



The Cedar School

www.cedarschool.co.uk

Communication – Empowerment – Discovery – Aspiration – Resilience

6th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome To 2021-2022

A very warm welcome to the new school year! The whole Cedar team is really looking forward to working with you and your children this year!

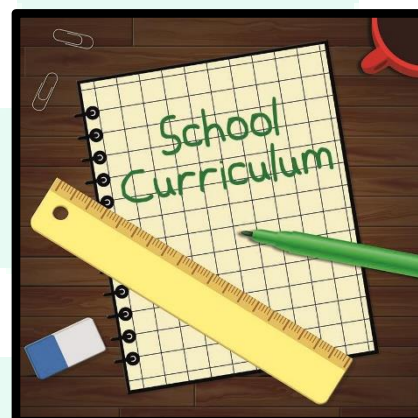
Last Thursday and Friday were staff training days. Every school is required to have a School Improvement Plan in which the school's main areas for development are listed. On the training days, staff were focusing on two of these areas for development, namely:

School Improvement Plan Priority 1:

Implementing and Developing a revised Cedar Curriculum

We are developing the curriculum which we deliver to your child to focus even more on the development of skills which children need to experience/learn. These skills will be explored in the context of different aspects of our curriculum. We will write more to you about our curriculum as we further develop it this year.

We are also prioritising Phonics teaching in all classes across the school as part of a drive to further encourage children's love of literacy, books, reading and communication.



School Improvement Plan Priority 2:

Ensuring that our Learning Environments promote Children's Independence

It is really important that children are as independent as possible. We will be looking at our classrooms and systems to ensure that they are set up in ways which children can access independently wherever possible. Independence is such an important skill for our children to gain.

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

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Another School Improvement Plan priority this year is to ensure that children's love of reading develops ... and we are all ridiculously excited because, on Wednesday, we are having a new-look school library installed/fitted, replacing the current library. Last year children were all involved with helping to plan the design for our new library! We will write soon with photos and further information about the library for you.

Another new feature in school this term are large photographs in our corridors of your children living out our five CEDAR Hopes. These are the Hopes which we have for every child and which run across our curriculum. We have also changed the large wall sign by the school entrance area to capture these five Hopes. A photograph of the new-look sign is below:



So, there are lots of exciting developments happening at school! The most exciting thing of all, for us, though, is having your lovely children back with us and it has been special to see them today. As ever, we are so proud of the way that they settle into school life and we thank you for the huge part which you play in making this happen. Thank you!

COVID-19

I am conscious that I have already referred to several features which it would be so wonderful if you could come into the building and see in person ... but we have decided that it is safest that we continue to be very cautious at the moment while we all await to see the impact of schools returning on the Covid situation.

The government is proposing that schools, largely, return to 'normal' but the government allows schools to make individual choices which are right for their communities. We have, therefore, decided to maintain many of the Covid-19 protection systems which we had in place last term until the Autumn Half-Term Holiday week when we will review the arrangements.

We will not, therefore, return to whole school assemblies at this stage, nor will children all mix together at break times or play times. Rather, combinations of classes are able to mix socially and adults will still wear masks in communal areas. Given the health vulnerabilities of many of our children, we think that this is the safest way to proceed at this stage. There is, though, no longer a requirement for masks to be worn in classrooms at all times.

A copy of our latest Covid-19 Risk Assessment, which gives full details, is within the 'Covid-19' tab on our school website. I ask you, please, to have a look at this and to come back directly to Cesia – cesiamoran@cedarschool.co.uk – if you have any questions or, as ever, any suggestions. Thank you!

One thing which is vital, please, is that parents/carers are contactable throughout a day because, if a child does develop Covid symptoms, it is very important that we can let you know as soon as possible. Please do let Shannon in the school office – info@cedarschool.co.uk – know if your contact details have changed. Thank you!

Huge Congratulations to last year's Year 11!

We were delighted with the Entry Level qualifications which last year's Year 11 achieved when the results of these national assessments were published in August. These great results followed on from the other qualifications which the children achieved last term. It means that every child left us with a qualification and **we could not be prouder of them! Thank you to all of the Cedar staff for supporting and encouraging our young people to such well-deserved successes!**

Former Cedar Pupil Wins Gold at The Paralympics!

Someone who definitely lives out our five CEDAR Hopes is former school pupil, David Smith, now aged 32, who has won Gold in the sport of Boccia at the Tokyo Paralympics. This fifth Paralympic victory makes David the most successful UK athlete in Boccia. WOW!!!

Many of the staff at school were here when David went through Cedar; I cannot begin to fully express how proud they are of his achievements. Congratulations to David ... a true inspiration! We will be talking more about David's success in our whole school assembly this week!



Once again ... welcome to the new school year at Cedar! Together we will make it a great one! Thank you for your continued support!

On behalf of the whole team,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Revell".

Neil Revell
Headteacher