



Cedarbank School

Newsletter

December 2025



Head Teacher's News

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am delighted to share with you the Cedarbank December 2025 Newsletter. This publication showcases the experiences and achievements of our young people through the first term of the 2025/26 school session.

We have had an incredibly busy first term brought to a close through our winter calendar experiences. Our learners have experienced carol signing, talent shows, class celebrations, cinema visits not to mention the Christmas jumper showcases! Our recent Winter Fayre and carol signing at Livingston Designer Outlet raised around £3000 for the school which is a huge sum of money and will really help the school with the nice to haves that make a difference to our young people. Thank you to our Parent Council who have been supporting the school through their own fundraising and enabling our experiences to be accessible for all learners.

We made some slight changes to S1-S3 timetables after the October break after consulting with all families. We are few weeks into the new Class A-E structure now and it is working well with positive feedback from staff, learners and families.

We had a council inspection (validated self-evaluation) in November with some of the observations stating:

- The positive relationships are evident and a positive whole school ethos and care for all young people.
- Pupil pathways are individualised and bespoke. These are created in consultation with Children and young people, parents and carers, staff and partners. This results in the development of Pupil Education Goals (IEP & Pupil Profiles) containing robust individualised information.
- The curriculum being linked to skills for life, learning and work is evident in curriculum planning with a number of bespoke offers in place e.g. Rural skills, lifeskills, employability.
- School environment and location of school enables excellent community links and access to outdoor education which has a clear purpose and is linked to skills for work and life.
- Learner and family voice is included in the planning, and opportunities for personalisation and choice are evident through course choice planning.

A report on the school will be shared at the Education Quality Assurance Committee on Tuesday 13 January. The VSE was positive and the local authority have full trust in the school to continue with its improvement agenda.

In relation to our staffing, we say goodbye to Mrs McRoberts on the last day of term as she moves onto a new venture. Miss Sievewright has joined our support staff team and we are in the process of recruiting two additional support staff as well as a maternity cover principal teacher for Mrs Mendenhall for early in the new year.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are in the process of consulting with you on our school values and aims and will be undertaking a full review of this at the beginning of the year. You can have your say at [Parent Survey - Cedarbank School Vision & Values – Fill in form](#). Our school vision and values are key to setting the future direction of the school and providing a clear path. We'll also be looking again at our senior phase pathways and programmes of learning we offer. We have been developing what we are calling the 'Cedar Path' which will set out clear pathways for our pupils and post-school opportunities. We will share more of this developing work in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for 2026.

Andrew Millar
Headteacher

Confident Individuals

At Cedarbank we strive to ensure our pupils gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century by developing them through the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.

Confident Individuals have a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being, self respect, and secure values and beliefs, while being able to: use literacy, communication and numeracy skills, use technology for learning, and learn independently and as part of a group.



Effective Contributors

Effective Communicators have an enterprising attitude, resilience, self reliance while being able to: communicate in different ways and different settings, work in partnership and in teams, take the initiative and lead, create and develop, and solve problems.

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 8
Our S5 Employability classes recently visited @WestLoCollege for a @skillsdevscot employment event. Pupils were able to get ideas about how they can enter the world of work. #effectivecontributors #confidentindividuals



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 2
This learner has been using his creative skills to decorate the Class C tree! #creativity #effectivecontributor



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Nov 27
Lovely peer mentoring was captured in the library this week. #effectivecontributors



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 29
Class A have had a busy start to the term. We have carved pumpkins to have at messy play this week and worked with Dave for music. Lots of fun! #creativity #effectivecontributors #learningisfun



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 13
Fantastic involvement by the audience in the Creative Assembly. 6A were very impressed by how everyone rose to the creative challenges set throughout the event. #effectivecontributors



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 3
Class A have made bird feeders to help our wildlife during the winter months. #responsiblecitizens #effectivecontributors



Responsible Citizens

Responsible citizens have respect for others, and a commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life, while being able to: develop knowledge and understanding of the world and Scotland's place in it, and make informed choices and decisions.

