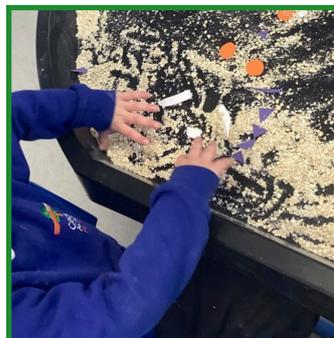


Mouse

This half term **Mouse Class** have enjoyed sharing our favourite stories. We loved looking at books in different places around school- our garden, the sensory room, reading den and even outside on the 'big yard'! Everyone listened really well and used a range of sensory materials to explore each story in our own way.

We loved making Guffalo crumble, adding orange eyes, black tongues and purple prickles to the porridge oaks – and sharing afternoon tea with a tiger. We enjoyed building different structures with the large blocks, our favourite was the gingerbread house to see how many children we could fit inside.

To end the half-term, we celebrated Chinese New Year. We explored rice and noodles sensory play, using different tools to fill and empty containers and cut up the noodles. We made dragon **poppets** using hand prints and glitter and played instruments to join in with the dragon dance parade. We had our own parade in our garden playing instruments and dancing with **ribbons** sticks. **What a busy, but very fun half term!**



Bat Class have had a fabulous half term! Our communication focus has been 'Colours' and 'Animals' and we have used lots of our favourite stories to inspire work on these themes. The children have explored 'Each Peach Pear Plum', 'Elmer the Elephant' and 'Wow Said the Owl'. We have had our own puppet theatre and had sensory trays following our themes. The children have had **Gerard** success using our parachute to explore colour and social games. The children have been using Makaton to sign colours and animals, and we have been on 'I spy' **hurts** in the grounds of the school with our homemade binoculars! The children have explored number throughout the term but we have focused the last few weeks on Mass and Length too. We have all loved investigating using the bucket scales. We have even had time to start growing our own seedlings, we can't wait for next half term when we can grow even more!



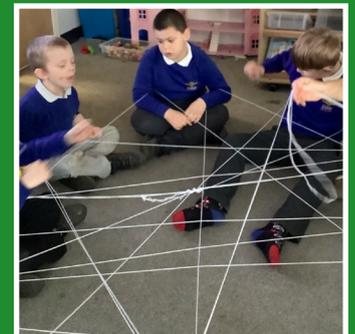
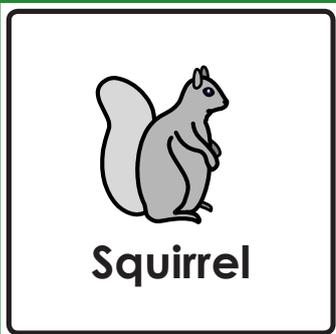
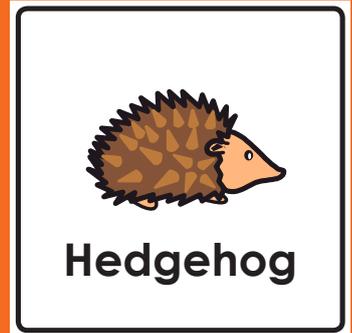
Bat

What a fantastic time we have had in **Hedgehog Class** this half term. This half term the class topic has been 'Favourite Stories'. The children have loved listening to the stories we have used to guide our theme, including; 'The Gruffalo, The Tiger Who Came to Tea, The Great Race and The Three Little Pigs'. The children have enjoyed the role play area, especially when it was The Tiger café, taking the role of chef, costumer and waiter/waitress (exploring money and sorting coins into different values). They particularly enjoyed serving up sausages and chips like in the story 'The Tiger Who Came for Tea'.

Also, this half term, the children have enjoyed our sensory stories, making Gruffalo soup and Tiger soup in the mud kitchen, brushing clean the Gruffalo terrible teeth and serving dishes in the Gruffalo café such as roasted fox and scrambled snake.

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Hedgehog Class enjoyed listening to the story 'The Great Race'. As part of this, the children used Makaton to sign all 12 animals within the story. The class enjoyed trying various Chinese foods including spring rolls and noodles, however the prawn crackers were the favourite amongst the children!

Hedgehog Class have been discussing and trying savoury and sweet foods. The children have tried cucumber and hummus, banana split, strawberries with melted chocolate and fruit kebabs to represent their feelings explored during Children's Mental Health Day.



