

Mouse

Mouse Class have had a brilliant half term! Our topic has been 'Toys' and we have enjoyed sharing books linked to the topic as well as exploring a range of toys, the materials they are made from and the way they move. We shared the story 'Whatever Next' and travelled to the moon with baby bear. We explored different fabrics and textures using our hands and engaged in role play, having a picnic on the moon. Other stories we enjoyed were 'Lost in the Toy Museum' and 'Naughty Bus'.

We learned about toys working in different way, some needing us to push or pull them and others needing batteries. We particularly enjoyed using the transport toys-remote control cars, magnetic shape truck and the buses and trains (driving through different materials like the Naughty Bus.

Mouse Class have loved exploring the instruments in the music room. We have practised our listening skills, following the instructions of the conductor to play loud/quiet, fast/slow and to go and stop.

Also this half term, **Mouse Class** ave joined in with a range of celebration days, including world book day and Red Nose Day. It was exciting coming in to school in our comfy clothes to take part in activities. We loved sharing our favourite stories for World Book Day, making the classroom cosy with blankets to 'read' stories to our soft toys. Red Nose Day was a funny day! It was strange using our feet to explore different foods, some of them were really slimy and cold. It was good fun playing splat the teacher' and some of us enjoyed being 'splatted' too!

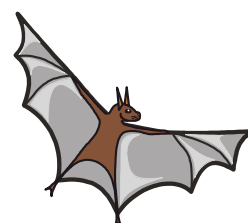
We hope you all have a lovely Easter Break!



Bat Class have had another fantastic half term. We have covered our theme of toys through many stories such as 'Oi Get Off Our Train!' And 'Kipper's Toybox'. The children have loved using communication boards and learning Makaton signs linked with our text each week. Our Toy and Teddy Bear Picnic was a great success with the children. They cooked and packed our picnic, and brought their teddies along for lots of fun. The children had so much fun the picnic was a common role play theme for quite a while!

We had our first adventure out of school this half term too - we went on the school minibus! The children made their own bus passes and then drew maps of our journey. The children saw The Angel of The North and particularly enjoyed seeing the diggers and excavators!

There has been lots of counting fun in **Bat Class**, as well as exploring the concepts of 'big' and 'small'. We have done lots of mark making, writing and practising our new phonic sounds - indoors and outdoors. The music room has proved very popular, developing our listening skills and having fun creating music together. However, one of our favourite things to do has been to watch our seeds grow! We can't wait for next half term when we can have never more growing fun...



Bat



Hedgehog

This term **Hedgehog Class** topic has been 'Toys'. The children have loved listening to the stories we have used to guide our theme, including 'Whatever Next', 'Kippers Toybox', 'Where's my Teddy' and 'We're going on an Easter Hunt'.

The children have been labelling characters and items of the story using our role play area. They have loved role playing our story, from taking their own teddies to space in our rocket with space helmets and boots to being a passenger on a plane in our outside area. The children particularly enjoyed being the driver of the rocket and counting down from 5 to blast off whilst retelling the story of Whatever Next. There have been opportunities to write lists of ingredients to make sandwiches for our picnic. Playing matching games, colourful semantics relating to our stories and writing cvc words and initial sounds to objects with the stories to increase their vocabulary.

The children have continued to take part in signing toys, the children have been able to sign their favourite toy.

In maths, the children have been super with their rote counting, counting along to songs. The children have been exploring big and small, sorting and sequencing these as well as long and short. Some children have been building towers as tall as themselves.

The children have been exploring People who help us, we have been doing this through small world play and sensory opportunities. The children particularly enjoyed being a fire fighter and putting out the fire in the tuff tray. They have also had a visit from the dental hygienist whom brought in lots of practical resources and the children had fun brushing the teeth along to a song.

We've been very creative, making their models using different textures and materials, painting some marvellous animals – our chicks are fabulous. The children have been exploring different ingredients to make biscuits and cakes. Their favourite has been the teddy bear biscuits. Yummy!! The children have had lots of fun in our new music room. They have been using different musical instruments from the piano to the cymbals. The children have been creating their own music following along to a range of songs. Their favourite has been; I am the music man!



