

Cedarbank Summer Newsletter 2026



A word from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to share with you the Cedarbank summer Newsletter. This publication showcases the experiences and achievements of our young people through the second and third terms of the 2025/26 school session.

The year has been full of celebrations and successes, and it is impossible to capture everything that has been achieved by our wonderful learners in this covering letter alone. However, the pages that follow outline what has been achieved between January and June this year.

The run in to the summer break is always bitter sweet as we say goodbye to a wonderful S6 group and welcome in our new S1s for their transition days.

Some of the key achievements and developments this year are as follows:

- Achieved the UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award
- New play resources for the playground
- New assembly model for S1-S3
- Introduced more lunchtime clubs including a new drama group with Firefly Arts
- Consulted and updated our vision and values for the 2026/27 session
- Further improved our transition supports for learners including developing our Cedar Path to demonstrate personalised pathways from S1 through to S6 and beyond
- Achieved a positive validated self-evaluation visit from local authority officers
- Enhanced tutor teacher role to support our GIRFEC approach
- Introduced our new IEP approach (PEG plans)
- Strengthened our approach to improving pupil attendance including Fulfilling Fridays

I am delighted to have been appointed the permanent headteacher of Cedarbank and I look forward to continuing to work with you and all our amazing young people.

Wishing you a wonderful summer and thank you for all the support you have given the school this year.

Andrew Millar

Headteacher



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

- Morning meet
- Sensory circuits
- Assembly
- Class jobs
- Learning across their curriculum



Successful Learners

- Learning across their curriculum
- Learning within the community
- Class trips
- Camp
- Lifeskills opportunities



Confident Individuals

- Morning meet
- Lead learners
- Pupil council meetings
- Class jobs
- Sign of the day
- Learning across their curriculum



Responsible Citizens

- Accessing learning within the local community
- Road safety
- School values
- School trips
- Lifeskills maths lessons
- Camp



Summer 2026 Newsletter

Class A



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

Class A enjoyed a visit from the Ambulance and Police services, earlier this year.

We learned to make Pizzas at Pizza express.

We have worked hard to keep our classroom tidy with weekly class jobs.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

Class A enjoy outdoor learning lessons on a Monday afternoon. We have learned how to look after the school garden, taken care of wildlife during winter months, learned about the seasons, played within the local environment, learned about recycling, completed traffic surveys and taken park in litter picks.



Learning with the Community

Class A can often be found out and about, in the local community.

We have weekly Lifeskills maths lessons in various locations including local shops and shopping centre.



Cross Curricular Learning

Class A have enjoyed a wide range of topics this session.

We have learned about ourselves, Scotland, space, under the sea, other cultures and world religions and taken part in a number of school trips and camp.



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

We contributed to our school garden by planting seeds.



Successful Learners

We learned about food groups, healthy eating and we tried new foods like olives and spicy pepper



Confident Individuals

We loved World Book Day and wore our Fantastic Mr Fox masks with confidence.



Responsible Citizens

We learned about recycling and the different colours of bins and their usage.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

We learned about different jobs. Callum enjoyed pretending to be a policeman arresting Amy



Learning with the Community

We did Lifeskills Maths every week at Home Bargains



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

We visited the Froggy Pond and learned about the life cycle of frogs and how frogs help to sustain the environment



Cross Curricular Learning

In Sciences we learned about wind and made wind chimes to test wind direction.



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

Learners in Class C played a big group game of Uno.

Support from adults was offered but learners also supported peers by explaining instructions and working together.



Successful Learners

This learner followed instructions to design a castle using Lego bricks.

She demonstrated resilience when part of the build was accidentally broken.



Confident Individuals

This learner confidently demonstrated his knowledge of 2D shapes during this sorting task.

He confidently describes properties of the shapes and name shapes which weren't supplied as concrete materials.



Responsible Citizens

This learner demonstrated responsibility by supporting a peer to tie their shoelaces.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

Learners in Class C are developing their understanding of personal hygiene and the importance of looking after their bodies.

We visited the supermarket to identify personal hygiene items and their cost.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

This learner proudly takes the lead role of polytunnel manager.

Recently, she harvested her very first strawberry from her strawberry plant.

“Tastes better when you grow it yourself”.



Learning with the Community

Class C celebrated DYW Week by learning about the emergency services and safe strangers who work in the community to look after us.

