



# Cedarbank School

# Newsletter

## Special Edition

### Ms O'Hagan's First 6 Months



## Headteacher's News

As I reflect on the last six months, the word "whirlwind" springs to mind. It certainly has been an action packed and extremely busy time. I have to say though, I have loved every minute! The welcome I received from the entire school community of parents/carers, pupils, staff and partner agencies was phenomenal! I am truly proud to be the Head Teacher of Cedarbank School and to have the opportunity to work with our amazing pupils on a daily basis. They never cease to inspire and surprise me every day.

Our Special Edition Summer Newsletter gives you a flavour of the past six months. It is without a doubt that our pupils and staff in all three sites have been extremely busy. Special thanks have to go to Mr Stewart and all the staff involved in the two camps. It was clear from the tired faces getting off the minibuses at the end of each week that everyone had a ball. A huge thanks also goes to Mrs Masterson and all the staff involved in our first ever Enriching Learning Fortnight for S1 and S2 pupils. An action packed couple of weeks was had by all. Throughout May and June, Mrs Lindsay and her team welcomed our new S1 pupils to the school for a number of transition events, finishing with a three day visit last week. We look forward very much to our new pupils joining Cedarbank School in August. Our last week of term has also been very busy. Ms McNeil and all her team worked exceptionally hard to put together a Summer Concert for the Junior School which made everyone in the audience very proud. Mrs Lowe and all her helpers organised our Sports Day for the entire school. I have never seen such a variety of sports and activities squeezed into one day. It was brilliant! Finally, we finished the week with our Celebration of Achievement Assembly for the whole school. Mrs Keir and all her team did an amazing job organising an assembly which truly reflected the talents our pupils have. The laminator will be looking forward to the summer holidays after laminating the many, many certificates which our pupils received!

A number of staff have been working hard during the past six months to secure additional funding streams for some exciting projects which our pupils will be involved in next session. Mrs Love and Mrs Lawson were successful in a bid for money to buy bikes for the school and we have purchased thirteen bikes and helmets. Both members of staff have undergone training which will allow them to run cycling activities in the future. Mrs Anderson and Miss Cook have secured funds through Education Scotland's Food for Thought Education Fund. I am not going to spoil the surprise for our pupils as to what this exciting project will allow them to be involved with next term! Furthermore, as you will read in the newsletter, Mrs Keir and some of our S3 pupils have linked in with *Far from the Madding Crowd* bookshop to develop our school library. We are looking forward to library periods being an integral part of the S1 – S3 curriculum next session. I am sure you will join me in thanking those involved for providing us the opportunity to expand our curriculum.

I would like to thank the Parent Council for their continue support to the school. They have organised many events including the Leavers Night and hoodies, a bag packing event, stalls at the Christmas Fayre and have supported our cafes. Details of the AGM will follow after the summer and I would like to invite new parents/carers to join the Parent Council. I must also thank the local businesses who have supported the school this year by providing prizes for our raffles and to Lloyds Banking Group who helped to transform our quad garden earlier in June.

As always at the end of a school year, there are a number of staffing changes. I am delighted that announce that Mrs A Lindsay has been appointed permanent fulltime Depute Head Teacher. Mrs V Cairns has accepted the position of permanent fulltime Principal Teacher of Support for Learning. In addition we have had the opportunity to appoint the following staff as permanent fulltime teachers: Mrs D Masterson (Additional Support Needs teacher with responsibility for Wider Achievement), Mr C Henderson (Social Subjects teacher), and Mrs C Clark (Modern Languages teacher). In August we will welcome Mrs N Da Silva to the team as Additional Support Needs teacher with responsibility for Developing the Young Workforce. Mr J Sturrock is moving to a new teaching position in a different council. I would like to thank him for all his hard work during his time with us this session. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Mrs P Lowe who is retiring after six years at Cedarbank School. Mrs Lowe has provided our pupils with many, many opportunities to be involved in competitions and events at both a local and national level. She will be enormously missed by both staff and pupils.

Our new school calendar is still being finalised and will be with you at the start of the new school year. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to welcoming all the pupils back (in full school uniform!) on the 21st August.

Thank you once again to everyone in our school community for making my first six months so enjoyable and memorable.

Ms Ann M O'Hagan  
Head Teacher

## Robert Burns

On 24<sup>th</sup> January we held a Robert Burns Celebration. We danced, played a game, sang songs, played musical instruments and ate Haggis. A fun afternoon indeed.



