



‘Nurturing brilliance to catch our dream.’



03.05.24

## Attendance

97%

### Attendance

We are always focused on attendance because we know what an impact it has on mental health, well-being and progress. It's very challenging for pupils to cement relationships with their peers, when they are absent regularly. Alternative friendship groups take precedence, and a cycle of feeling left out begins. Please meet with us if you are worried about the impact of attendance on your child.

An attendance rate of 96.4% and above is considered normal.



### Removing barriers

We continue to focus on developing reading, writing, and maths across the Academy. We will be sharing more about what pupils are learning on Seesaw, so you can see their achievements and areas for improvement. We keep formal homework to a minimum, but activities such as reading, spelling, handwriting, practicing number bonds, telling time, and using TT Rockstars are all valuable for instilling the habits and expectations necessary for success in secondary school.

### Sense of Belonging

The PTFA are always forefront in Dunsford life, and we are so incredibly lucky to have them. Recently they organised the Bags2school event, planned and discussed the Forest School upgrade project (#exciting), organised cake/coffee sales, big breakfasts and a wide range of other events.

If you are not involved in some way and would like to be please do. The more people mean less work and more for the very lucky pupils here.

We are on the lookout for a parent Governor and people who might be interested in a parent forum. Let us know if you are interested.

### Stronger Together

We are working hard to support pupils in their transition to a new class over the course of this term. This will entail greater expectations for independence and stamina from them. We would request that, where possible, you support them in organising themselves, being independent, and taking responsibility for their belongings. Science shows that this is one of the best ways to stimulate dendrite growth in the brain and has a huge impact on brain development. Hopefully, as they gradually take on more age-related responsibilities, mornings may become less challenging for you. Please drop off messages and equipment at the office rather than interrupting the start of the day.



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## Realising the Possible

We are heading towards a range of national benchmarks for pupils over the coming weeks and although they certainly do not define children, they can learn about how to manage the experience, do their best, push themselves and achieve. We understand that all children are on individual journeys, starting from different points. A national test is not necessarily the best way to capture this, which is why our teachers make judgements that show the value of pupil's personal development and progress through the year, in pupil reports and parent consultations. Thank you for supporting children to feel happy in school, healthy and well rested so they can do their very best. We know they will do us proud.

## Pool News

The pool continues to be a huge success. Watching pupils learn to swim in such small groups, in a heated outdoor pool, is heartwarming, and all the effort put in by staff and parents to make it work is incredibly worthwhile.

Pupils **must have** appropriate footwear for walking to and from the changing rooms; this is a essential for safety.

Additionally, the hooded towels have been a hit, supporting children in changing with greater dignity and staying warm when they face the cold air.

### Office Hours:

Monday 8:30am-2pm

Tuesday 8:30am-4pm

Wednesday 8:30am-2pm

Thursday 8:30am-2pm

Friday 8:30am-3:30pm

### Clubs:

Monday 3:30-4:30pm NETBALL

Tuesday 3:30-5pm DRAMA

Wednesday 3:30-4:30pm FOOTBALL

Thursday 3:30-5pm BIKE CLUB

Friday 3:30-5pm SPORTS CLUB

Event	Class/Year	Date	Contact
Bikeability	Y5	Tuesday 7th May— Thursday 9th May	Office
Census Day	All	Thursday 16th May	Office
SATs Week	Y6	Monday 13th May— Thursday 16th May	Office
Willows Trip	Willows	Monday 10th June	Mrs Clayburn & Mrs Mealey
Sports Day	All	Wednesday 12th June	Office
School Photos	All	Tuesday 18th June	Office
Y4 Residential	Y4	Monday 24th June— Tuesday 25th June	Mrs Wood
Y6 Residential	Y6	Monday 15th July— Wednesday 17th July	Mrs Wood



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## WILLOWS



**Attendance**  
**100%**



STAR of the WEEK

**Molly**

SPORTS STAR:  
**Wilbur & Molly**

This week has been pupil survey week and an adult has helped each child answer questions about what they think of our school. It has been heart-warming to hear Willows class children say that they feel good about school, that if they have an idea they know we'll listen and that if they felt worried they would tell an adult.

In maths the Year 1s are regularly counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to keep up the practise and we have moved on to learning about even and uneven groups which is the starting point for times tables. For example, we counted '5 equal groups of 2' while looking at pairs of fish in 5 fish bowls and learnt to write the number sentence  $2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 10$ .