This half term, **Squirrel Class** have loved working on the topic of superheroes! We have looked at many different superheroes including; Superman, Batman, Iron Man and the Hulk. We even learned about one of the first superheroes, Hercules, and some of the tasks that he had to complete], as well as our very own made up superhero Squirrel Boy!

We have worked together to build our own spider-web to catch the Green Goblin, made our Bat-Signal and grew our own gummy bears! For safer internet day we focused on how everything was not always true on the internet, after listening to the story of Penguinpig we looked at pictures of animals found on the internet which could be real or not.

This term we took part in Mental Health week and listened to the story of 'The Colour Monster', focusing on feelings and the colour associated with them. We have also continued to enjoy food technology, soft play, PE and immersion room sessions.

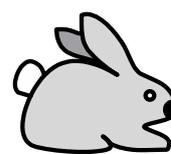
We came back to school to CCTV footage of a monster in our classroom! We designed a trap to catch the monster. After the weekend we came back to underpants all over the classroom! We designed our own funky underpants sharing the story 'Monsters Love Underpants'.

We enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year where we had some very brave pupils try some new Chinese Foods! We explored the folk-tale of The Magin Paintbrush and painted what we wished would come to life, like in the story.

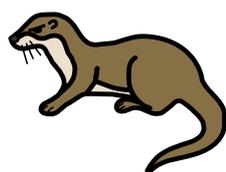
We filmed our monster topic looking at the historical tale of 'The Lambton Worm'. As part of our learning on this, we loved our visit to Penshaw Monument where we lapped his tail around 7 times! We counted 100 steps then had fun in the park.

We have also started our outdoor learning session this half-term. In our circle time we have enjoyed messy stories and playing games together.

What a lovely half-term!



Rabbit



Otter

Otter Class have thoroughly enjoyed our topic theme this half term – 'Monsters'. We've drawn, described and searched for all sorts of monsters! We went on a monster hunt and enjoyed our first trip out of school to Penshaw Monument and Herrington Park on a beautiful, sunny day in January.

We all climbed the hill really quickly, despite it being so steep and we think we have found some evidence of the Lambton worm!!

In **Food tech**, we've been learning about Burns night haggis, neaps and tatties! I think most of us tried the haggis and were maybe surprised to find we quite liked it!

We've celebrated Chinese new year and made stir fry. Our peeling, chopping, mashing, boiling and tidying up skills are coming along nicely!

We've taken part in the RSPB garden bird watch count and enjoyed counting the birds we could see in Cedars grounds,

using tally charts to record them. We saw lots of seagulls and pigeons and magpies and we had to be quite quiet so they wouldn't fly away before we counted them! Also in the garden, we dug up worms, measured them, described them and then watched them wiggle their way around the wormery we made them.

We are keeping up our Makaton practice by trying to learn the song 'Roar'. We're getting to know quite a few songs now and our singing is brilliant.



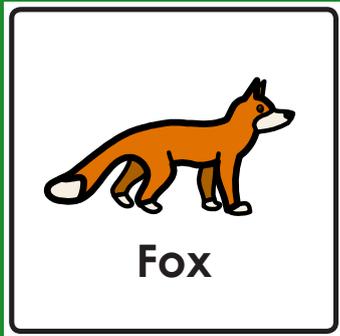
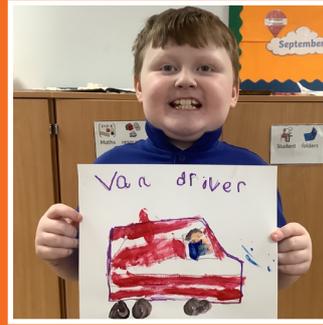


Our topic this half term has been linked to Monsters and we have read a lot of monster related stories, producing some great descriptive writing to go with them.

Our History has been linked to the stories of Myths and Monsters and we have looked at different sources to help us understand about the past and looked at ancient landmarks.

We have read about the Greek monster Medusa and created our own Parthenon temples out of clay, linked to where the Medusa myth is set. We also created our own sunsets and used Art straws to show a different representation of the famous landmark.

As part of our Preparation for Adulthood (PfA), we have been thinking about the skills and interests we have to focus us on what our future careers may be. We have also been looking into the rights of the child which applies to each and every one of us which we will take forward into our futures.



This half term **Fox Class** have thoroughly enjoyed their topic, Monsters! Nobody was more surprised than us to have a monster actually visit our classroom!

We immediately took on the role of class reporters and embarked on an investigation, which led us to the discovery of CCTV footage of the Sandman!

