

CLASS ONE

Class 1 have really enjoyed this term's topic on Transport. We particularly enjoyed sharing stories 'The Train Ride' and 'The Magic Train Ride', joining in with repetitive phrases and learning all about going on a train ride. We have loved the train station role play area, dressing up as a train driver, buying tickets and pretending to visit different places. **All aboard! Tickets please!**



CLASS TWO

Class 2 have enjoyed a busy term whether they were at home or in school. We looked at lots of different traditional tales including Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and Jack and The Beanstalk. We have made porridge, cupcakes and decorated biscuits. We found out about Chinese New Year and made our own dragons and oxen to celebrate the year of the Ox. As part of our science we looked at the seasons and had lots of fun in the snow when it came.

In the second part of the term we enjoyed welcome back more children back and got a new member of our class too! We have loved looking at different vehicles and have made our own inventions. It has been fun looking at forces and pushing cars up and down, as well as making our own boats to float on the water using recycled materials. Our fine motor control is really improving too and we love to take part in dough disco, sensory circuits and other activities in class. We engaged in lots of sensory play when we read the story of 'Naughty Bus' and used this to help us write our own class version which is now in our reading corner. Everyone also enjoyed celebrating World Book Day in school when we read the story of 'Supertato' and had a Supertato day. Another busy term and now that everyone is back it's brilliant, **Well Done Class 2.**



CLASS Three

Class 3 have all enjoyed being back together this term. We have worked hard to develop our team building skills. Firstly working together to get the balls to roll through the paint and then where we wanted them to go on the paper.

Secondly, we had to pass the ball of wool amongst ourselves so that we made a spider's web "light" enough to fill our very own Incey Wincey.

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RED NOSE DAY

We wore red clothing and did fun activities in our classes. We raised:

£47.11

CLASS FOUR

Class 4 have all settled back in remarkably well and have all been working so hard! We have all enjoyed our current topic, Terrific Transport. We have worked hard in all areas and have loved exploring different artists, such as Van Gogh. The children have particularly enjoyed participating in Science week, where they had the opportunity to conduct some exciting and fun experiments.

The children particularly enjoyed making a volcano, making water fireworks and their own balloon cars.

Class 4 all showed their support for Comic Relief and World Down Syndrome Day.

Well done Class 4! You all are amazing and should be incredibly proud of yourselves!

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CLASS five

5

As a class we have been focusing upon building relationships in and out of the classroom. We have worked together as a team, took turns and listened to each other whilst carrying out a range of activities.

We gave each other instructions where we had to listen to one another, work together to build a structure and take turns demonstrating patience and resilience when completing a group activity.



CLASS SIX

6

CRACKING CONTRAPTIONS!

This term **Class 6** have looked at inventors. We have particularly enjoyed watching clips from Wallace and Gromit such as the Snoozeatron, Soccomatic and Autochef. You might enjoy watching more cracking contraptions on YouTube.

Poor Gromit certainly got a bad deal with all these contraptions, we really felt sorry for him at times. We found out that there are simpler ways to make you sleepy at night instead of having a snoozeatron machine. We made sleepy bath bombs and looked at relaxation techniques; it's important for everyone to relax to make you feel fit and well. We're now experts in this field and will continue to make sure this is central to our daily activities. We've also undertaken lots of cooking activities with eggs as Wallace created a machine to make the perfect egg for breakfast. As usual it ended up being an utter catastrophe and we found out again that no machine is needed as it's so easy to make scrambled, boiled and fried eggs. We have really loved having tasty breakfast and brunch in class.



CLASS 7

This half term **Class 7** have looked at Incredible Inventions. We have looked at the history of computers and how these have changed over time. We looked inside a laptop to identify the different parts and their functions. We have learned about some famous inventions, including the Wright Brothers and the invention of flying machines.



We have looked at famous artists who use shapes and recreated their work. We have been using our new maths equipment and learning how to use these properly to help us with our work.



We also enjoyed celebrating International Women's Day and learning about how women fought for the right to vote, including the songs they sung and the dramatic action they took.

After being apart for so long we have enjoyed playing games to rebuild our friendships and have been looking at how we all have differences and this is okay.

CLASSEIGHT



Class 8 have had lots of fun this term. This term in English, the children in **Class 8** have been focussing on instructions. Children have followed instructions to make their mums a mug cake for Mother's Day.

