



The Cedars Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 23rd July 2021

End of Year Message

I'm not sure that many of you will be old enough to remember the original TV show 'Open All Hours', but at the end of each day Ronnie Barker would stand and say 'It's been a funny old day', at the end of the day to-day I might well say - 'It's been a funny old year'. This would effectively sum up how I feel about a year that was supposed to be a return to 'normal' in September. We started back then with such high hopes for a year of hard work and learning, but Covid-19 had other ideas and has affected schooling throughout the whole year.

On the bright side, we have been teaching all year, some of the lessons were online, but the staff took up the challenge of trying to provide good education under difficult circumstances. Children have made good academic progress despite the lockdowns, as I look through their English and Mathematics books I can see some excellent work. We were all worried about children's mental health and wellbeing but the children have proved resilient. Despite lockdowns and children having to isolate the school still ended the year with over 92% attendance, remarkable really.

Despite all of the restrictions due to Covid-19 we have also been able to provide the children with some wonderful extra-



curricular experiences. Year 6 went to Bracknell Forest and tried

archery as a part of their activity week, Diamond trips included a mass water fight, a visit by the ice cream van, football and Parkour and several classes have been on trips to local parks.



For those children leaving in Year 6, it has been a pleasure teaching you and all of the staff wish you the very best with your transition to secondary school. We will miss you all!

And for the children returning in September, have a good break and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 6th September.



Uniform Sales

School will be open for uniform sales on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September, 10.-11.00 or 1.30-2.30.

School Dinners

In September the cost of school dinners will remain £2.20 per day or £11.00 per week. Children **must** however have either a school meal or packed lunch for the whole week.

Children choose their meals a week in advance and kitchen and office staff cannot manage the disruption of children swapping between dinners and packed lunches during the week.

Also, from September children **will not** be able to choose either bread and butter or fruit as a meal option. We provide four options to choose from which should cover the dietary requirements of all children in the school. We understand that some children can be choosy eaters and so if your child does not want any of the meal options on offer then you must provide a packed lunch from home.

If you are unsure about school meals I can assure you that they are always of a very high quality. Myself and other staff eat with the children everyday and Sally, our cook, provides excellent meals with a great range of choices.

Changes to Covid-19 Risk Assessment in September

In September we should still be operating under Step 4 of the Government's releasing of lockdown. Below are some of the changes that we will be making whilst we continue to keep the school safe.

- **Hands, face, space**—whilst this will not be official, we will continue to promote good hand hygiene and encourage children to keep their distance wherever possible eg when lining up for lunch
- **Bubbles**—the school will not be operating with formal 'bubbles', children will continue to have break-times together and but wherever possible we will still try to keep classes separate in case of a new wave of Covid-19.
- **Assemblies**—we will host one whole school assembly per week, the rest will be virtual.
- **Visits**—trips out will resume again in the Autumn Term including indoor venues such as museums
- **Contact tracing**—this will be carried out by the government, but they may need to contact the school to trace close contacts amongst children
- **Positive cases or symptoms**—children who either display symptoms (high temperature, cough, loss of taste or smell) will still be required to stay at home and isolate for 10 days as per government regulations
- **Lateral Flow Testing**—Adults in school will continue to test but primary age children are not required to test regularly
- **Masks**—Will not be required by staff or children
- **Outbreaks of Covid-19 in School**—the school will continue to take advice from Kelly O'Neill, Director of Public Health regarding any closure of classes or parts of the school following an identified outbreak