

FEDERATION NEWS

Autumn Term 2 2022

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools



Dear Parents

This is always a busy half term as we lead up to Christmas. The children have already been learning about Diwali, Bonfire Night and Remembrance.

We had a lovely week celebrating Diwali with the children. It was a pleasure to hear them singing the songs and retelling the story of Rama and Sita. It was great to see so many of you joining in with the creative activities during the Diwali Stay and Play, as well as watching the Diwali concerts.

Thank you for sending in your family photos from home. These can be related to the activities that the children do outside of nursery school, any home learning that you would like to share or of your family festivals and celebrations. Please keep sending these photos in to the school offices so that we can talk about these special times with the children at school and display them in the home corners and our photo books for the children to see. This also supports the children to settle and helps them to develop a sense of belonging.

Sadly, Victoria will be leaving us at the end of this term. Victoria has been with the Federation for the last 11 years and has worked at each school as Assistant Head Teacher for Teaching and Learning, as well as providing support to many Early Years settings across Bedford Borough. Victoria leaves us to take up the position of Senior Lecturer in Early Years Education at the University of Hertfordshire and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role. We have recruited an experienced Senior Teacher, Anna, who will join the Federation in January 2023 and we also welcome Alice as our new Admin Assistant at Peter Pan next week.

Suzie and I always look forward to talking to you and your children at the gates at drop off and collection times. Clare, our Family Support Worker, is also available if you need to speak to her.

Best wishes to you all,

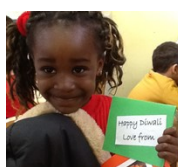
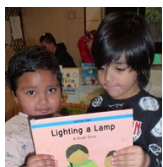
Julie Smith

*Executive
Head Teacher*



Our learning this term.....

The children continue to learn about different Autumn festivals this term. They made diya candle holders and enjoyed pakoras and vegetable curry and dahl. They helped the staff to cook, as they learnt about Diwali and read the story of Rama and Sita.



The children have also been learning about Bonfire night and light and dark. They have been experimenting with paints to create firework pictures and learning 'The Firework Shop' song, one of our favourites songs!



The children have also learnt about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. They made poppies and then turned them into wreaths for our special Remembrance group time where we made links to the past, lit candles and talked about the significance of poppies in remembrance of those who fought in World War One.

As December approaches, we will begin our Christmas preparations. This is another special time for the children to learn about. We will be taking part in the Bedford Christmas Tree Festival this year. We have two trees (one for each school) that the children will be making decorations for and we will take some of the children to the church to decorate the trees. The festival is open to the public from the 30th November to the 4th December. Please see the separate poster for further details.



The children are now bringing home a library book to share and read at home. Spending time at home sharing stories and rhymes helps to develop your child's language and vocabulary, as well as fostering a love of reading. Library books can be returned to school and changed each week so that you have a new book to share.

Our curriculum, interactions and daily routines help to promote the school values of respect, independence, kindness, happiness, being helpful and being polite with the children. You can also talk about these important values whilst you are at home or within the wider community.

If you would like more information about our curriculum at Bedford Nursery Schools please visit the curriculum page on our website where you will find details of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how we support your child's education and development. All the children's learning is linked to our curricular intentions which can be found on our websites.

[Peter Pan](#)

[Cherry Trees](#)

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2:	31st October to 16th December 2022
Spring Term 1:	5th January 2023 to 10th February 2023
HALF TERM:	13th to 17th February 2023
Spring Term 2:	20th February to 31st March 2023
Easter Holiday:	1st April to 18th April 2023

Dates for your Diary
Christmas Songs and Story at Group time - Friday 9th December
We will be singing our Christmas songs at group time; 11:15am in the morning and 2:45pm in the afternoon. If the weather is being kind we would love you to come and join us in the garden for some singing and a mince pie.

Party Day (with a very special guest) - Wednesday 14th December
We will have our Christmas Party Day on Wednesday 14th December. A special guest will be visiting the children on this day to deliver them a special gift. Further details to follow in a separate letter.

Parent Meetings
Your child's Key Person will be arranging a time to meet with you to discuss your child's learning and progress before the end of term. This will also be an opportunity to look at your child's Learning Journal and to add any learning from home.

Snack Donation
Please remember your £1 weekly donation to cover the cost of the snack. If each family donates this we would have at least £150 per week. This means that we are able to provide a wider range of snack for the children .

School Bags
Please remember to check your child's bag regularly so that they have some spare clothes with them each day. Please help us by clearly naming your child's bag, clothing and shoes.

Contact Details
Do we have your up to date contact details? Please make sure that we have the correct phone numbers in the office so that we can contact you in case of an emergency.



Parent Hub
Please sign up to our Parent Hub app. This is the way we will be sending newsletters and other information home to you going forward. You can download the app from the google store or Apple store, create an account and search for @PeterPan, for Peter Pan and @CherryTrees for Cherry Trees. Please remember to verify your account.

Harvest Donations

Thank you so much for all your donations to our Harvest collection which was donated to the Bedford Foodbank. Your generosity means that we were able to provide local families with about 289 meals.



Harpur Trust Physical Development Project

Our children have been benefiting from the new 'Developmental Movement Play' areas that we have indoors at both nurseries. The mats offer the opportunity for child-initiated movement which supports their physical development through their sense of touch, balance, knowing where their body begins and ends, and sensations inside the body too. Funding for staff training and the resources was provided by the Harpur Trust and Bedford Borough. Peter Pan Training Partnership are very grateful for their support which enabled a large-scale project involving Early Years settings across Bedford Borough to take place. For more information, see www.jabadao.org.

Home Learning

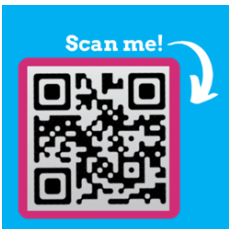
50 Things to Do Before You're Five

The 50 Thing to Do Before You're Five app will help you to enhance your children's life experiences whilst developing their language, confidence and a passion for learning new things.

Download the free app or visit: <https://bedfordshire.50thingstodo.org> and gain access to 50 no-cost or low-cost local activities for under-fives.

We will suggest activities from the app that link to what we are learning at nursery school. How about starting with #14 'See the Stars'. This activity links to our learning about light and dark this half term. We will be reading: Whatever Next, Can't You Sleep Little Bear and Peace at Last.

Take pictures and share your experiences of the activity so that we can display these at nursery school. Email your photos to the school offices:
peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com
cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com



Cost of Living Crisis	Winter Clothes	Attendance
With the added pressures of the cost of living crisis at the moment, Clare our Family Support Worker is available to speak to at each school if you need to. Clare will be able to signpost you to services that are available locally to support with the cost of living crisis.	As the weather starts to change and get colder, please ensure that you send a warm coat, hat and gloves (all named please) to school with your child. All children have access to the outdoor garden throughout the day and it is essential they have a coat to put on to go outside.	Absence Procedures from school If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness or for another reason, please let us know on the first day by contacting the office. If we do not hear from you we will try to make contact with you. If it is a planned absence then please also contact the school office in advance to inform us of the reason for absence. Although we recognise that attending nursery is not statutory, it is important to develop good habits of punctuality and attendance for the children in preparation for starting primary school.