Then, the children have been writing instructions to make their own savoury or sweet snacks. They made their own decisions and brought in their own ingredients to make them in English. The children were very sensible using the sandwich maker machines.

*The children even gave a rating of their snack -10/10
'Delicious' 'Yum' 'I'm going to make these at home'*



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CLASS NINE



Class 9 have really enjoyed being back together again after so much time apart! Now that we are back together, it's been great to work collaboratively both in class and in our other learning environments. Two new favourites have been 'whole class tag' and 'dodgeball' during our break and PE times. In class we have worked together on a number of projects including the study and growth of plants and developing strategies to reduce waste within the class.



We have grown a variety of different plants in class and investigated how changing different conditions can change the way they grow. We have also looked at the different parts of plants and really enjoyed dissecting flowers to find the parts and investigate what they are for.



During waste week we had a virtual visit from Hannah from the 'Pickle Palace'. The children enjoyed learning how her charity rescues food and even had a go at reusing our own waste food, creating a delicious soup and loaf of bread. As a result of waste week, we now try to rescue food, reduce food waste and even recycle the paper and packaging we have in the classroom. We have also made leaflets and posters to encourage others to do the same.

During careers week we have enjoyed zoom chats with people who work in different industries and our favourites have been Kate from Northern Stage, who told us about careers in the performing arts in and Carl from Leeds Museum who told us all about working front or back of house in a museum. At the children's request, we have some more of these planned in for the future, including engineering and animal care.

CLASSTEN

This term in **Class 10** we have been focusing on our independence skills, especially learning how to be independent at home. We have been challenging our inner Jamie Oliver, to plan, prepare and make simple meals. We made mini tortilla pizzas, toasties with salad, pancakes and cookies. We had a PFA morning, where we learnt how to clean and tidy properly. We practiced using the Hoover, clearing the dishes and cleaning surfaces. We did really well, our classroom was spick and span!

We have been trying to encourage our students to be more independent where possible. They can now make their own cold/hot drink and make their own toast/cereal for breakfast. We are super impressed with their efforts. **Well Done Class 10!**



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CLASS 11

This term **Class 11** have been really busy and we are so pleased to see each other again! We have loved looking at careers week and learning all about the different skills that we need to work in Creative Arts!



In Expressive Arts we have been learning about percussion, we can't wait to make our drums and parade around school.

We also celebrated Comic Relief and Rocked our Socks for World Down Syndrome Day!

We have been learning all about dogs, their body language and what they need. We have enjoyed meeting Heidi.

College Development



We have occupied the premises on Walker Terrace since January 2017 and this has proven to be very successful in terms of bridging the gap between school and ensuring learners are prepared for adult

life. The adult environment, curriculum, opportunities and central location enables them to progress in their independence skills and ensure that they are better equipped to make the next transition on to college, further or higher education, training or employment.

We are delighted with the enthusiastic response to the restructure consultation from students and parents. We are very excited at the prospect of all Key Stage 4 joining Key Stage 5 students at Cedars College in September and look forward to the continuing success and growth of our extremely popular provision.

CLASS 12

This term **Class 12** have started to look into Food Waste and ways in which we can use/reduce the food we waste in school. Therefore, we have started to keep a food waste diary across school, as well as within our class. Did you know that over 14 million-tons of food is wasted per year in the UK alone? That's enough food to fill St James' Park roughly four times! We were shocked at how much we as a nation waste, so we decided to make a difference by looking into this subject in school. As a class we designed posters to put up around school to promote less food waste and our next challenge is to look at using this food waste for our outdoor spaces, by producing our own compost. Watch this space!



CLASS 13

Class 13 have thoroughly enjoyed using our fantastic new facilities for sports.

We couldn't be more proud of the maturity they've shown in team games and getting more active again.

From dodgeball to basketball, to all kinds of funny games, the group have got involved, they have improved their skills and been able to work together. I think staff are secretly desperate to get in there and run around too!

We can't wait to see what exciting developments are next at Cedars!



Wellbeing

During the current outbreak of COVID-19, it is more important than ever to look after our mental health and well-being.

Cedars have a section on well-being with links to help and give advice, access to free training online to support pupils, parents/carers and staff, please take a look.