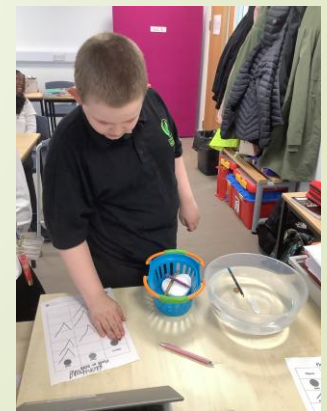
We especially enjoyed the visit from the Ambulance Service.



Cross Curricular Learning

Class C learned about The Story of Moses during a citizenship lesson. The story talks about floating and sinking objects.

They proceed to predict and test the buoyancy of different items before building junk model boats which floated in water.



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

Helping each other become mummies in a lesson about Ancient Egypt.



Successful Learners

Our pupils work closely with staff to ensure they get the support they need to succeed!



Confident Individuals

Pupils confidently displaying their art work – football themed for the World Cup year!



Responsible Citizens

Peeling apples in HFT class. Those apple peels will not go to waste! All food scraps get composted in the playground.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

My Stewart makes sure we all have enough energy to do our work! Here Class D are making and delivering rolls as part of an enterprise class.



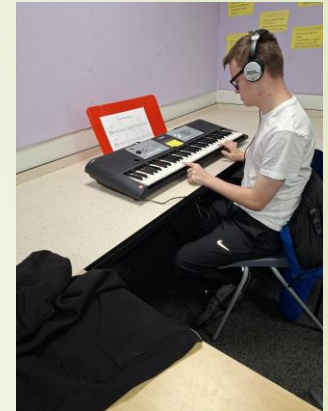
Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

'Waste not, want not.' Here a pupil from Class D helps to raise money for the school, reusing plastic containers which had been collected at lunchtime to be used for a game at the Christmas Fayre.



Learning with the Community

We use the local area to enhance our learning: Class D regularly take outdoor walks to the froggy pond and visit local shops to support literacy and numeracy. Here a pupil learns to play the keyboard at nearby James Young High School.



Cross Curricular Learning

Our trip to the Edinburgh Airport STEM Centre gave us the chance to use our literacy skills, asking about jobs in the airport, problem solving skills, making the best paper airplanes, then working with our friends to design an airport!



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

Class E have contributed greatly to the life of the school, helping with many tasks including working with Mr McDermott building planters to sell at the pop up shop.



Confident Individuals

For Class E, serving staff break time snacks and running cafés have improved their confidence. Their customer service skills are great!



Successful Learners

Class E have shown they can be successful in a range of settings, both within and outwith the school. They have gained the interpersonal skills to help them succeed.



Responsible Citizens

When working at Almond Valley Heritage Centre, Class E always have to be very responsible using tools safely and storing them correctly particularly when there are other children nearby.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

Class E have served food for the staff as well as running Cafes for parents and carers. We really enjoyed running the café in the hall even though it was very busy.



Learning with the Community

Class E have worked often learning in the community or working with partners such as the gym. We are especially proud of our work with Mill Farm, where we have built a goat playground, feeding trough and maintained the railway embankments.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

Class E has spent a lot of this year outdoors and in all weathers, including our shopping tasks, Wednesday exploration, Mill Farm community projects, outdoor learning, and active schools input.



Cross Curricular Learning

All topics in Class E's timetable are learned through Cross Curricular learning. Our shopping tasks introduce numeracy, outdoor working brings in literacy, and exploration includes PSE, citizenship and social subjects.



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

On the first day of term, each member of 4A produced a piece of art on a canvas.



Confident Individuals

4A prepared and presented a senior assembly on the topic of hobbies and interests. Many individuals in the class spoke in front of a large audience or shared their hobbies and interests with others.



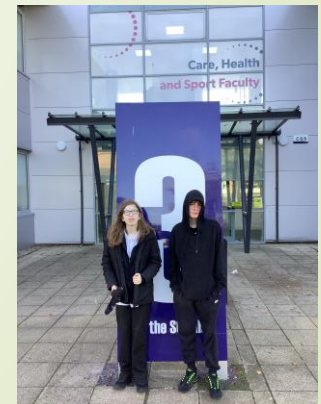
Successful Learners

As part of their PSE course, 4A learned about the importance of washing their hands because of micro-organisms.



Responsible Citizens

Each member of 4A completed a personal achievement award that required them to plan and organise the class to explore their local area.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

4A took part in a Skills development Scotland event on the future of transport. 4A worked as part of a team to programme a robot to complete a road map.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

As part of the N2 personal achievement award having your say unit, one pupil in 4A organised a trip to the local park for us to enjoy.