Squirrel



What a fantastic busy half term we have had in **Squirrel Class**. Our topic this half term has been Toys and we have loved listening to and working on the books Too Many Toys and Toys in Space.

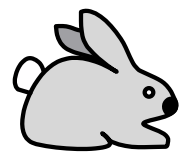
There have been some special days within this half term, beginning with Pancake day, where we all got to eat and toss a pancake! There has also been World Book Day where we took part in a book scavenger hunt, a visit from the school dentist to talk to us about looking after our teeth, Downs Syndrome Day where we wore and made odd socks, Red Nose day when we decorated cup cakes with red noses and sold them raising £74 for Comic relief! Finally, we have had made cards and gifts for Mother's Day and took part in Science week making bouncy eggs, growing cress, putting eggs in bottles and firing rockets!!

We have had great fun attending Birtley swimming baths for lessons again this term, continued to enjoy cookery sessions focusing on cooking eggs. We especially enjoyed growing and eating our own cress in our egg sandwiches. This half term has also seen us access the music room for the first time, experiencing how to play various instruments to follow instructions.

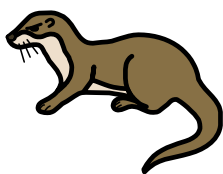
This term will be finished off focusing on Easter crafts and tasks before we break for a well-deserved Easter holiday.

We have been learning about the Winter Paralympics as our 'games and hobbies' topic. We watched the opening ceremony and looked at the official mascots and Olympic torch. Mrs. Ray brought in a touch from the London 2012 Olympics and we compared the differences in the two. We wanted to learn about para-snowboarding so we watched videos of the cool tricks they do. We then had an exciting opportunity to visit Silksworth Ski Slope and tubing. We listened carefully to instructions and worked together to go down the hill in a big line and a donut! It was an amazing experience. We have played traditional yard games and designed our own board game, dice and playing pieces. In maths we have explored properties of shapes, including edges, vertices, symmetry and fractions. We were particularly good at halving and quartering food fairly. We have developed our turn taking, listening and communication skills playing lots of games in our topic this term!

Well done Rabbit Class!!



Rabbit



Otter



Otter Class have thoroughly enjoyed our topic theme this half term – 'toys and hobbies'. We've enjoyed going out and about in the local community, exploring games at the park and our reading hobby at Low Fell library. We've used a timeline of toys, working out where which were really old right through to modern toys, the staff bought some of their old toys which the class enjoyed looking at!

In Food tech, we've been looking at some basic but tricky skills such as cutting, spreading and of course washing up!

Our skills are coming along nicely and we're managing to work out healthy foods versus not so healthy foods using the food traffic light system. We have had a puberty talk this half term and a talk from the dental hygiene team. We practiced our teeth brushing skill's afterwards and I think most of us were surprised how long 2 minutes of brushing actually is!

In Maths we've learned all about shapes and have enjoyed shape hunts in the grounds and when out about.

We are keeping up with our Makaton practice by trying to learn the song 'This Is Me'. We're getting to know quite a few signs now and our singing is brilliant.



Badger



In December 2021, **Badger Class** made loads of money from the Christmas enterprise market. We decided to go and help the Ukraine refugee. They needed baby food, nappies and toys to keep them amused.

Tuesday 8th March 2022, we went on the bus to Gateshead to do some shopping for the Ukraine refugees who are in Poland. We bought money from home for bus fair so we could go on the bus. First we went to Poundland, then we went to Home Bargains, then went to Tesco, we brought baby food, nappies, gloves, shampoo, soaps and conditioner.

On Wednesday 9th March, we went to Birtley community centre to drop off the things that we bought from the shops.

After we dropped the things off, we went to the park near the community centre and when Eva and Sharna (which is us) walked back to the bus, our teacher said that we could write this article for the Cedars Times. That's the story from **Badger Class** have helped the Ukrainian's.

By Sharna and Eva



Fox Class have had a wonderful half term! The children have enjoyed their topic, Games and Hobbies and have been learning all about the Olympic and Paralympic games. We have explored China and particularly enjoyed researching different facts and comparing the games across the years.