Meanwhile Reception have been learning about height and measure. They measured themselves against a giant beanstalk and worked out that Miss Farress is the tallest, while the bean was the smallest. Great measuring skills!

Our geography learning journey has led us to talk about 'physical features' of the coast – we've talked about bays, cliffs, beaches, sand dunes and rock pools. I think we'd all like to go to the coast one sunny days to see some of these features for real!

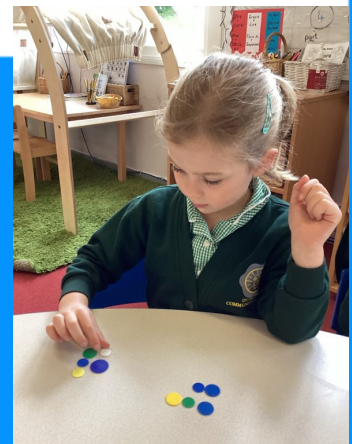
On Wednesday afternoon we had an amazing creative session – we learnt some May Pole Dancing with Miss Farress and we painted to music (like Kandinsky) with Mrs Clayburn. We hope you've seen the photos on Seesaw!

Have a lovely weekend, from Mrs Clayburn, Mrs Mealey and Mrs Wilson

**Wednesdays:** PE - please come in PE kit for the day

**Thursdays:** please bring the following to change in to: wellies, waterproof coat & trousers

**Fridays:** Swimming—ensure children bring in their swimming kits to school





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**CEDARS**

**Attendance**  
**95%**



**Felicity**



**STAR of the WEEK**



**SPORTS STAR:**  
**Alfie**

This week in Cedars, we’ve been focusing a lot on our presentation of our learning. We hope to share some of our work on Seesaw to show you how hard they’ve been working.

In maths, we have moved on to learn about shapes. Year 3 has been focusing on turns (anticlockwise and clockwise) and right angles. Year 2 has been exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, specifically edges, vertices, and regular and irregular shapes. Mathematics is ubiquitous, so discussing these topics with your child can reinforce their learning in real-life situations. For instance, this window has four right angles.

I am particularly impressed with Cedar's dancing skills! We recently had our first whole-class attempt at Maypole dancing, and the children were fantastic. I am excited about the possibility of learning various dances throughout the term. Maypole dancing encompasses several skills, such as rhythm, timing, dancing to music, listening, concentration, and more. Cedar class would like to express a huge thank you to our fantastic PTFA for purchasing this equipment, which we anticipate will be utilised for many years.

A couple of quick reminders;

Reading records should be coming into school every day.

Water bottles – are clearly named, so if they are left in the hall or on the school field, they can find their owner again.

**PE is on Wednesdays** :PE kits should be in school during the week and not worn to school on any day.

**Swimming is on Fridays:** Ensure swimming kits are brought to school on the day and please ensure they are named.





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**OAKS**

**Attendance  
97%**



**Bertie**

**STAR of the WEEK**

**SPORTS STAR:  
Bryn**

It has been an incredibly exciting week with the arrival of our bearded dragon. He arrived on Wednesday morning and seems to have settled in well: exploring his new environment, basking on his rock and chasing his lunch around! Over the next few weeks, the children will have an opportunity to help get the bearded dragon used to being handled. After speaking with an expert, there is a plan in place to ensure that this is done slowly and safely so that he gets used to being handled and views this as positive part of his life.

In maths, the children have been exploring angles. They have been learning how to identify different types of angles, how to measure them using a protractor and how to calculate them using their understanding of angles on a straight line and angles around a point. Year 5 and year 6 have also explored how to calculate the angles of a shape.

In science, the class have been making predictions about what will happen to their electrical circuit if they add additional bulbs. They then investigated how accurate their predictions were by making the circuits and recording their findings.

Next week, the year 5 children will be taking part in their bikeability sessions, please remember they will need to bring in a cycling helmet and their bike to take part in this.

Next week is also the final week of SATS prep for the year 6 children. They will be doing final revision sessions where they will recap any areas in maths and grammar that they have identified as a weakness.



**PE is on Wednesdays.** PE kits should be in school during the week and not worn to school on any day.

**Forest school is on Thursdays**-ensure appropriate clothing is brought to school.

**Swimming is on Fridays.** Ensure swimming kits are brought to school on the day.

