

FEDERATION NEWS

January 2022

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools



Dear Parents

A very warm welcome back to school after the Christmas break and also to those children and families who have joined us at Peter Pan and Cherry Trees. It has been lovely to see the children settling in to nursery life. I know that some of you are still going through the settling process and it is lovely to see the children's confidence growing as you start to leave them with us. We all have to remember that this is a huge step for a child; to leave the security of a parent or carer, so be proud of them.

We have also welcomed some new members of staff to the federation. Hayley and Emily at Peter Pan and Tracy, Babli and Raheela at Cherry Trees.

They are all supporting lunchtimes at school, and Hayley is working with the 2's at Peter Pan.

Sadly COVID has impacted on the beginning of this term, with many staff and children testing positive and becoming unwell, myself and Suzie included. I would like to personally thank the parents at Cherry Trees for their understanding when we had to limit numbers attending last week and also the staff who have shown such dedication throughout. We have just two weeks until half term and a chance for us all to recharge.

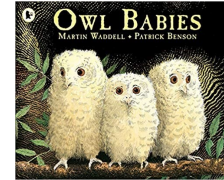
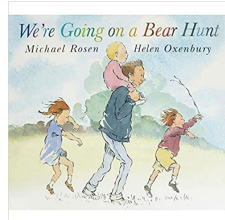
I hope you enjoy the rest of the term and if you have any questions please do get in touch with me.



Julie Smith
Executive Head
Teacher

Our learning....

Since our return in January, we have all enjoyed 'Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. The classic story with its strong rhythm is one which the children have enjoyed re-telling in role play with the characters from the story, as well as hunting for bears in the garden.



We have also enjoyed 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell, some children have enjoyed moving like birds, flapping their arms and gliding. We learned about some garden birds in preparation for The Great British Bird Watch and some of the children might be able to point out a blackbird, robin, bluet it and thrush to you.

We are now celebrating 'Chinese New Year' with the children. They will be learning about the traditional Chinese New Year story, running races as they act out the story to see which animal comes first. This year is the year of the Tiger. We look forward to performing our dragon dance and tasting some stir fry.

Our value this half term is 'independence'. Many of the children have been trying hard to put their coat and shoes on by themselves, and this is a great step on the way to becoming independent. We also encourage them to pour their own drinks, and work towards being independent in using the toilet when they are ready. Please encourage independence at home, and let the staff know when your child has managed to put on their own coat and shoes independently, before coming to nursery school.

You are able to look at your child's Learning Journal at any time. Please ask your child's key worker. We also love to hear about your family celebrations, please continue to email your pictures to the school offices:

peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com

You can find all the details of our curriculum on our websites at:

[Peter Pan Nursery School](https://www.peterpannurseryschool.com)

[Cherry Trees Nursery School](https://www.cherrytreesnurseryschool.com)

TERM DATES

Spring Term 1:	7th January 2022 to 11th February 2022
HALF TERM:	14th to 18th February 2022
Spring Term 2:	21st February 2022 to 31st March 2022
Easter Holiday:	1st April 2022 to 21st April 2022

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES:

School will be closed to pupils on Friday 1st April so that we can carry out home visits for our new children joining us after Easter.

The school year will end on Thursday 21st July.

Safeguarding Reminders

To ensure that safety of all our children at school we would like to remind you about the importance we place on Safeguarding.

- Please ensure that you close all doors and gates behind you as you arrive and leave nursery.
- Please do not let other adults into the building – always ask a member of staff to answer the door.
- If your child needs to use the toilet before their session starts please use the visitors toilet – we ask that parents do not enter the children's toilets.
- Please do not use your mobile phone whilst in the nursery classrooms or gardens.
- If you are not going to be the person collecting your child from school, please let us know in advance – we will not allow any child to leave with an adult we do not know.
- If you are running late to collect your child for any reason please ring the school office to let us know.
- If you see or hear anything whilst you are in nursery that concerns you please ask to speak to Julie or Suzie.

School Fund

Please remember to donate your £1 school fund to the school office. This contribution goes towards providing healthy snack for the children throughout the day. If each family donated just £1 per week we would have over £150 per week to spend on the children.



Clothes
Please name your child's coat, gloves, hat and scarf. We have a number of children who wear the same or very similar items and it is easier to return it to the

Contact details

If you have changed your mobile number or moved house please ensure that you let the school office know so that our records are up to date.

Gate times

Just a reminder that the school gates are open between:

**8.55am and 9.10am
11.45am and 12.00pm**

And

**12.30pm and 12.40pm
3.15pm and 3.30pm**

If you arrive after these times please come to the school office to be let in.

COVID

As you know COVID is still with us and in Bedford we have the third highest infection rate in the country at the moment.

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible please ensure that you keep your child at home if they have any symptoms that could be covid related and arrange for them to have a test.

The flowchart for parents and carers is available on the school website so you know what steps to follow.

[COVID 19 Flowchart for parents and carers](#)

Local Public Health are also still recommending the use of face masks and we would ask that you continue to wear one when coming to school if possible.

Starting School September 2022

If your child is due to start Primary School in September 2022 and you have not yet applied for a place you need to do so as soon as possible. The online portal has now been closed, so you will need to apply using a paper form available here: [apply for school](#).

If you have already applied you will be informed of the outcome of your application and told which school you have been given on 1st March 2022. Once you have been told, please let us know.

Play and Chat Sessions

You are invited to come along to a Play and Chat session with Clare our Family Support Worker and staff from ECP.

The session are as follows:

Peter Pan Children's Centre on the first Wednesday of each month from 8.30am to 9.30am. 2nd February, 2nd March, 4th May, 8th June, 6th July.

Cherry Trees Children's Centre on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 8.30am to 9.30am. 23rd February, 23rd March, 25th May, 22nd June,

The children can play in a safe environment and you can have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on 3rd March 2022. The children can dress up as a book character if they would like to, but it is not compulsory, We will spend the day reading our favourite stories with the children.

Home Learning

Please take a look at our home learning pages on the school websites. There are many ideas for you do together at home:

[Peter Pan](#)

[Cherry Trees](#)