



FEDERATION NEWS

January 2023

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools
Bedford Nursery Schools Federation



Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to the Spring Term, this extends to our new children and families who have joined us at Peter Pan and Cherry Trees to start their learning journey with us.

It has been great to see the children settling into nursery life. I know that some children are still settling but it is lovely to see their confidence growing as you start to leave them with us. We all have to remember that this is a huge step for a child and they need time to leave the security of their parent or carer, so be proud of them.

We have also welcomed some new members of staff to the federation. Anna and Zoe join the Peter Pan team and Sajna returns from her maternity leave to Cherry Trees. Anna joins us as our Senior Teacher and brings with her a wealth of Early Years teaching experience.

When you drop your child off, please support them to find their name card in the room. By matching their name card, children begin to recognise and form the letters from their name.

You are welcome to look at your child's Learning Journal at any time. Please ask your child's key person. 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

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

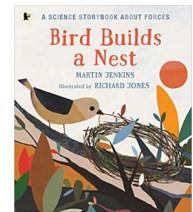
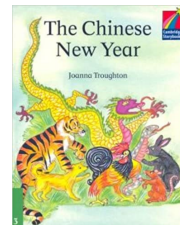
Julie Smith

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 retelling in role play with the characters from the story, as well as hunting for bears in the garden.



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 Rabbit. We look forward to performing our dragon dance and tasting some stir fry.



We are learning 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, blue tit and thrush to you. We will read the story 'Bird Builds a Nest' to support the children's learning.

We are focusing on the value of '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, feed themselves using a knife, fork and spoon, and work towards being independent in using the toilet when they are ready. Please encourage our value of '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 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)

SPRING TERM DATES

Spring Term 1:	5th January 2023 to 10th February 2023
HALF TERM:	13th to 17th February 2023
Spring Term 2:	20th February 2023 to 31st March 2023
Easter Holiday:	3rd April 2023 to 18th April 2023

**BOTH SCHOOLS WILL BE OPEN ON WEDNESDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
(TEACHER STRIKE DAY)**

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. The person collecting your child must be at least 18 years old.
- 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 send in a change of clothes in a bag for your child to leave at nursery. Please name your clothes so that if we have to change your child we know who they belong to. This is particularly useful for jumpers, coats, hats and scarves as these are the items the children take off themselves.

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:

9:00am - 9:15am
11.45am - 12.00pm
and
12.30pm - 12.45pm
3.15pm - 3.30pm

We offer a flexible drop off and collection time to give you time to arrive calmly and to avoid incurring late charges at collection time. If you arrive after these times please come to the school office to be let in.

Attendance Policy

By sending your child to nursery you are choosing to start their educational journey. Nursery aged children are not statutory; but those that do begin to develop a healthy and positive attitude to learning.

It is important that you bring your child regularly to help them to settle and to establish good patterns of attendance. By coming in for every session they will develop their confidence, independence and friendships with other children. This will also ensure that they think of school as important but also fun.

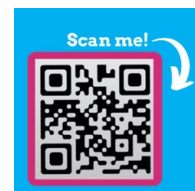
We do understand that sometimes it is just not possible for your child to come: they may be poorly, or you may have a family emergency or commitment that you cannot change. Please always let us know the reason your child will not be coming in, by phoning or emailing the school office on the first day of their absence. If we do not hear from you we will try to make contact with you. We also monitor attendance and Clare (FSW) can offer support if needed.

Please contact the school office if you have exceptional circumstances and need to request time away from nursery school, please email the school office and complete a 'Planned Absence Form'.

Please refer to our Attendance Policy on the School websites.

Home Learning Ideas:

- Join in with Michael Rosen's performance of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' - [Michael Rosen performs We're Going on a Bear Hunt - YouTube](#)
- Buy the ingredients to make your own noodles or stir fry.
- Take part in the Big Bird Watch at home - [Big Garden Bird-watch | The RSPB](#)
- Read your child's library book regularly at home and change it weekly
- 50 Things to do Before You're Five in Bedford - Download the App or visit the website: <https://bedfordshire.50thingstodo.org>



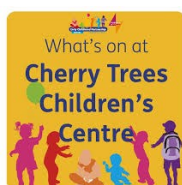
Children's Centre Timetable

Please use this link to access the Children's Centre timetable:

<https://padlet.com/katysexton/Bookmarks>

Please use this link to book certain sessions.

[Early Childhood Partnership Events | Eventbrite](#) -



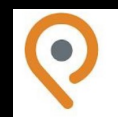
Full House Theatre Visit

We are delighted that Bedford Borough Council has funded a visiting theatre group to perform the fabulous show *'By the Light of the Moon'* at each school in February. The show has been written specifically for young children as a gentle introduction to theatre, therefore this is a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience the magic of a live theatre.

www.fullhouse.org.uk

Further details to follow in a separate letter.

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.