**Anna Freud
National Centre for
Children and Families**

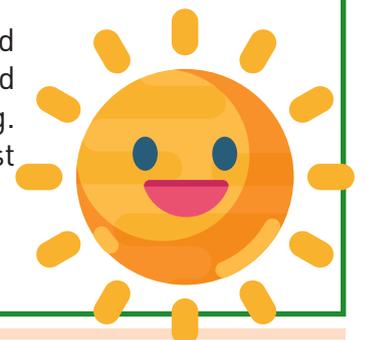


CLASS 14

Meet Mrs. Robin, the latest occupant to **Cedars** garden. She's been busy making her nest in the red trays outside **Class 14's** window. We've watched with interest, as she busies herself collecting leaves and grasses to construct her nest. We'll let you know how she gets on in the next newsletter.

We've been very busy getting the raised beds finished; riddled the soil and attached the netting ready for planting. The green-house is up, ready for the first seeding and the runner beans are in.

All we need now is lots of SUN!



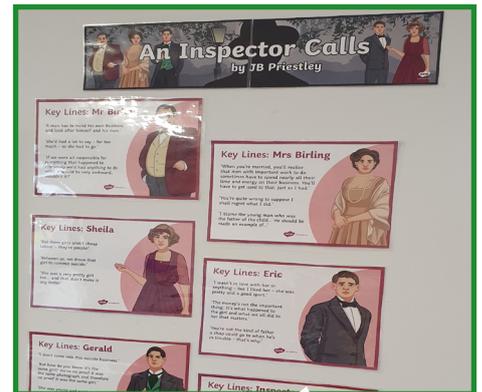
CLASS FIFTEEN 15

Class 15 have been working very hard each morning towards a GCSE Maths qualification with Joseph, and Maths is now their favourite lesson.

We have been working really hard in English too and recently completed 'An Inspector Calls'. We are half way through 'Of Mice and Men' which we really enjoyed (especially Mr. Bentley's range of accents when he reads the book to the class!)

We have been fortunate to have a great view of the building work outside and have been following the progress each day.

We have a chess expert in our class and we are looking forward to possibly hosting some chess matches in the future when it's possible, so start practicing if you are interested!



CLASS SIXTEEN



16

It's been a funny term for all of us and **Class 16** is no different. There have been some great things and some not so great things but definitely plenty to look forward to!

Luca enjoyed learning from home as it meant he got to spend more time with his family and Christmas day, although he did miss his friends and not being able to go to town (especially Pleased to Meet You!) He is looking forward to the shops and restaurants reopening and going to town. Elliot has enjoyed playing dodgeball in the new sports hall and football in the MUGA. He has missed seeing his grandparents and is looking forward to going on holiday. Oliver has enjoyed going to parks and playgrounds but said it was a shame that shops and restaurants were all closed. He is looking forward to all of these things reopening as it would make him and his family really happy. Tom has enjoyed gardening and food tech, seeing his friends and family and cooking with Mrs Ali. He has missed holidays, horse riding, going to the gym and swimming. Tom is looking forward to doing shopping, going to his favourite hairdressers and going to sixth form. This term Benji has enjoyed gardening, food tech and when it snowed! He has missed seeing his cousins, his friends and has found it boring at times. Benji is looking forward to the lighter nights, going out with friends and going on holiday. **Happy Easter everyone!**

CLASS 17

Spring has sprung and **Class 17** have been making most of the beautiful weather we have been enjoying of late.

They had been working in the school garden in the Autumn term, helping Mrs Downing to prepare the raised beds and clear the weeds as part of their Land Maintenance vocational taster course.

Now the finer weather is here, they have been making a start on their Introduction to Plant Care taster course. They have been getting their hands dirty by planting radish seeds in some new planters. It is a good time to plant radishes because they are quite hardy and will grow quickly, they hope to harvest a tasty crop of radishes in about four weeks. They'll be keeping a close eye on them in the meantime, making sure they are well watered and kept free of any pests.



RIGHTS RESPECTING GROUPS

The Rights Respecting group received donations from a local food bank, they decided to look at food and water. Each class was given a food waste dairy and encouraged to waste as little food as possible. The outcome of this will be discussed in the next student council meeting.



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The Environment group met with Mr Vincent to discuss the new Therapy Centre. They will meet on a regular basis to help with the fundraising of the Therapy Centre.