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 8
Pupils in Class C made a bug house so the bugs have a home this winter. #effectivecontributors #responsiblecitizens



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Nov 6
Class A have been learning about Diwali recently. They have enjoyed creating firework pictures and playing with Rangoli patterns in citizenship. #responsiblecitizens #creativity



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 30
Our senior social subjects pupils practised rescuing an injured swan on their @HistEnVscot trip to Linlithgow Palace. Learning skills to be a ranger. Don't worry, it's a plastic swan! #effectivecontributors #responsiblecitizens



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 25
We are celebrating Languages Week in Art and Design by looking at a range of Artists past and present from across Europe. Pupils could see that Art can be a universal language and that artists often make work for viewers to experience an emotional effect. #LanguagesWeek



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Aug 28
Fabulous creativity skills on show by S6 pupils in Art and Design. Both are currently prototyping ideas for performance headwear. #creativity #successfullearners



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 10
There was lots of fun at our Christmas lunch - we enjoyed delicious food, fun with friends, colouring in and Christmas crackers! #confidentindividual #christmasfun



Successful Learners

Successful Learners have enthusiasm and motivation for learning, determination to reach high standards of achievements, and openness to new thinking and ideas whole being able to: relate to others and manage themselves, pursue a healthy and active lifestyle, be self aware, live as independently as they can, and achieve success in different areas of activity.

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Nov 4
This morning, Class C really enjoyed exploring different messy play stations in the hall with Sammy from Lightyear Foundation. [#successfullearners](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 13
Modern Languages week was at the end of September but we can now share with you 'French Breakfast' by one of our S4 Art and Design learners. Ooh la la. [#creativity](#) [#successfullearners](#) [#confidentindividuals](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 13
Small People but big characters. These NPA Photography pupils enjoyed setting up Lego people. We used them to actively learn about depth of field and moving a point of focus. See our photos in the next post. [#successfullearners](#) [#photography](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 29
Our bakery class enjoyed making apple and cinnamon pithiviers tarts for their Languages Week bake! [#successfullearners](#) [#LanguagesWeek](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 30
Even Fashion and Textiles were joining in on Languages week by creating French knots, and other embroidery stitches. [#successfullearners](#) [#languagesweek](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 30
These are some results when N2 Creative Arts learners were using marbling inks. These young people were able to evaluate why they chose their favourite from all their work. [#successfullearners](#) [#creativity](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 30
In Fashion and Textiles we learned about how textiles are constructed. We are beginning to understand the differences between weaving and knitting and had a great demo of knitting by one of the teachers. A microscope was given for us all to look at woven fibres up close.



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 28
From land, and sea, and air...in Art and Design we have learners drawing and painting all kinds of creatures for their National coursework. Great progression in media and observational skills. [#successfullearners](#)



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 4
This S1 learner has had a busy and fun day - a few highlights were using pattern blocks and creating beautiful art work. [#successfullearner](#) [#learningisfun](#)



Skills for Work

Skills for Work are the 'softer' employability skills which are valued highly by employers and are key to success in the world of work and, in addition, the skills and experiences gained through our work Developing the Young Workforce.

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Nov 12
The senior classes enjoyed a treasure hunt as part of an S4 Assembly about jobs in Autumn. This was part of Cedarbank's focus on Developing the Young Workforce. #effectivecontributors #dyw @DYWWestLothian



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 12
Our S2 learners really enjoyed spending time with David from @skillsdeyscot. He taught them all how to fly drones and everyone had a great time trying it out! #confidentindividuals #successfullearners #skillsforwork



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 4
4A had a great time programming a robot to drive around the track with David from SDS. #confidentindividuals #skillsforwork



Skills for Learning

We are working on our core skills this year; Literacy, Numeracy, Creativity, Problem Solving, Digital Skills and Self regulation, which combine to deliver Skills for Life, Learning and Work

Skills for Learning are thinking skills which will encourage the deep learning learners can apply in real-life and relevant situations.

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Nov 4
6B are enjoying their @WestLoCollege transition. Michelle showed us around the campus today, including the Terrace Restaurant. We even had a surprise guest speak to us - an ex Cedarbank pupil! #confidentindividuals



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 10
Excellent problem solving skills from class A during maths activities. This pupil persevered and was able to light up the whole Christmas tree. Well done! #confidentindividuals #problemsolving #skills



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 29
Class A were making Halloween themed lava lamps during science today. #STEM #SensoryScience #SeasonalScience #confidentindividuals



Skills for Life

In addition to developing the four capacities, Cedarbank strives to equip out pupil with the Skills for Life, Learning and Work to enable them to take an active part in society once they move on.