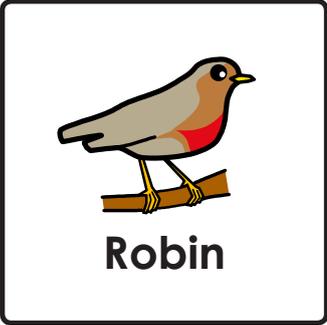
This half term, we have also enjoyed exploring the Chinese New Year. We particularly enjoyed making Chicken Chow Mein in cookery session.

We also decided to make a Greek salad in connection with learning all about myths and legends from Ancient Greece. We have enjoyed learning so many valuable new skills which have supported us in becoming more independence to help prepare us for adulthood. We love being creative in **Fox Class**. We designed and made our own monsters, using clay and we have enjoyed learning all about coding and algorithms. We have particularly enjoyed creating our own animations.



Goldfinch Class have loved our new topic 'Pirates'. We have listened to a range of stories such as 'Pirate Pete and his Parrot', 'The Pirates Next Door' and 'The Pirate Crunches'. The children have enjoyed creating their own wanted posters including alliteration, descriptive and persuasive language. We then went on a Pirate hunt following a range of cryptic clues to find their wanted pirate. Unfortunately, they had escaped, however they did leave a treasure chest with some delicious cakes for the class.

During art sessions the children got creative using fruit to create their own models of a pirate ship, boats, and a treasure island whilst remembering the importance of personal hygiene and using a knife safely. We also worked as a class charter around children's rights.



This half term we have been learning all about 'Pirates'! The children have enjoyed using pirate language and exploring secret codes. They have found out what life would be like as a 16th century pirate and got into character by writing a diary extract as a pirate. They've used some wonderful language in their description and we are really impressed with how everyone has embraced the topic.

In Creative Arts we have had fun constructing flat pack parrots, creating treasure maps and using mod roc to make pirate cutlasses! As a culmination to this term is hard work, the children are making their own pirate film. For this project they have been creating special effects, making props and exploring camera angles and special effects. **Watch this space for a premier!**

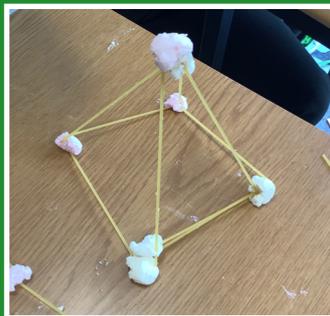




Starling Class have had a super half term, we've enjoyed our Pirates topic! One of our highlights would be making super wanted posters for famous pirates, and tea-staining them to make them look ancient! The group have also made treasure maps, designed pirate flags and made comic strips to show the life of a pirate.

Another top task was making 3D shapes from spaghetti and marshmallows. The group have been taking part in 'Problem Fridays' in Maths, where we aim to get stuck on purpose to develop our independent skills in solving problems. We're starting to get used to the idea that it's good to be stuck, and looking forward to seeing how the group enjoy new challenges more and more!

Last but not least.... My personal favourite time has been sampling our **Starlings'** delicious pasta dishes in the cookery room!



Another busy half term with lots of interesting learning about 'Pirates'. We all enjoyed the story of the 'Accidental Pirates' where we learned lots about **journeys** around the world which encouraged all the pupils to locate and name various countries of the world.

As part of our learning about pirates, we took a trip to Seaham **Beach** where we carried out some sand art and also looked for coloured **class** treasure.

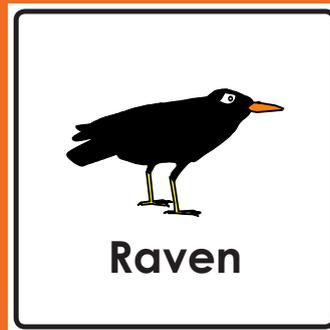
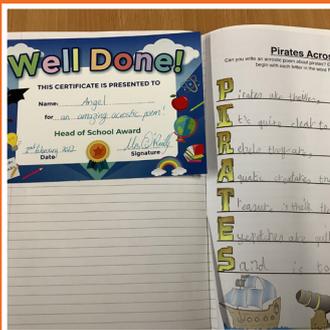
Woodpecker Class were able to buy their own snack which **aids** their independence skills.



They all thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Chinese New Year the year of the Tiger, sampling a range of different foods and carrying out a variety of fun learning activities. **Woodpecker Class** were able to buy their own snack which **aids** their independence skills.

