
6th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We were delighted to welcome all our learners back to school in August and are all settling into the new routines and getting to know each other on the one campus.

We started the term with some exciting news. We came first in the special schools category for the Children In Scotland, "Success Looks Different Award". Hopefully you will have seen this news on Twitter. We are absolutely delighted to have won this award. Our young people demonstrate an array of different talents, attributes, skills and abilities every day. Success looks different for each individual and we love celebrating and sharing the success and achievements of all of our young people. The recognition of this work by Children in Scotland is a real accolade for the Cedarbank community.

I have a few key pieces of information I need to share with you.

Key Dates:

S1 Open Afternoon 3/11/22

S1 Parents' Evening 19/01/23

S1 Café 9/5/23

S2 Open Afternoon 9/11/22

S2 Parents' Evening 19/01/23

S2 Café 23/5/23

S3 Open Afternoon 16/11/22

S3 Parents' Evening 02/03/23

S3 Café 1/6/23

Parent Council

The first Parent Council meeting will take place next week on the 13th of September at 6.30 pm. The meeting will be online to make it accessible to all parents/carers. The agenda and the meeting link will be sent out to all parents/carers. Please come along and join us.

Mr Doyle (Chair) and Mr Evans (Secretary) will both be stepping down this year. I would like to thank them both on behalf of the school community for their support and in particular their contribution to the new building. If any parent/carers is interested in these posts and would like a chat about what the post would involve please contact either myself or Mr Doyle to discuss.

Staffing

Sadly, a member of our staff passed away over the summer holiday. Mary Curran had worked in Cedarbank for over 20 years and had worked in the main building, the Deans Community High School annexe and in most recent years, she was based in the Armadale annexe and worked with the S6 learners. Our thoughts are very much with Mary's family and friends at this time.

S1-3 Assembly Programme

We will begin our assembly programme soon which will be based on the "Getting It Right for Every Child" (GIRFEC) Wellbeing Indicators and Skills we are learning in school. More information can be found on our school website www.cedarbankschool.westlothian.org.uk in the school handbook which can be found there.

Pupils will be fully involved in preparing and presenting parts of the assembly (in their Tutor groups). I am looking forward to seeing them in action!

Photos of assemblies will be added to our Twitter feed (which can also be found on the home page of our school website). Twitter has allowed us to share Cedarbank school successes with a wider audience which gives us great joy.



We are delighted to welcome our dental nurse colleagues back to Cedarbank.

They will be part of our Assembly programme and the enclosed letter explains their involvement further. Pupils will have a toothbrush in school following the assembly which they will deliver late September. Please can I draw your attention to the **What do I need to do next?** section of their letter.

Thank you for using the home-school communication diary for any issues as these are read daily by a class Pupil Support Worker (PSW) and Tutor teacher and allow us to deal with any successes or concerns as they arise. If there are issues which are confidential or require a more detailed conversation, please contact Mrs Mendenhall (Principal Teacher) or Mrs Alison Lindsay via the school office email or phone.

With autumn approaching and "a wee nip in the air" coming our way, please can you ensure your child comes to school with an outdoor coat and appropriate footwear. As you will be aware, we are outside a lot in Cedarbank! If you require support with clothing issues, please contact the school office.

Our new school building has brought much joy to our school community. Many of you managed to come and visit before the summer holiday. However, if you have not been in the building, we very much look forward to welcoming you soon.

We look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Carol McDonald
Head Teacher

