing Learning at Cedar!

We thought that it would be lovely to share with you all some of the amazing learning which has been happening right across school this term! Each class team has written a review capturing some of their special learning moments! Enjoy!

Red Class



We have been making excellent progress this term in Red Class, particularly in our three main areas. In Personal, Social and Emotional Development children have started to form positive engaging relationships with staff and each other. Children are developing a sense of self, and some are starting to understand different emotions. In the area of Physical Development, we have seen huge progress too.

Some children have learned to feed themselves independently, and others have learned to walk with a frame, and also without, for the first time!

Many Communication and Language targets have been met as children take part in daily 'Shared Attention' and Phase 1 phonics sessions. Children have become more confident in using a range of Makaton signs as well as spoken words. Important dates such as Pancake Day have been celebrated with a range of fun messy activities.



The Cedar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people. It expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to the school to share and embrace this commitment.

Headteacher - Neil Revell

Deputy Headteacher - Cesia Moran

Redbridge Lane, Nursling, Southampton, SO16 0XN
Tel: 02380 734205 Email: info@cedarschool.co.uk



Blue Class

Our literacy text for the first half term has been 'Prince and Knight' and the surprise ending has been a topic for some interesting conversations! The children have been dressing up as characters from the story and this has been a stimulus for working on our handwriting and writing skills.



The focus in Maths has been on consolidating our understanding of place value and ordering in Number and our Wednesday lessons have focussed on this topic through playing games together.

Internet safety, covered through both PSHE and Computing lessons, has enabled us to think about some very simple rules when using technology. We have had fun using different equipment to communicate safely with each other, for example using walkie talkies and WhatsApp on mobile phones for a game of

hide and seek around school, which the children enjoyed very much.



In our Life Skills lessons, pupils have been making a choice each week as to which snack they would like to make and eat, developing their skills in using different technology safely (such as a microwave or a toaster) and learning how to wash up afterwards (I am not sure if this bit was as much fun!).

Yellow Class



In Yellow Class this term, we have been learning poetry including rhyming poems, acrostics and using alliteration.

In design and technology, we looked at the properties of paper, and how we could use paper to package a biscuit safely so that it would make it home in one piece! The children all worked hard to adapt their design to improve it to keep their biscuit

intact. Thank you for your help with their homework for this project!

To begin our 'drugs and medicines' topic in PSHE, we have been sharing medical conditions and disabilities that we have in Yellow Class. It has been really interesting for everybody to learn new things about themselves and others. Thank you to all the adults that have come in to join these lessons and extend our knowledge even further by sharing their own knowledge and/or experiences!



Green Class



Green Class have been learning about Julia Donaldson's play 'Turtle Tug' in English. This is based on a traditional African story and pupils really enjoyed re-enacting the play together. During our weekly Creative sessions, we made our own clay turtles like those in the story. In Maths, we focussed on size and positional words. We used direction words to program Beebots, made tall towers and used positional words to describe where Otis was in the classroom!

In Humanities we learnt all about Stephen Hawking and his discoveries about black holes. In Science we looked at electricity and made our own circuits. We all really enjoyed this, especially when using the really loud buzzers! In RE we learnt about special books, focussing on the Bible and the Qur'an.

In independence sessions we have focussed on cooking and eating skills. We loved this and really improved our cutting skills and cutlery use to prepare and eat different foods including toasties and bread and butter pudding. We learnt a lot about communication and online safety this term, using different methods to talk to each other and making sure we didn't accidentally tell anyone our passwords!



Purple Class

This year, Purple have been thinking outside the box! The first half of the term had a transport theme in which we explored travel on land, sea and air. We did this via sensory stories in which we explored the world via a hot air balloon! But our best sessions involved bicycles in which we made tracks, painting with tyres but best of all was making 'clickers' which rattled as the spokes were turned.

This half term has a sea/nautical theme. Many opportunities for sensory play and discovery. Our most striking success has been through music. Sea themed songs and pieces that truly binds the class together as a cohesive group.

Anticipation, communication, controlled movement and focussed concentration. Music stimulates many areas of the brain and is proving to be very beneficial for the children's learning and their sense of wellbeing.



Emerald Class



What a fun Spring Term Emerald have had! Their learning has been hooked on two texts; 'Macbeth' and 'Animal Farm'. While retelling the stories, they have made witches' potions using items found in the forest and experienced a sensory story of Macbeth, complete with crowns and swords! Emerald class particularly enjoyed the line "Hubble bubble toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble" as it was followed by a particularly nasty witches cackle!



Emerald class delved into some Scottish culture as they made their own Tartan and took part in a Scottish Reel! In the second half of the term they explored all things 'Animal Farm'. The children got busy cleaning and washing the 'animals' ensuring they were well looked after and popped back into their homes. They immersed



themselves into animal sounds and listening to different types of animals and found that a cow mooing was a common favourite in Emerald class! In PSHE, they have been exploring medicines including items like syringes and thermometers to ensure they know items that are used to help look after themselves.



