Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a good summer and settling back into the new school term.

The children have made a great start to the year, are already adapting to their new routines and are beginning to work hard. As we embark on the year, I would like to share some information on our how you can support your child during their time in Cedar Class.

PE Days
Our PE sessions take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. On these days, children must come to school dressed in their full PE kits. Please note that, further to being introduced last year, tracksuits are now a compulsory part of the school uniform. Our PE kit consists of:

 - white school T-shirt

 - school tracksuit top

 - plain black or school tracksuit bottoms

 - red shorts (in warmer weather)

 - black trainers (these may only be worn on PE days)

Please note that we often take children outside for PE and so they do need to be dressed appropriately for the weather.

Healthy Snacks, Milk and Water Bottles
As a child in Key Stage 1, your child will continue to have the opportunity to have a piece of fruit or vegetable each day. These snacks are provided for the school and include items such as apples, carrots, bananas, raisins, cucumbers etc. In addition to this, and as a healthy school, children can bring a piece of fruit from home or an alternative healthy snack/low sugar snack to eat at playtime. Snacks such as toast, crumpets, or pancakes can be purchased via ParentPay.

In Cedar Class, children will continue to have the opportunity to have milk on a daily basis. Milk can be purchased via our Parent Pay app and is given to children at morning break.

We also continue to encourage children to drink water regularly, so please ensure your child brings a water bottle each day. These will be stored outside the classroom but will be accessible to the children throughout the day. Please do not send your child with juice in their bottle or over-sized water bottle as we do not have the space to store them all in school.

Spellings
Are we continue to develop children’s English skills, we will have a clear focus on the learning of spellings on a daily basis. To support your child with this, we will be sending home a short list of words to learn on a Friday and will test the children on these words on the following Thursday. These words reinforce spelling skills taught through our Jungle Spellings programme or are words that are from the Government’s list of statutory words a child must learn in each Year group. Please support your child with learning these words as they prepare for the test.

I will also share our class “WOW Words” on Dojo each Monday. The purpose of these are to expand children’s vocabulary and so it would be helpful if you could discuss the words with your child and model using them as much as you can.

Reading
Both reading to children and children reading aloud remains a high priority in Cedar Class. It is noted through many studies that the more children read or are read to, the more eloquent they become, and, in turn, they will become much better writers.

In Cedar Class we will change your child’s books on a Monday. They will bring home at least 2 books to read and, to enable us to read with them in class, they need to bring in their reading record and reading books each day.

Please encourage your child to read as often as possible at home. When they have done so, take time to talk about what they have read and ask them questions to support their comprehension skills. Please then sign your child’s reading record every time they have read with an adult.

Knowledge Organisers
Knowledge Organisers will be used in school to support pupils with their learning and also shared with you as parents, so you understand what you child is learning and what they are expected to know.

They are a powerful tool for helping children, teachers and parents to stay focused on the key learning. They give children a clarity of learning, they support retrieval, independence and promote vocabulary development.

They are also a great tool for parents as you will be able to reinforce learning and the strong home-school partnership we are always looking to foster.

Knowledge Organisers support pupils remembering and learning more so it is really important you talk about them at home.

Contact and Communication
I understand that, at times, you may have questions, queries or concerns about you child. Please do not hesitate to contact me via Class Dojo and I will get back to you as soon as I can. However, for any urgent messages during the school day, please contact the school office as I may not see messages come in if I am teaching the class.

**Please note that all staff using Dojo have ‘quiet hours’ for evenings and weekends. This means that messages sent in the evening may not be received until the next morning and messages sent at the weekend may not be received until Monday morning.**

Thank you for all your support and feel free to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hankinson
Cedar Class Teacher (Year 2)