## Assemblies

The March monthly assembly saw our top ten points winners and Valentine's cafe update. Our pupil council each talked about their input and what they are hoping to do this year.

## Art Review Part 1

In Art before Easter pupils in S1-3 were working on two national art competitions, the John Byrne Drawing Competition, and the Tesco Bank Art Competition. Pupils worked hard to develop their drawing and colouring skills to communicate their ideas. Pupils were asked to select their own theme or topic for the John Byrne Competition, but for the Tesco Competition the image they created had to be something to do with the theme of "Hair, Fur and Feathers".



## iCreate Music

Many pupils at Cedarbank and DCHS have had opportunity to work weekly over 7 weeks with the Software Training Scotland company iCreate. Stu and Stacey are creative musicians who worked with pupils to develop their music technology skills - for example using Garage Band. After weeks of hard work pupils were able to record their own tracks and group songs. The track appears now on their Soundcloud page <https://soundcloud.com/softwaretrainingscotland/tracks>. The pupils who took part at Cedarbank shared Powerpoints about their experiences across the school. Well done to everyone for their hard work and creativity. The musicians Stu and Stacey were impressed by everyone's contribution.



## Police Station

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February all our S1s visited the Police Station in Livingston Civic Centre. P.C. Cochrane our Community Police Officer showed us round. We saw: the locker room, the canteen, the offices, the kennels and the cells! We went outside to see the police cars too. We met the Inspector who let some pupils try on his hat!



## RME

Our S1s have been studying Christianity in Scotland. They worked in pairs to create a church with LEGO. It had to be in the shape of a cross, have a roof and a steeple.



## Cyrenians Farm

Mondays are muddy at the Farm project....bagging veg, feeding chickens and digging....its dirty work!



# Chinese New Year

S1A learned about Chinese New Year which is now the Year of the Dog. We made fans, floppy eared dogs and had a chop stick challenge.

Here is our winner, Shanna, showing how she did it!



# Therapet

Cedarbank has been lucky enough to have Bill and his dog, Veda, from Therapet visit the school every Friday Morning since November. Therapet is a voluntary organisation which is part of Canine Concern Scotland who regularly visit hospitals, day centres and nursing homes, as well as special needs schools, where the pets provide a little four legged therapy and companionship to animal lovers. Our pupils have had the opportunity to spend some time grooming, feeding, petting and reading to Veda, all of which have helped to reduce stress and anxiety levels. We hope the Bill and Veda will return to Cedarbank in the new academic year!!

# Quad Garden

As you know our quad garden is full of life!

Our wildlife areas now includes a pond, a bug hotel and a range of plants to attract insects. This gives us lots to see.

Our trees, courtesy of "The Woodland Trust", are growing fast and we have new bark as ground cover....and less weeds!

Herbs, strawberries and a variety of vegetables have made an appearance. We have grown many of these from seed in our greenhouse. We have been sampling some produce already.



We have received our RHS Gardening for Schools level 2 Award and recently submitted evidence for Level 3 which is exciting! We will begin offering a short course in Gardening as part of the ASDAN qualifications next session.

Thanks to all who are involved and who have commented so positively.



# Art Review Part 2

Pupils have had a very successful year in the Art Department. S1 –S3 pupils have worked hard to develop their drawings skills, and have created a series of expressive and imaginative artworks throughout the session. These were shown on a PowerPoint during the Summer Concert on Wednesday 27th June.

S2 pupil Hollie McAdam was one of 30 runners up in the John Byrne Drawing Competition, which had over 6,000 entries. Other good news includes the following pupils, Justine Wilson (S4), Lucy Pollock (S2), Mairi Picken (S3), Lia Douglas (S3), Muaawiya Tanweer (S3) who were all shortlisted, and nearly made it into the final 10 for the Tesco Bank Art Competition, which had over 8,000 entries.

Recently, Josh Nicholson (S3) and Faisal Ghafoor-Jan (S4) also won awards at the Schools Art Exhibition held at Craigsfarm Campus, which showcases secondary schools artwork from across West Lothian.



## Gardening

Our gardening group are working towards Level 3 of the Royal Horticultural Society school gardening awards. This involves growing vegetables from seed, recycling plastic containers and providing habitats for wildlife. Exciting times as we watch the bulbs we planted in the autumn come to life!