Learning with the Community

As part of the P.S.E. programme, 4A learned about the eat well plate and the traffic light food label system. Each pupil contributed to a class display on healthy eating.



Cross Curricular Learning

As part of the N2 personal achievement award exploring the local area, this learner organised for us to visit our local bookstore.



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

For World Book Day we visited Waterstones to choose a free book. At the start of the year the pupils wrote a class charter, and many pupils have taken up additional roles - Music Mentor, Pupil Council Rep, Aquarist, S1 Buddy, "Frogateer" and Litter lobster!



Confident Individuals

Pupils have nurtured good relationships by playing the card game UNO together. We all participated in the Assembly in November about seasonal autumn jobs. Some pupils have shown visitors around the school.



Successful Learners

For a Science Tech Engineering & Maths (STEM) day we had great fun learning how to program robots with Skills Development Scotland.

All our pupils completed a Personal Development Award as part of the Core class.



Responsible Citizens

We have looked after the class aquarium for another year and kept our fish healthy. Sometimes we find a quiet place to read and feel calm.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

For the Hobbies & Interest unit the class practised different things – the girls here were doing crocheting and punch-needling. Back in autumn the whole class organised an assembly about developing the young workforce.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

We regularly go outdoors on learning walks and some of the class were lucky enough to go on school camp where they enjoyed the natural world and challenged themselves with forest climbing activities.



Learning with the Community

As part of the Exploring the Community unit for our Personal Development Award we explored shops down at the Centre. One pupil chose to explore the bookshops. Many of us joined in the carol singing at Livingston Designer Outlet Centre



Cross Curricular Learning

Some of us have been learning guitar. This develops our creative skills and gives us joy, confidence and resilience. Caiden has played “Nothing Else Matters” by Metallica at a few school gigs. We promoted literacy with a spin and win stall at the Christmas Fair.



Summer 2026 Newsletter

Class 5A & 5B



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

S5 actively engaged in the First Aid training, and they can apply their basic first Aid Skills. They were also excited about learning about the local area. On the visit to the Museum of Scotland S5 were interested in learning about the artifacts



Confident Individuals

The Adventure and Residential class S5 pupils explored the local area with visits to the bus station, train station, skate park, Howden park and the shopping centre. S5 Pupils are now confident to go on a walk around the local area.



Successful Learners

On a visit to Crofthead Farm S5 pupils learned about sustainability. They learned about beekeeping and looking after chickens. We also tasted the honey made at Crofthead Farm.



Responsible Citizens

Pupils participated in basic First Aid training. Enabling them to apply the skills learned in basic First Aid situations.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

S5 visited the bus and train station and learned about bus and train timetables. They also applied for Young Scot cards.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

S5 walked to Crofhead Farm to learn about Sustainability. Crofhead farm have their own beehive, and they make their own honey. Crofhead Farm also keep chickens. We also learned about the different varieties of heritage chickens they have.



Learning with the Community

During the weekly local walks S5 explored the local area. Finding out about the entertainment at Howden Park Centre and exploring the skate park.



Cross Curricular Learning

As part of the Adventure and Residential course S5 pupils visited the National Museum of Scotland. They visited the art and fashion, Science and technology, Scottish History and World Cultures Galleries



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

6A planned and delivered an act of kindness to all our Advanced Pupil Support Workers at Cedarbank. We value all who are part of Cedarbank. The APSWs really appreciated the surprise of a card and a song bringing positivity to their day.



Confident Individuals

6A helped plan and create resources for our 'Creativity Assembly' to the Senior pupils at Cedarbank. Nearly all had front of stage talking parts and all showed great confidence leading small groups for the fun creativity tasks we had provided.



Successful Learners

2 pupils from 6A successfully achieved Level 5 Photography Award. In addition, they were both supportive taking photos in the school for our Staff Photo wall, Christmas Photos with Santa and recently of our Head Teacher with pupils for WLC Social media posts.



Responsible Citizens

When getting to be confident in using public transport 6A understand that there are others in the Community that need assistance when using the bus. They gave space and extra time to those with disabilities and young children.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

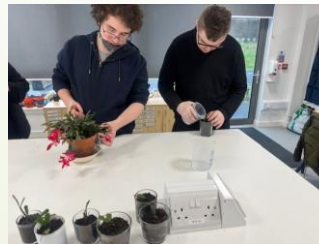
Skills for Life, Learning and Work

6A completed their Asdan 'Learning Independently'. They researched prices and purchased items from shops – shopping to a budget. They found strategies for their own health and wellbeing – 'their happy place'. Almost all completed the WL College transition course and found a positive destination beyond Cedarbank School.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

Most learners in 6A have completed their Climate Change Award and have been involved in activities that highlight even small things can help towards change. They have made bird feeders out of oranges, and propagated plants.