Student Council

Students in Primary Student Council have been looking ways to fundraise for the new Therapy Centre. They have already come up with some exciting ideas which included having a Masked Singer Talent Show, cake sale and sponsored dog walking. Austin and Ayla made a brilliant suggestion of having a logo painted on the wall, by students, at the entrance to the new Therapy Centre. We will be continuing to look at all these great ideas in our future meetings.

We had a full Student Council meeting where we welcomed everyone back to School and College. We discussed what each working group have planned for the next term. The working groups focus on Environment, School Life, Rights Respecting Schools and Fundraising Events. We are all agreed that these are exciting times for Cedars School and College.

Therapy Centre UPDATE



You will be aware that we are currently building a new purpose-built Therapy Centre to accommodate a Sensory Studio, Sensory Integration and Movement Room, Soft Play Room, Therapeutic Creative Arts Space, Communication Intervention Room, Counselling Room, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy Suite.

The builders have laid the foundations and are above ground level, laying block work and fitting steel. The builders are very confident that the construction will be complete by mid-July. This will give us time over the summer holiday to internally fit out the rooms ready for use in September. Currently members of the Student Council Environment Group are working with the Senior Leadership Group to help design and plan for both exterior and interior environment, equipment and finishes.

The building of the Therapy Centre provides us with the facilities to ensure our full, holistic curriculum can be delivered. We are all extremely excited at the prospect of using the new rooms in September!

SCHOOL LIFE GROUP

We welcomed a new member to our group, Hamid from Class 1. Students discussed how they would like play equipment for break times. Ella, Barney, Charlie and William said they like balls and hula hoops. Frankie and Hamid suggested bubbles.

They have all been agreed and will be soon handed out by our student representatives. We now have a new student voice suggestion box in Reception to give the opportunity for more students to share their ideas.

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS GROUP

The Fundraising group had a meeting to discuss their ideas for Comic Relief. They came with brilliant ideas. In the end we decided on the whole school would wear red and classes could choose activities that they would like to do.

**COMIC
RELIEF**



Mr. Flowers

This term has seen the successful full return to School and College. Our children, young people and staff have all returned full of joy, hope and anticipation; delighted to be back with their friends, colleagues and teaching teams, and to the structure, opportunities and environment that we are able to provide.

They have all shown remarkable resilience throughout this most challenging year. The support that they have received from their families and friends has been outstanding. We are all so lucky to be part of such a caring and committed community.

We are all very conscious that we are not in the clear and we have not relaxed our approach to hygiene, distancing and maintaining as safe an environment as possible. We know that this will continue for some time. We have reflected on the changes imposed on us and of the lessons learned. This will inform structure and routines for the next academic year.

Whilst many aspects of learning have been hindered we have not relaxed in our plans to develop the range of experiences that we are able to provide at Cedars. With the planned move for KS4 students to Cedars College and the continued building and accommodation development at Cedars School, we have restructured our provision to better reflect the needs of our young people.

To reflect these adjustments to provision we have recently restructured our Senior Leadership Group. We now have Head of School (Michelle O'Reilly) and Deputy Head of School (Joanne Carr), Heads of AtL (Liz Neale and Keith Vincent), Head of College (Julie Vincent) and Deputy Head of College (Dan Hearne). I will be taking more of an executive role overseeing both provisions, our partner organisations and supporting the increasing role of Cedars Trust in meeting the wider community aims around learning, training and employment.

This edition of Cedars Times clearly demonstrates that we are beginning to get back to providing a range of exciting and challenging opportunities and experiences for our children and young people. We all look forward to a joyful and productive Summer Term.

Have a wonderful Easter all!

Chair & Vice Chair of the Governors

The governing body of Cedars would firstly like to say a huge thank you to all staff, pupils, parents and carers for the amazing support they have shown Cedars during the incredibly difficult times we have gone through because of COVID 19. You all continue to make us very proud to be part of such a fabulous teaching environment.

We would also like to thank everyone involved in our new sports hall gym facilities. It was such a shame we couldn't have the opening ceremony we would have liked; it just means we will have to have an even bigger celebration when our new therapy centre opens. We really can't wait to see the finished facility.

The Academy continues to be at the forefront of inclusion in Gateshead and we know that moving forward we will see fantastic improvements in the offer we can make to Gateshead children, parents and carers.



Back to School

19.04.2021