## Wider

### Achievement

Mrs Simpson's Wider Achievement class have been upcycling old pallets to make something for the gardening club and Mrs Anderson. Lots of stress therapy going on, just ask the pupils!



## Earth Hour

### Assembly

Well done to 1B for organising and leading our assembly on Earth Hour 2018. We will all switched our lights off on Sat 24th March at 8.30pm and lit a candle. Small changes can be big differences. They made elephant tea light holders from recycled milk cartons to show how we could still have light on Sat 24th March.



## School Library

Cedarbank School has received an exciting donation of books for our new school library. We would like to thank Jill and Sally at Far From the Madding Crowd Bookshop in Linlithgow for the wonderful and generous package of books they put together for us after receiving a letter from Mrs Keir and some of our S3 pupils. We look forward to welcoming them back for our library launch in the new academic year!

## Intéreactif à Cedarbank !

Cedarbank has gone interactive with French this year !!

Pupils have enjoyed our new Linguascope interactive language package which allows them to consolidate their vocabulary and even tune into other languages too.

Our licence allows all pupils to access the package at home too – simply Google “Linguascope” and type in the username and password.

**Username:** cedarbank, **Password:** french

Positive comments from pupils have included, “I love doing Linguascope- wish we could do it every period in French” (Michael Disharoon, S2) and “ It’s great fun!” (Bob Finlay, S1).

Our new S1 pupils are pictured sampling Linguascope during their transition visits.



## Yoga at Deans

CB1 and CB2 have been doing yoga every Thursday this term. This has helped them with concentration, relaxation, strength and balance. Namaste!"



Thanks so much to senior pupils Holly and Devin who represented Cedarbank at a conference on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. They talked about the positive effects the yoga sessions and time at the Barn have had on them. Joann the yoga tutor led everyone through some yoga techniques too.....



## Deans Review

Oh my goodness it was just August the 22<sup>nd</sup> last year, 34 new pupils and 7 new (to DCHS) staff! I thought there would be tears before break time and that would be just the staff!

But no! The 34 new pupils absolutely shone, finding their way around and settling in. showing great maturity and resilience. New classes, new teachers – they did brilliantly!

And have continued to do so with all of our pupils achieving National Qualifications or National Qualification units this session.

We have had a few of our pupils attending college either through weekly transition or a concentrated couple of days transition. We have 5 pupils leaving us this year from DCHS.

We have had 3 pupils attending the Larder cook school and working hard at their pop up cafes, as well as there having been work experience opportunities for our older pupils.

Icreate was a popular digital music creation course accessed by many of our pupils both over the course of a few weeks and as a one off session during activities week. The pupils picked up the skills quickly and created some fabulous digital music.

Over this last session, we have seen another successful Camp, this time in the Lake District and those who didn't attend camp had an activities week at DCHS with visits and activities including visits to Linlithgow and the cinema.

We continue to nurture our links with our other two sites and really enjoyed sports day and the achievement assembly.

We have already welcomed up to DCHS our new group of S4 pupils and after a successful transition they are doing a great job of settling in.



## Schuh Competition

This session 5 of the Cedarbank @ Armadale pupils have been taking part in the annual West Lothian Schuh Competition for Secondary Pupils. They commenced their designs in November 2017 and completed them just before the judging by representatives of Schuh on Monday 26th March. The pupils had to come up with ideas for a design for a shoe or boot, then create their design. This creative task is a good example of 'Upcycling' as we used recycled footwear and other recycled items. The skills involved in this task were; designing, constructing, negotiating, making choices, presenting and keeping to a deadline. The topics for the pupils' designs were 'Sonic', 'McAvoy Sport Shoe', 'Dolphins', 'Piglet the Horse' and 'Autumn Undergrowth'. This project culminated on the 15th March at the Schuh Exhibition at the Howden Park Centre. Our winners were: Most Eye Catching – Madelyn Swanson, Best Likeness – Angelina McLaren, Most Schuh – Lee McAvoy, Best Use of Materials – Charlotte Fairley and Best Heel – Katie Wilkinson



## Dogs Trust

We had a visit from a Dogs Trust representative to talk to us about adopting a dog and to receive the cheque from Jordon of the donation he raised from running the Hamper Raffle at the School Fayre.



## Cake Craft

Some of our pupils have sat their prelims and are now working towards their final exams. This is Angelina working on the final touches of her cake that she designed for the practical side of her Nat 5 Cake Craft course.