Learning with the Community

Some learners from 6A support our Community by using their rural skills at St Theresa's Church, or working at Five Sisters Zoo in maintaining their grounds. We are so fortunate that we have partners that provide us with challenges and opportunities.



Cross Curricular Learning

6A's assembly highlighted how people can be creative in different ways. They talked about how our skills – numeracy, communication, creativity, problem solving, self management and digital skills are used in life and Cedarbank can help you to adapt to new to or changing situations.



Here are some examples of what we have been up to as a class

Effective Contributors

We have taken part in lots of events this year – like Careers day.

Everyday, everyone has shared what they thought for our soft starts and contributed to class discussions.



Confident Individuals

We have been learning about skills lately so we can give examples of when we have used them.

We have focused on our wellbeing this year and are able to identify how we are feeling and use strategies to help.



Successful Learners

6B have been learning lots this year! We have tried meditation, gone to our college transition sessions (*pictured*) and have learned how to travel independently e.g read bus timetables.



Responsible Citizens

6B have been volunteering around the school, helping with classes and litter picking.

As Captains and Prefects, they have been excellent role models to younger pupils.



We learn in many different ways at Cedarbank

Skills for Life, Learning and Work

We have travelled on buses (and soon a train) a few times and learned how to read bus timetables.

We have updated our C.Vs ready for leaving school and have learned about volunteering.



Learning for Sustainability and Outdoors

We have learned about climate change and how to be sustainable in our lives. We made Christmas decorations out of oranges for the Winter Fayre.

We have collected soft plastics and recycled them at Aldi every week.



Learning with the Community

We have been out and about, to college, to Home Bargains, to the Centre.

We have litter picked around the school and its grounds.

We often went for walks with Mrs Divers.



Cross Curricular Learning

We have learned life skills with Mrs Divers – cooking, ironing, sewing on a button.

A number of us have done work experience and volunteering this year, including at the Chainrunner, Beattie School and Schuh.



Other Notable Events

Pop up Shop

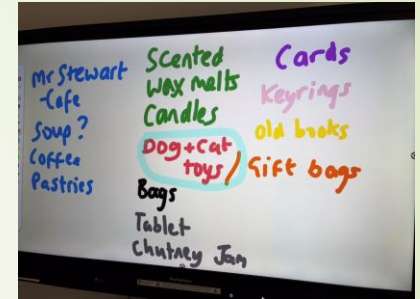
On the 22nd April, Cedarbank descended on Livingston Designer Outlet as we were once again given a unit for the day for our pop-up shop.

It was a great success, and the retail class did a fantastic job gaining valuable work experience.

We took £402.55 and Designer Outlet Centre have invited us back next year.

Thank you to everyone who came down or supported us in other ways.

favourites. Everyone had a great time.



Other Notable Events

S1/2 Camp



The S1/2 Camp was held on the 25th/26th April.

On the first day we went to the beach, took part in a shopping challenge and had a film night in the evening.

The second day we went to Camperdown Park and Zoo to visit the animals. The bears and meerkats were particular favourites. Everyone had a great time.



Other Notable Events

S3-6 Camp

From Monday 8th June to Wednesday 10th, 18 senior students went to PGL Dalguise in Dunkeld.

On the first day, the young people did a tree climb and a giant swing. In the evening, we all attended a campfire. Day 2 was a full day of canoeing, vertical challenge, zip wire and axe throwing. Everyone enjoyed the Silent Disco in the evening. Day 3 activities included archery tag and a burn walk. A huge thank you to all the staff who made camp fun and memorable.



Other Notable Events

Sports Day

Sport day took place on Friday 12th June at a sadly dreich Craigswood Sports Centre.

We had 10 different events and the pupils performed admirably in all of them.

Thank you to everyone who attended.



Other Notable Events

S6 Prom



As we prepare to say goodbye to our S6 pupils, they enjoyed a lovely prom evening. The event was comic book themed, the spread from Mrs Divers was phenomenal and Mr Brown was a great barman. Mrs Thomson had decorated the hall and set up the pictures, which brought a tear to many eyes. The pupils were amazing and danced the night away.