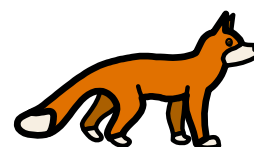
Fox Class are such a creative class and we all enjoy art and dance. The children have produced some amazing art work, inspired by the artist, Kandinsky, using shape and colour to create some fantastic pieces.

The children all enjoy participating in dance and following some complex dance routines, particularly to our favourite songs.



The children have all enjoyed our sessions in the music room and have enjoyed exploring the different instruments and creating different sounds and beats.

Fox Class have enjoyed their food technology sessions and have made some wonderful dishes. We loved using the skills we've been learning to make spaghetti Bolognese, fish cakes and chocolate fudge cakes. They were a delicious.



Fox



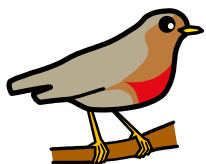
Goldfinch

Goldfinch Class have had another busy half term!

We have continued working on our topic Marvellous Multi-Media looking at the book 'Unplugged'. The children have showed excellent memory skills recalling the story and have used this as a guide to write a balanced agreement about using technology more in school. In Maths sessions we have been focusing on naming 2D and 3D shapes whilst identifying their properties.

The children all enjoyed taking part in STEM week where they conducted a range of practical challenges, bouncy egg experiment and the coke/mentos experiment. All the children worked well in small groups and were able to make predictions about the possible outcome providing an explanation. The children loved celebrating Comic Relief creating a red nose, decorating biscuits and telling funny jokes.

In cookery sessions we have made spaghetti bolognaise and lasagna whilst focusing on how food is stored and how we can grow our own produce. We have also got creative in Art and DT by planning and making a robot model out of junk modelling and making a card and special gifts for Mother's Day.



Robin

Robin Class have had a fantastic time this half term investigating different cultures and countries and learning about the differences and similarities in the world. We have explored the human and physical features of countries and cities such as South Africa, Paris and Greece. We have also had a great time learning to cook different dishes and preparing snacks independently using the microwave and toaster in our classroom. The children have been surprised at how simple it can be to prepare their own tasty snacks! We are really proud of the children for exploring different sensory experiences, especially those that have used their sense of smell, touch and taste to sample new foods. In order to raise funds for the Ukraine, the class were really pleased to 'Splat The Teacher' and thoroughly enjoyed soaking both Mrs Ward and Mrs Meek?

As a Science project this term, we visited a garden centre to explore different plant types and think about what they need. We are currently investigating plans in our classroom to find out whether they can survive with different amounts of water, light and soil. We are also growing some pretty plants to plant around school and some onions to see how big we can make them!

All in all, a fantastic half term in Robin Class!





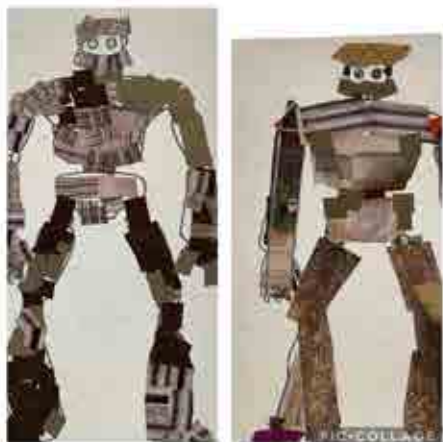
Starling

We've had another wonderful term in **Starling Class**, particularly enjoying this brighter weather. One of our highlights has been a visit to Saltwell Park, where we sketched the Towers, visited the animals and raced around the maze!

Our topic this half term has focused on Italy, and the group have engaged brilliantly with everything from making Italian foods to researching the lost city of Pompeii. Check out some of our super watercolour volcanoes.

One of the things we're most proud of is everyone's improvement in how much we can write and focus on a task. The group made a stunning collection of Non-Fiction books to share our learning on favourite animals.

We can't wait to see what the Summer Term brings!



Woodpecker

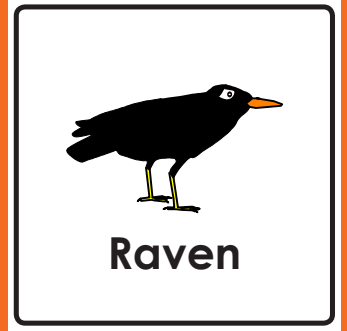
Woodpecker's theme this half term has been all about 'Marvellous Multimedia'. They have enjoyed learning about Iron Man and watching 'The Iron Giant' learning lots of new words related to the book. The boys have started to write their own newspaper article and can identify key features needed. The class then took a range of photographs of metal objects in school then printed them to use as part of their Iron Man artwork.