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This half term in **Raven Class**, we have very much enjoyed learning about Pirates. We have been learning about the lives of pirates, where they came from, the jobs they did, their punishments, how they spoke, how they acted and what they sang. We also been reading 'Treasure Island'.

During storytelling week, we learnt about what makes a good story and how to tell a good story. We created our own pirate stories, using a picture prompt and our wonderful imagination. We then told our stories aloud for everyone to hear. We were so brave!

Alongside our stories, we also made acrostic poems, our own sea shanties and research projects on pirates punishments. Did you know that 'Walk the Plank' was in fact a real punishment, but was just really rare?? We just thought it was a myth!!

Lastly, we LOVED going on a **Treasure Hunt** around school. We worked together to try and figure out the clues, in order to find where the X was marked. We loved the treasure treats!



Decking – The past few weeks the builders have been working very hard on our old decked area to an all weather patio which means that all staff and students will be able to access this all year round! We are really looking forward to this being complete soon!



Forest School – This week Kingfisher visited Eden Place, we followed forest school rules to stay safe in the forest and really enjoyed playing games. We played '1, 2, 3 where are you?' and 'Creeping Comanche'. As well as playing games we made our own dens out of sticks and twigs and are really looking forward to our next visit!



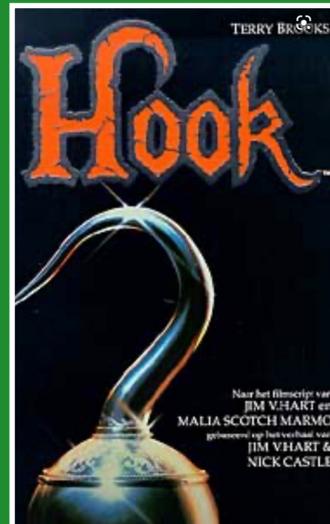
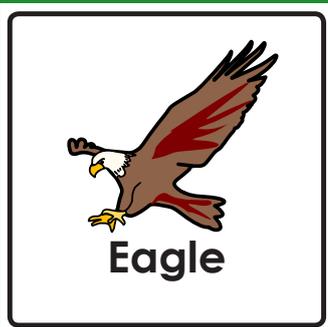
Cookery – During cookery we worked really hard at making sure we followed our step by step instructions to not only make our Fun Pirate Ship Boats and also our Treasure Island **Pizza's** but to ensure we are using the equipment **safety** and **good hygiene**.



This term **Owl Class's** topic has been Pirates and we have enjoyed learning all about them. We looked at Treasure Island in English, learnt about Pirate lifestyles, learnt sea shanties, completed Pirate Games in PE, designed and made our own Pirate Ships out of Clay in Art.

Our favourite part of this term has been our Science experiments. We worked in pairs to build pirate ships out of cardboard, we then had to think about how we could alter our designs to make them waterproof.

Once we had completed our tasks, we let our ships loose on the high seas! Well, Watergate Park. All of our ships floated, which was a huge success.



Eagle Class have really enjoyed the start to this term, learning about pirates! We have started reading the novel Hook by Terry Brooks. This is a retake on the classic story Peter Pan, where Hook and Pan are enemies and take part in constant battles in a place called Neverland. They have found the story exciting to delve deeper into and have enjoyed reading about the battles between Hook, Pan and the Lost Boys.

As part of our Citizenship lessons, we have been looking at Mapping and how to find our way around using Google Maps, Atlas' and using co-ordinates. We have designed and made our own treasure maps too! We have also been learning about Children's Rights and how to recognise that there are human rights that are there to protect everyone. We have explored the UNCRC document a shared our thoughts on what rights stood out to us and why we think they are important.

During Preparation for Adulthood, we have learning how to take care of ourselves independently. We have researched ways to safe when in the kitchen and when out in the community. So far, this term, the **Eagles** have prepared and baked Lemon Drizzle Cake and cooked themselves omelettes. The **Eagles** have enjoyed walks in our local community to look at statues and the materials they are made out of – as part of our Creative and Science Curriculum.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Hello. We would like to introduce ourselves and explain a little bit about what we do here at Cedars Academy. Our names are Hannah Hadley and Helen Jarvis and we are the Family Liaison contacts for EYFS/KS1-3 within the Services Team.

We work with families and professionals ensuring Education & Health Care Plans are accurate and up to date.

But WE do so much more! We liaise with health care professionals including the school nursing team, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and the teams supporting hearing and visual impairments. We also support families with social care involvement; this can include referrals to Early Help, an early intervention to support families struggling at home. Many families may have support from the Children with Disabilities Team. We are also part of the school safeguarding team. It's a busy life!