## Lifeskills

As part of our Lifeskills training we have been planning, organising and cooking simple lunch ideas. All of us have voted on what we would like to cook and contribute a small amount of money each week. We have been involved in shopping for ingredients, using money, budgeting our money using Excel on the computer, cooking the meals and best of all eating it. The staff have enjoyed this part too!



# The Leavers final year at Cedarbank@Armada.

There have been many achievements this year, far too many to list, so here are some examples of what pupils have achieved:



Jordan raised £130 for Dogs Trust by planning, organising and running a Christmas hamper raffle as part of his Nat 5 Skills for Work Retail course which he managed to achieve – Brilliant Jordan!

Daniel worked independently all year in Practical Woodwork. He took on the responsibility of advising others on safety in class, demonstrating maturity and a duty of care for others ☺



Charlotte attended work experience at Pinewood School one day per week throughout 6<sup>th</sup> year. She was given a great report which contributed towards the practical experience of her Skills for Life course in Early Education and Childcare – well done Charlotte!



Madelyn joined us half way through the school year and managed to transition very well to a new country and school. She always 'had a go' at everything we asked her to do – well done Madelyn! ☺

Angelina produced some fantastic cakes which she designed, baked and decorated in her Practical Cake Craft course. She sat the Nat 5 theory exam at the end of term, so fingers crossed that she has passed!



Sean practiced hard at music especially on the xylophone and as a result passed his Nat 4 practical unit – Superb Sean!



We realised that Lee S was not as shy as he made out to be when he demonstrated great confidence carrying out a presentation in front of others – well done Lee ☺



Stuart's great singing skills were put to good use when he sang a solo and entertained the public at our Christmas concert in Livingston Centre – your confidence is absolutely amazing Stuart!



Sam excelled himself in lots of ways this year by working confidently, maturely and conscientiously in all subjects - particularly in mainstream classes! Brilliant Sam, well done ☺



Katie won a prize at the Schuh competition for her design which she worked hard to create and confidently went on stage in front of an audience to receive it – well done Katie ☺

Lee made the most of his college transition to help him get accepted for the Preparation for Construction Course at West Lothian College - Good luck Lee ☺



A whole class achievement was when everyone was involved in a fundraising activity for Alzheimer Scotland . They managed to raise £60 for this great cause. (Mrs Douglas needs practice making healthy muffins though because, for some reason, they ended up in the bin ☺)



# Enriching Learning Fortnight

During the first two weeks of June our new S2 and S3 pupils took part in an Enriching Learning Fortnight where they had the opportunity to learn in different ways within different subjects. Expertly organised by Mrs Masterson, who worked tirelessly with the staff team to pull together an engaging programme, the two weeks of activities were enjoyed by all. Below are some of the highlights.

## Food Glorious Food

Not content with the fantastic creations throughout the year, Mrs Anderson excelled introducing an Ice Cream Factory, Funky fruit, and Bread Making. In conjunction with the larder we also had the opportunity for pupils to make fajitas, and their favourite pizza from scratch.



## Art Mural

Miss Galloway has had a number of groups updating the mural in the PE hall. We have to say we love the funky colours.



## Museum Visit

An exciting day out was had at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Pupils enjoyed the interactive science and technology exhibits; looking back on the history of Scotland and were mesmerised by the chiming of the Millennium Clock.



## In The Garden

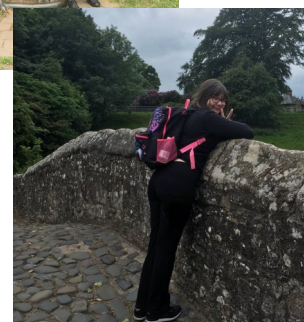
Over the two weeks we had lots happening in the garden. We had lots of seed planting, collecting items for the nature art and Alice Kennedy from the Green Gym came along to run a few sessions for our green fingered pupils.



## Alloway Trip

Mrs Docherty organised to take all the pupils for a visit to the home of Robert Burns.

During a packed day, they took in the museum, monument and gardens, Burn's Cottage and the famous Brig O' Doon where they followed in Tam O'Shanter's footsteps.



## Stirling Castle

The last trip of the fortnight took us to Stirling Castle. It was extremely windy and a bit chilly.

After a big walk up the hill we got to explore the castle, sit on the throne and play some of the games that Mary Queen of Scots herself played.