Amber Class

In Amber class this term the children have been developing their independence skills across many areas of the curriculum. As part of their English learning the class has been enhancing their communication skills through focusing on speaking and listening targets. The children have been working hard to follow both two step and three step instructions, with some of the class taking turns in discussions and offering comments in conversations with their peers.



During independence skills Amber class have been learning how to look after their environment by keeping their spaces clean and tidy. This has included choosing the appropriate equipment for the task such as using a Hoover or a dustpan and brush and using them correctly.



Diamond Class



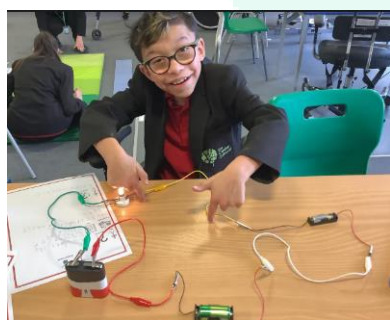
During the Spring term, Diamond class have been enjoying two very different topic texts. In Spring 1 they explored Shaun Tan's wordless graphic novel, 'The Arrival' and the way it depicts a migrant's difficult journey to seek a better life. The class developed writing skills through descriptions of the characters and settings and putting these into accurate sentences. They then created their own wordless stories about a character going on a perilous journey and illustrated these with the same pencil style as Tan. This topic also led them to learn about European landmarks in Geography and the refugee Malala Yousafzai in History.



This half-term has seen Diamond travel to Ancient Athens for the story of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They've been untangling this tale of love, magic and confusion so we can retell it in their own written words, while also tasting Greek foods and role playing a visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre during Humanities - and dissecting flowers in Science. In Maths, the Diamond children have continued their number work alongside estimation, time and measuring length and elsewhere they have focused on teamwork and shopping in Independence, as well as algorithms and using devices in Computing.



Sapphire Class



Last half term, in their Independence sessions, Sapphire class were learning about money and shopping to a budget. They were able to plan and organise a whole school tuckshop. This required making a clear shopping list, visiting a local shop and using their money skills to sell their



items to our school. They even set up a delivery and telephone order service! It was a great success!

This half term, Sapphire class have been exploring the poetry book 'Overheard in a Tower Block' by Joseph Coelho in their English sessions. They have spent some time creating unique pieces of artwork related to the mood that the poem creates, within their Creative Discovery Days.



Sapphire class has also been planning and beginning to write their poems based on their favourite possession or place to visit. They have been using their imagination and high-level vocabulary to include descriptive phrases to create an image in the reader's head. In Science Discovery Days, the class have been using their scientific enquiry skills to conduct

different physics experiments. They were able to think of the question that they would like to answer, and carry out their investigation in small groups. The experiments were fascinating and encouraged all to both set up and record their results.



Ruby Class



This Spring, Ruby class have developed their knowledge and understanding of non-fiction writing in English through exploring informal letter writing to a friend and formal letter writing to apply for a job. The children learned how



to format the different style of letter, found addresses of places and the different language needed for both. Ruby class then explored non-chronological reports, chose a topic they are interested in to gathered information to create their own.

In maths, the children have been extending their learning about shape, movement, fractions and money. The children are really enjoying their Money topic in maths and life skills lessons where they are learning about budgeting, saving and making choices between what they want and what they need. In PSHE and computing the children discussed keeping themselves safe online and used this learning to create a poster that highlights our Cedar rules for internet safety. Their scientific discovery days have been a great opportunity for the children to take the lead with their learning. They chose their own question, equipment lists, measuring apparatus



and recording charts. They have also enjoyed having breakfast club where the children have been working on their independence skills and helping others.



Secondary PE

This Spring term in PE, the Secondary Department have been looking at progressing children's skills in Gymnastics and Volleyball. In Gymnastics, the children have been learning all about the different gymnastics moves. They have looked at 5 key shapes with the Straight, Star, Tuck, Pike and Straddle and looked to combine these shapes together. The children then looked at rolls based on those shapes which allowed the classes to bring their routines to life! The Children put all of their learning together to create a routine to perform in our "Cedar's Strictly Come Gymnastics" competition!



This half term the children in Secondary are swapping the Gymnastics mats for volleyballs! They have been learning different types of shots in Gymnastics including the Dig and the Spike. We have worked in small groups to practice our skills and compete with our classmates in competitions. The



children in secondary then moved on to apply their skills in game-based situations within a Volleyball Court!

As you can read, everyone at Cedar has been rather busy over the last few weeks, enjoying great learning opportunities and making progress! Well done to the children and huge thanks to our wonderful staff team for creating such fabulous learning moments for their classes!

Thank you for your on-going support and encouragement.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Revell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Neil Revell
Headteacher