There are many additional things we can do to help our families, including; Signposting to additional organisations, Make referrals, Support with uniforms, Referrals to Gateshead Food Bank, Requests for funding, Help with PLD/DLA applications, Attendance monitoring and Support for mental health.

We are currently in the process of organising Family Learning Courses to be held in school. They will be held on a Tuesday afternoon – we'll be back with more information soon!

Visit the Services page on our school website:
<https://www.cedarstrust-school.org/holistic-services>



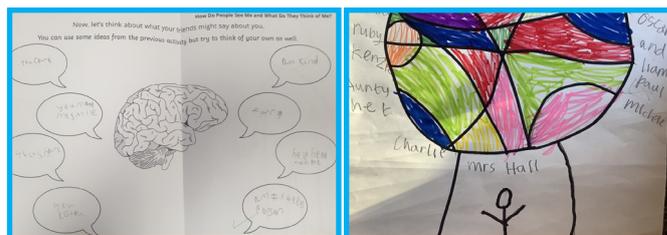
HANNAH HADLEY



HELEN JARVIS

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Cedars celebrated Children's Mental Health Week (7th to 13th February 2022). This year's theme was 'Growing Together' and we have encouraged our pupils to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. Lots of lovely learning has been going on in classes.



Student Council

We have been looking at student well-being with Mrs Pickering. School reps discussed how they can help students feel good in school and improve their well-being. Questionnaires were sent out to classes. School reps talked about feelings safe and happy in school, whilst others also being kind to other students. The students said they would like to go on school trips, eat in the dinner hall and have a Sports day.

Trinity, Lexi and Harry took part in a School Council walk around school and advised Mrs O'Reilly how the school looked from a student's point of view.

School Student Council were very excited when Mrs Carr came to our meeting to talk about the new music room! Student reps would like to learn guitar, clarinet, piano, whistling and the recorder. Eva would enjoy taking part in singing lessons. Conner and Stella said Mr Oliver and Mr Connolly could teach guitar lessons. Lucy would like music lessons in after school clubs.

We meet every fortnight and have representatives from every class. We now have action weeks where we put into action all our great ideas from our meetings the following week. We use this time to look at different areas of the school and to plan our fundraising for different charities. We are currently working on our information board so visitors can see all the great work we are involved in around school.



Mrs. O'Reilly

Head of School

Staff and students are as busy as ever at the half point of the academic year. There is a purposeful atmosphere around school, everyone engaged and enjoying their learning.

The themes across school this half term have been based around fairy tales and fantasy stories. Our youngest classes have been enjoying lots of their favourite stories, whilst our older students have had fun exploring tales about monsters and pirates. These themes have been preparing everyone for World Book Day next half term where we will be sharing our favourite books and taking part in lots of fun activities that will immerse our children in colourful stories that will spark their imagination and love of reading.

World Book Day is a great way to enrich the curriculum which has been designed by our team to engage and excite our children and provide language rich learning experiences.

Many studies have shown the huge positive impact that sharing books with children can have on their language development, even from a very young age. Rereading favourite tales to your child at home and

discussing the pictures is enormously valuable in helping them to gain confidence with language. If you would like more books to share at home with your child, please let your child's class team know. We'll be sharing more information over the next term about how you can help your child with language and reading at home.

Keeping on the theme of literacy, I have been delighted to see so many wonderful examples of children's writing this term, from those who are just learning how to form a single letter, write their own name, or use symbols to create their own sentences, to those who can write full stories or use complex grammar and vocabulary to create their own literary masterpieces. Each child's progress is unique to them and is equally amazing.

I hope you have enjoyed talking to your child's class team this week and finding out more about how your child has progressed in all areas so far this academic year. I am immensely proud of all of our young people and can't wait to see how they will grow in the coming months.

Mrs Michelle O'Reilly
Head of School



Gill Morton

Chair of Governor's

Firstly the governors would like to say a huge well done to all our pupils and staff for their excellent start to 2022. You have all shown great commitment and enthusiasm since your return after the Christmas break.

The opening of the extended College premises at Walker Terrace has gone really well with pupils and staff loving their new accommodation. Well done to everyone involved in the preparations your hard work is really appreciated.

We hope going forward that the current restrictions continue to lift and we can all get back to enjoying a full and active school life.

Again well done to you all.



Back to School

28.02.2022



www.cedarstrust.org.uk