# Sporting Achievements

Health and Wellbeing is at the core of what we do at Cedarbank. We actively encourage all our pupils to take part in sporting activities, whether at a participatory level introducing them to sports, or at competition level where they compete for the school, region or nationally.

## Cross Country

On 1.2.18 twenty- three pupils travelled to Beveridge Park in Fife and participated in the East Series 3 Cross country Event. In the 1KM Boys race, Stuart Stevenson came first with a personal best time of 3.44mins and Kyle McGrandles came third in a time of 3.58mins, his best time this year.

On 20.2.18 eighteen pupils participated in the East Series 4 Cross Country Event. Stuart Stevenson won a Gold medal and Kyle McGrandles won a Silver medal in the boys 1KM race.

The following pupils participated in at least three out of four of the East Series races this school session and will be awarded a medal on 20.3.18 at the SDS Cross Country Championships for this great effort. **Bob Finlay, Lewis Frizzell, Leo Ingles, Lia Douglas, Billy McMillan, Ciaran McGregor, Holly Denton, Samantha Stanley, Stuart Stevenson, Kyle McGrandles, Philip Brodie, Colin Wightman and Patrick Gamble.**

Well done.



## Boccia

Both S1 classes took part in the Boccia festival in the Jack Kane Sports Centre in Edinburgh on 22nd February. Boccia is a sport similar to bowls. All had a great time.



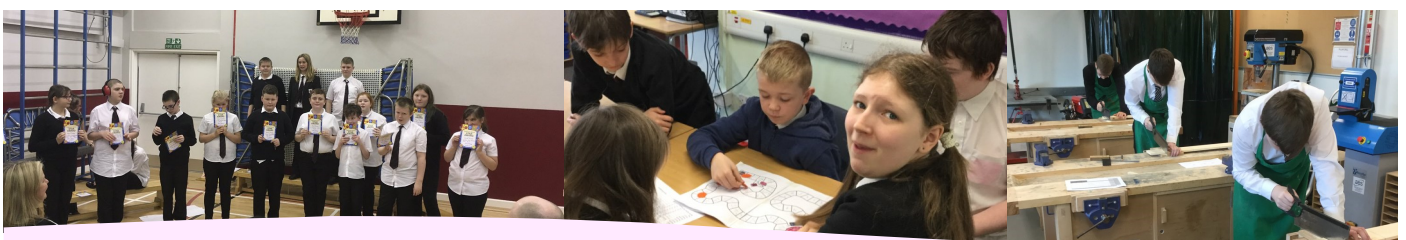
## Sportshall Athletics

On 31st Jan most of our s1-s3 pupils took part in the Regional Schools Sportshall Athletics Festival. Billy McMillan was then selected to represent Cedarbank as part of the Lothians Team at the Scottish Schools Sportshall Athletics Competition Well done Billy!



## Judo

Callum McCord shared his Judo achievement with us. Well done in achieving his 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon belt.



# SDS Athletics 6.6.18

At the SDS Track & Field Athletics Finals we had a number of medal winners. Colin Gold for Javelin, Kyle Silver for Long Jump, Michael Bronze for Shot, Stuart did two superb very fast runs 1500m and 800m, narrowly missing a medal.

A fantastic year of achievement for Stuart Stevenson in Cross Country - three Gold and one Silver in four 1km boys races of the East Series Cross Country and Gold in the S4 Boys 1km race in the SDS Cross Country Finals.

Thirteen pupils took part in three or more of the East Series Cross Country Events. Well done to Stuart Stevenson, Philip Brodie, Kyle McGrandles, Patrick Gamble, Samantha Stanley, Holly Denton, Colin Wightman, Billy McMillan, Lia Douglas, Ciaran McGregor, Lewis Frizell, Leo Ingles and Bob Finlay



## Sports Day



We enjoyed a sunny day with all S2-6 pupils competing for their very own world cup challenge in a whole day of exciting challenges. World cup country teams competed in the High Jump finals, a Potted Sports challenge, a tug of war competition, 60m, 400m, 800m races, sack races and a relay race. The leavers were brilliant helpers to Mrs Lowe throughout the day helping it all to run smoothly and our S6 pupils led and motivated their teams well. Our medal presentation took place at the end of the day with Ms O'Hagan presenting the medals.

The winning team was Germany—Well done teams

## School Camps

### S1-2 Camp

Although the S1 and S2s returned to the familiar territory of Fordell Firs for our camp, we did have to contend with new accommodation as we stayed at the newly built Garth Morrison lodge.

The pupils enjoyed a range of on site activities such as caving, archery, climbing, abseiling, king swing, crate climbing and sumo suits. In addition we had more activities off site where the pupils all took part in swimming, the cinema, visit to the zoo, and beach walk.

The pupils had dinner on Wednesday at the Hungry Horse and I am delighted to say they all behaved impeccably.

We were particularly impressed throughout the week with all those who had never attended camp before and yet were prepared to try everything and all of them gave 100%.



### S3-6 Camp

This year's senior camp broke new ground as we travelled out of our comfort zone and headed off to Windermere in the Lake District.

The Great Tower Scout Camp provided the accommodation and activities including Ghyll Scrambling, Raft Building, Leap of Faith, Tomahawk Throwing, Bell Boating and Bouldering.

Our evenings included a campfire and a visit to a local cinema transformed from a disused theatre complete with a 1920s Wurlitzer.

The activities really pushed the pupils and staff and it was great to see them all respond so positively. A number of pupils really excelled and succeeded in tasks that they never believed they could do.

As we set off on our 5 hour return journey in the minibuses there were plenty of contented (albeit tired) faces.

# School Information

## Uniform

Cedarbank's dress code across all sites is:

- Blazer
- White or black shirt
- School Tie (Cedarbank , DCHS or Armadale)
- Plain black V-neck jumper or cardigan (personal choice)

Please note: Hoodies or sweatshirts are not part of our school dress code.

- Black trousers or skirt.
- Please note: Leggings or jeans are not part of our school dress code
- Plain black shoes

Additionally, our P.E. kit is as follows:

- Plain black or white T-shirt/ polo shirt.
- Black shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings.

Your continued support for this policy impacts significantly on levels of behaviour, engagement, attainment and achievement and is greatly appreciated.

**Wear it with confidence, wear it with pride**

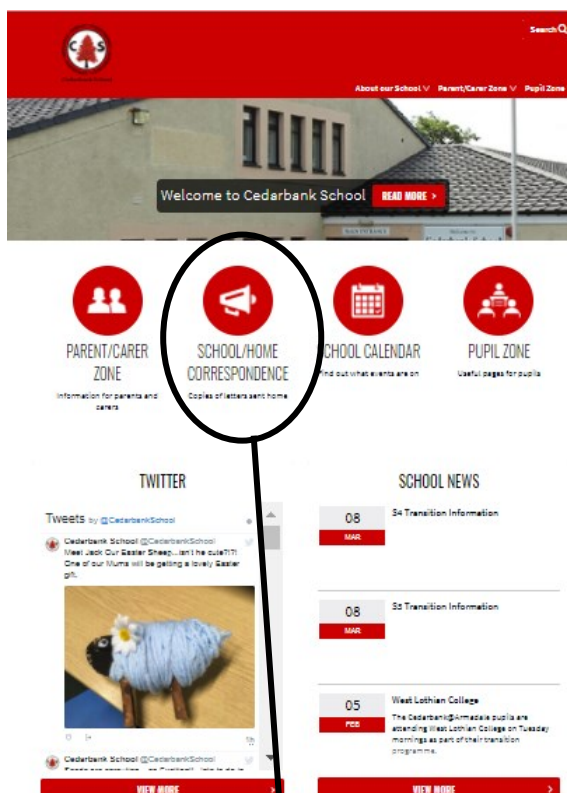
## Twitter

The school twitter account, @CedarbankSchool is active and contains a lot of interesting information about students achievements, events happening at the school, and general information of interest to parents and students. Follow us and keep up to date with everything that is happening at the school.



## School / Home Correspondence

To ensure that parents and carers have access to all letters sent home we have created a dedicated section on our new website. Click on the megaphone icon on our homepage to see all the letters and forms that have been recently sent out. There is also an archive page for older letters.



Thanks must go to Mr Stewart who does a brilliant job of putting together our Newsletters. Mr Stewart has also been responsible for transforming our website and keeps it up-to-date with all home/school correspondence. I am very grateful for all his help in our communication with home.

## Website

Do remember to keep checking our website for all up to date information at:

[www.cedarbankschool.westlothian.org.uk](http://www.cedarbankschool.westlothian.org.uk)