Skills for Life are core skills required to enable learners to make meaningful contributions to their own

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 29
This member of the public was very happy to hear of how our school is supporting young people to prepare to travel independently. She explained how she wears a lanyard displaying 'I have a hidden disability' and how this supports her accessing public transport. #skillsforlife



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 25
6A were up at Livingston Centre to learn about Independent Travel. One of our Young People discussed his first journey of travelling independently using his Young Scot Card. #skillsforlife #confidentindividual



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 23
In Photography, learners were able to spot risks in the work place and discuss how these risks could be avoided. It was such a great discussion and highlights how many of our young people know how to keep themselves and others safe. #skillsforlife #photography



Learning with the Community and Celebrating Wider Achievements

Learning with our community allows us to deepen the links made within subjects, helps with our Delivering the Young Workforce agenda, and include parents/carers and partner organisations in our learning. Whether it is utilising provisions off site or bringing partners in to the school, we welcome the opportunities provided for our community and hope we broaden the understanding of the needs of our pupils to others.

We also love to celebrate the successes of our pupils and staff outside of the school day, whether that is a sporting achievement, an award, or just learning in a different context at home.

Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 10
One of our Animal Care classes handed over the donations they had collected for @DT West Calder. We also got the chance to meet the lovely dogs awaiting a new homes. #responsiblecitizens



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 30
Senior Social Subjects enjoyed a trip to Linlithgow Palace & learned about different jobs that Historic Environment Scotland have. They practiced key ranger skills, learned about Linlithgow's royal history & talked about skills needed for these jobs. #dyw #effectivecontributors



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 29
Rural Skills have been working hard to create planters for Jaks Den. They have measured the area for the planters, cut wood to the correct sizes and used drills to build it all together! Amazing work! #effectivecontributors #responsiblecitizens



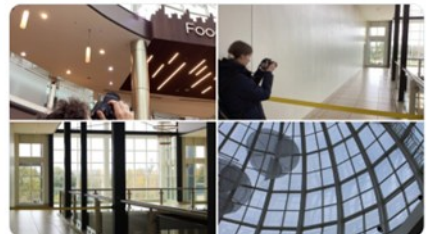
Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 28
What a great product photoshoot @schuh Livingston today. Our young people were very impressed with the sneaker displays. Big thanks to the Deputy Manager for giving our NPA Photography class this opportunity. #skillsforwork #confidentindividuals #photography



NPA Photography had a great photoshoot at Linlithgow Loch. These young men loved seeing the swans and coots. If you look closely you can see Linlithgow Palace perched over the Loch...upside down. #photography #successfulearners #skillsforwork



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Oct 28
Well done to these young people for their creative photography in Livingston Designer outlet. They have captured some beautiful shots of the architecture inside the building. #photography #skillsforwork #successfulearners



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 23
Some photos from inside the Travelling Gallery 'Art Bus'. It is so great to be able to experience Art first hand, and very surprising how this double decker bus adapts to show work by contemporary artists. #creativity #successfulearners #confidentindividuals



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Dec 12
Cedarbank was delighted to receive a donation from Jim Baxter after he raised funds for the school from his annual Livi Invitational Solo Drumming competition.



Cedarbank School @CedarbankSchool · Sep 23
We had a great visit to West Lothian College's Art & Design department last week. We had a tour by Lecturer Alex Harvey and a current NQ Art & Design Student. We also got to see 'In Another Realm' with work by 6 Sculptors in the Travelling Art Gallery. #confidentindividuals



Learning for Sustainability and Learning Outdoors

Learning for sustainability permeates throughout our curriculum and all pupils are given opportunities to consider how to make more sustainable decisions about how to live their life. Embedded within this is out outdoor learning opportunities which enable us to gain and appreciation and respect for nature and the environment.



Reminder

Make sure you sign up to twitter (or X!) to keep up to date throughout the year—follow @cedarbankschool.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January 2026



West Lothian Council

healthyschools+
Edinburgh and Lothians
Stage One 2007-2010



Award 2010



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE