Cedar Primary School
2026 P5 Parent Engagement Webinar
Frequently Asked Questions

1. How should students prepare for oral and compositions?

For oral preparation, students should actively practise reading various types of texts aloud, including stories, poems, and instructional materials, to build confidence and improve their fluency. They would benefit from intentionally using Standard English in daily conversations with family members, friends, and teachers, and being aware of when they may code-switch to more casual language in informal contexts. Students should stay informed about age-appropriate current events and trending topics so they can discuss them confidently during the stimulus-based conversation component. They can also create their own videos or presentations on topics they are passionate about, which helps them practise organising their thoughts and speaking clearly. Finally, by listening to good speakers and trying to emulate their pronunciation, pace, and expression, students can improve their own speaking skills.

For composition preparation, students should take advantage of real-world writing opportunities to develop their skills across different formats and audiences. They can practise by writing greeting cards for birthdays and special occasions, which helps them learn to write with specific purposes and audiences in mind. Composing and replying to emails, both formal ones to teachers and informal ones to friends or family, teaches them about different writing tones and styles. Writing book reports after reading stories or creating incident reports about school events helps them practise organising information clearly and writing factually. Keeping a personal journal or blog allows them to write regularly about their thoughts, experiences, and interests, which builds their writing fluency and helps them develop their unique voice. Students can also build a collection of their creative writing, including short stories and poems, which gives them practice with different genres and helps them see their improvement over time. Finally, it is also crucial for students to read regularly and notice how different authors develop story plots and characters, as well as how their choice of words and expressions have various impacts on the reader.

2. Can teachers give Science and English homework every day for practice?

Homework is designed and assigned with clear educational purposes. Teachers assign homework when it serves specific learning goals: reinforcing concepts taught in class, allowing teachers to assess student understanding, or helping children develop good study habits and responsibility. Beyond traditional written exercises, homework may

include activities such as reading for pleasure or information, practising oral skills through storytelling or presentations, or engaging in practical tasks that extend classroom learning into real-world contexts. This thoughtful approach ensures that every homework assignment contributes meaningfully to your child's/ward's academic development whilst respecting the importance of family time, rest, and other enriching activities that support overall well-being and balanced growth.

3. Is doing many assessment books and school examination papers the way to improve Mathematics and Science for P5, or is reading and understanding textbooks more important?

For P5 Mathematics and Science, understanding curricular concepts should be the foundation. Students should first ensure they thoroughly grasp the fundamental concepts presented in their textbooks and activity books, as this understanding enables them to tackle various question formats confidently. For self-directed practice at home, students should focus on revisiting and reworking questions they initially answered incorrectly in class, taking time to understand their mistakes and the reasoning behind correct solutions. Only after building this solid conceptual foundation and addressing knowledge gaps should students progress to assessment books for broader exposure to different question types.

In the classroom, teachers enhance this learning by posing "what if" scenarios and modifying variables in familiar word problems, which develops students' ability to think adaptively and apply concepts flexibly to new situations. This approach helps students move beyond memorising procedures to truly understanding mathematical and scientific principles. The most effective preparation combines deep conceptual understanding from textbooks with thoughtful practice that emphasises learning from errors and developing problem-solving strategies, rather than simply completing large volumes of questions from assessment books. To encourage joyful learning and sustain student motivation, parents/guardians may also consider using various scenarios in your daily lives to highlight mathematical or scientific concepts and their relevance in real-life.

4. How can students balance the mastering of conceptual understanding and examination techniques, to manage new or tricky test questions?

Students should view the mastering of conceptual understanding and examination techniques as complementary rather than competing approaches. Strong conceptual understanding provides the foundation for tackling unfamiliar question formats, whilst examination techniques help students apply their knowledge effectively under test

conditions. Students can achieve this balance by first ensuring they thoroughly understand the underlying concepts through regular lessons and revision, then practising with varied question types to see how these concepts are applied. When working through practice papers, they should focus on understanding why certain answers are correct for particular contexts, rather than just memorising solutions. This approach helps them recognise patterns in how questions are structured, the implication of various key words and phrases, and develop strategies for approaching new or tricky questions with confidence.