



# FEDERATION NEWS

March 2023

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools  
Bedford Nursery Schools Federation



Dear Parents and Carers

We are over half way through the academic year now and there are some signs of Spring emerging in the Nursery gardens.

Our value this term has been 'happiness'. Happy children make happy life-long learners. The children are enjoying the new resources, both inside and outside. It has been wonderful to see them highly engaged within each school.

To enrich the children's learning experiences, we will be booking Ark Farm to visit each school in the Summer Term. We are also keen for parents or grandparents to come into school to share their hobbies, interests or job role with the children. Please speak to your child's Key Person about this if you are able to help.

We have many plans to improve both schools over the next year and would value your contributions and ideas too. Please share these with me or complete a 'suggestion' form available from the office.

Thank you for contacting the office to inform us if your child is absent from school. Please do this on the first day of absence. We will make contact with you if we haven't heard from you. Please refer to our Attendance Policy on each school website for further details.

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

Julie Smith  
Executive  
Head Teacher



*'Celebrating and Strengthening*

## Our learning this half-term....

We have been very lucky to be able to add a number of new toys and resources to the setting. All the children have been very busy exploring the learning interest centres and finding their own way of doing things both with their friends and when supported by adults.

After reading 'Mr Wolfs Pancakes' the children were excited to learn about Shrove Tuesday. Many children spent time in the playdough area roleplaying preparing and cooking pancakes. There were lots of opportunities to talk about the ingredients and healthy choices. The week culminated with the opportunity to make and taste real pancakes and lots of children were keen to write a shopping list of the ingredients needed.

During World Book Day an area of the setting was transformed into a cosy, comfortable reading area. The children shared stories with both adults and their friends and drank hot chocolate. The children loved the chance to dress up and act as different characters. This enthusiasm to access the dressing up resources at school lasted for many days after!

During Children's Mental Health Week the children looked at ways to connect with others. They used pebbles with faces showing different emotions to help name different feelings. The book 'Invisible String' encouraged the children to explore who they love and who loves them. They were asked to think about how that love stays the same when they are separated from loved ones, even when only for a few hours at nursery.

The flap book 'Dear Zoo' encouraged the children to name and describe zoo animals. During Whole School singing sessions the children learned and performed a number of wild animal songs and rhymes. Many children can be found singing these songs later on when playing in the nursery.

The children have loved sharing the traditional tale 'The Gingerbread Man' and have shown their understanding of the story by helping adults to retell the repeated refrains using puppets and by mark making a story map. They are excited about making their own biscuits too!

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

[Peter Pan Nursery School](#) [Cherry Trees Nursery School](#)



### In the Light of the Moon theatre performance

Before the half term holiday, some of our older children enjoyed watching the fun and magical theatre experience from the Full House performers. It has sparked lots of talk about feelings and emotions; and we've discussed what makes us scared, happy or worried.

## SPRING & SUMMER TERM DATES

Spring Term 2: 20th February 2023 to 31st March 2023

EASTER HOLIDAY: 3rd April 2023 to 18th April 2023

Summer Term 1: 19th April 2023 to 26th May 2023

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: 29th May 2023 to 2nd May 2023

Summer Term 2: 5th June 2023 to 21st July 2023

### **BANK HOLIDAYS:**

**Monday 1st May & Monday 8th May (school closed)**

## Safeguarding Procedures

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.
- Always close the gates as you arrive and leave the site.
- Alert us if you see someone unfamiliar on the school site.
- Please do not use your mobile phone whilst on the school grounds – keep it in your pocket or bag as soon as you come through the gates on to the school site.
- Ensure that the appropriate age restrictions and parental controls are in place and that you monitor/supervise online content that your child watches whilst at home.
- 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 a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Julie or Suzie.

### Name cards

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.

### 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.



### Polite reminder

Please be polite and courteous when dropping off and collecting your child at nursery. We are all role models for our children, and the kind way that we speak to each other helps them to learn to do the same with us and their peers too.

### 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.

### Mobile Phones

Please remember to stay off your phone from when you arrive at nursery, from when you enter the gate and whether inside or out.



### Oral Health

'BE PROUD OF YOUR MOUTH' is the big message from World Oral Health Day on the 20th March, in other words—value and take care of your teeth and your smile.

As parents and carers, we need to help our children to have a balanced and low-sugar diet, to support them in brushing their teeth twice a day and by visiting a dentist regularly.

If you haven't already, please register your child with a dentist to help enable them to have a lifetime of happy and healthy smiles.



### Keyworker appointments

As we are coming towards the end of the Spring term, your child's keyworker will be booking in a time for you to catch up and discuss their progress this term. It is also a lovely opportunity for you to look through their learning journey and see all the wonderful things they have been learning at nursery school.

### Sing in Spring

Parents and carers are invited to join us for our Spring Term Concerts- 'Sing in Spring'. These will take place at Peter Pan and Cherry Trees on Friday 31st March at 11:15am and 2:45pm.



### 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](#) -

## A big year for celebrations

2023 is a big year for both Nursery Schools as Peter Pan turns 50 years old and Cherry Trees is 75 years old this year! We are looking forward to celebrating and strengthening our communities together as we mark these huge milestones.



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.

## Parent Hub