During Well-being Wednesday each pupil has been encouraged to make their own favourite breakfast - Nutella is always a winner! They are all keen to make their breakfast and to share with their friends.

We have been out and about this half term with visits to the Discovery Museum and Saltwell Park. They have been developing their road skills when crossing the road and have took turns buying things from the shop and knowing how much to pay and what change they may needed.

Forces was the topic in Science and this is why we visited the Discovery Museum. Everyone explored forces through the interactive games and loved the magnets and gravity ball!





It's been a busy half term in **Raven Class**, doing and learning lots of new things. We are very glad that restrictions have been lifted, which means we can now venture out in the community and practice our independence skills. YAY! We have talked about risks in the community, practiced our personal safety and road safety, and accessed local shops and services.

We have been very excited about learning how to play the keyboard in music lessons. First we learnt how to identify where each note was on the keyboard, the notes `E G B D F and F A C E. Once we were able to identify where the keys were, we learnt to play songs like 'Mary had a little lamb' and 'Twinkle Twinkle'. We look forward to challenging ourselves to learn more songs, and next term even try playing the recorder.

Each day in **Raven Class** we watch the news and discuss what's going on around the world. We were very saddened by what is going on in Ukraine, and decided we wanted to help, many of our class members are in the student council, so we put together a letter to send out to parents to ask for their help in donating to Ukraine. We were overwhelmed by the donations we received. We loved the responsibility of sorting out the donations, packing them in boxes and taking them to the depot ready to be shipped. We were very proud of our school for being so kind to Ukraine.



Kingfisher Class have been very busy this term in Science, we have been looking at different forces and how we come into contact with them in our day to day lives. We have found pull and push forces around school and off site at the park.

We have also been looking at impact force conducted our own experiment where we made our own predictions of what we expect to happen when we build our own Lego cars to carry an egg down the ramp into a wall then what will happen when adapt our cars and add protection to our eggs and compare the results. We found that from the first test all our eggs smashed on Impact from driving down the ramp into the wall, however when we adapted and modified our cars by adding protection like elastic bands for seatbelts and cotton wool as padding we found that all of our eggs survived the impact and none of them should smashed.



Owl Class have been super busy this half term. We have been looking at different forms of animation as part of our marvellous multimedia topic and creating our favourite Disney Characters in Art. We have also been reading *The Worry Website* by Jacqueline Wilson as a class.



We have spent a lot of time identifying risks in school, at home and in the community. We have visited Seaham beach, the Metrocentre, Quayside and Plessey Woods. We discussed how important it is to keep safe and how to minimise any risks we come across.

Last week we visited the Discovery Museum for our Science lesson. We spent time on the Science floor learning all about different forces.



Eagle Class have had a fun filled half term with our topic multimedia. In creativity the Eagles have been looking at different way they can create art. They have explored photography, making videos and looked into different inventions over the years. The class enjoyed looking at photographer Frans Lanting, understanding how he captures beautiful pictures of wildlife, which he then transforms into his own unique style. We have some keen photographers in **Eagle Class**. Students have also come up with some great ideas for future inventions such as time machines, boxes that can make any object and infinite bouncy balls, they showcased their inventions using an animation programme... Watch this space!



Eagles have also been working hard to improve their independence skills this half term in Preparation for Adulthood. They have been continuing to make lots of food dishes such as flapjacks, pastries and vegetable frittatas. The Eagles have gained a range of skills with cookery equipment and are understanding the variations of food choices. The class has made some great progress with being safe in the kitchen and getting involved in all parts of independent living, they have even been doing lots of washing and drying. **Well done Eagles you should be proud!!!**

FAMILY LEARNING FUN

What a brilliant few weeks we've had with our Family Learning events in school! Over the past three weeks, parents have spent a lovely relaxing afternoon with their children, making some fantastic creations. We made paper birds, fish, Mothers Day mirrors, popcorn chicks and Easter cards. It been so lovely watching our families spend time together. We hope to have some more sessions running after the holidays – we'll be in touch again soon to let you know dates. Thank you to all who joined us.



Just a reminder that school can make referrals to the local food bank. We also have a small stock of pre loved uniforms available for families struggling with rising living costs. Please call Helen or Hannah, Family Liaison to discuss. Everything will be kept confidential and we are here to help.



One of our students in Year 8 has created this comic strip. Isn't it fantastic!

Student Council

Here are a few of the events we have enjoyed this half-term.

Our School celebrated **World Book Day** by having a dress down day and student representatives collected and enjoyed hiding books around the school for pupils to find and take back to their classes to enjoy. Pupils looked at the books and then returned them to other students to look at throughout the day.

Comic Relief donations totalled an amazing **£243.46!** We also collected donations for Ukraine which filled twenty boxes! On chairperson Zoe and her class sorted, labelled and boxed the donations and delivered them to the depot. Student Council representatives put in a lot of hard work to make **Red Nose Day** a success. They all got involved around school from making posters, decorating classrooms, creating splat the teacher background, decorating and selling cakes, having the idea of telling jokes to Mrs. O'Reilly for the Joke competition, planning a sensory walk and pie face for the younger pupils. Mr. Vincent met with us to talk about the outside area. We are very excited to announce we are going to have new playground equipment! We have looked at the designs and have fed back what we think. Callum from Robin says *"Wow! It looks epic!"* Thomas from Goldfinch agreed saying *"It's good I like everything to be honest"*.

School Student Council have arranged for classes to go on Easter Hunt with clues which will lead them to an Easter surprise! To make it even more egg-citing we are running an Easter egg design competition! School reps gave out templates and craft materials to every class. It was very important to the school reps that we cut down on waste and not to use anything which could have long lasting effects on our environment. This is why we decided to create something different this year. The wonderful designs will decorate our school and the Winners will receive a book to enjoy over the holidays. Have a fantastic Easter Holiday from the School Student Council.





Mrs. O'Reilly

Head of School

It has been heartening to see the first signs of spring making their appearance; a little warm sun on your face and the beautiful daffodils popping up everywhere is enough to get us all outside again. It has been fantastic to see lots of groups getting outside, exploring our wooded areas or going on trips, broadening their horizons.

Our children love to learn outdoors; that's why all groups will begin to have a Forest School session in our woodland areas each week from after Easter. These sessions are fun, but also a great opportunity to work together developing social and communication skills, as well as teamwork, resilience and independence skills.

We were lucky enough to have a beautiful sunny day for Red Nose Day back in March. We had a fantastic day and a brilliant cake stall run by Squirrel Class! The highlight had to be the 'Splat a Teacher' event on the playground. There was so much laughter and good spirit, it was lovely to see everyone come together and encourage each other (even if I did get very, very wet!) It has been a long time since we have been able to come together as a school.

Our whole school community came together amazingly too to support the refugees in Ukraine. Our school council were keen to help the refugees after learning about the conflict in Ukraine and wanted to collect supplies to send over to the war zone. The donations that came in from all of our families was overwhelming. Raven Class organised all of the donations into 20 large boxes and took them to the depot to be transported. It is a fantastic example of how people come together to help others in trouble. To paraphrase someone much wiser than me, 'When things are scary, there are always those that help, look for the helpers.'

I hope you all have a lovely Easter and enjoy some sunshine. We look forward to welcoming all of our students back on Monday 25th April for the start of the summer term and the preparations for our Jubilee celebrations.



Gill Morton

Chair of Governor's

On the behalf of The Governing Body, I would like to thank all of staff, carers, parents and students involved with Cedars for the continued support and amazing work ethic, which is enabling Cedars to move forward with their vision to ensure all our students achieve the best outcomes possible to allow them all to live life to the full.

This spring term has been a very busy one as can be seen in all the class reports. As we are now returning to our new normal day to day lives I have to congratulate everyone on their understanding and determination to get through COVID restrictions.

We have one term left in this school year and I am sure that this summer term will be full of exciting adventures for us all.

The governing body are looking forward to hearing all about them.

Stay safe everyone



Back to School

25.04.2022

