

# FEDERATION NEWS

## Spring Term 1 – February 2025

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools  
Bedford Nursery Schools Federation



Dear Parents and Carers

We welcome our new families to either Cherry Trees or Peter Pan. Our existing children have started the new year positively and our newest children are settling into their routines and learning environments well. Please do speak to your child's Key Person if you have any questions or concerns; alternatively you can speak to Clare, our Family Support Worker.

I am delighted to share the Cherry Trees [OFSTED report](#) with you all. Cherry Trees Nursery School remains 'Outstanding' and the report recognises that **'relationships throughout the school are warm and caring'** and that **'children have extremely positive attitudes'**. Thank you for your positive feedback through Parent View. I would also like to recognise our amazing staff who **'skilfully interact with children'** and **'are highly committed to the school's ambitious vision'**.

Regular attendance is important for your child's learning and development. It also helps to establish good routines and a positive attitude to learning in preparation for starting Primary School. I have included a link to our [Attendance Policy](#) for your information. Please notify the school office with the reason for your child's absence if they are not able to attend. Whilst we encourage regular attendance, if you are requesting time away from Nursery School, please complete a 'planned absence form' which is available from the school offices.

Bedford Borough have launched their [Education Strategy](#) with a vision for children to feel confident, achieve their potential and feel nurtured from the Early Years through to Secondary school and college.

Bedford Borough are also promoting 2025 as [The Year of Reading](#). We look forward to seeing you all at our next 'Stay and Play' session which will have a story and reading focus.

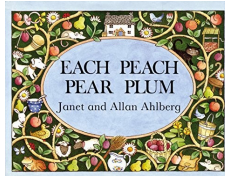
Warmest wishes

Julie Smith  
Executive  
Head Teacher



*'Celebrating and Strengthening our Communities Together'*

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



#### Each Peach Pear Plum

First we focused on a rhyming story to settle us back into Nursery School for the new year. The children explored the classic story 'Each Peach Pear Plum'. The children enjoyed searching the illustrations for clues about the characters before role playing a picnic in our groups.

#### Bird Watching

The following week was the start of the 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. We talked to the children about seeing birds in their garden and shared a tally chart for home enjoyment and participation. The children spent the next week learning all about birds, and creating birds in different forms including using paint or clay. We used our beautiful gardens again to 'bird watch' and we thought about what features a bird has and the names of the different birds we could find.



#### Winter

Our learning then progressed to looking carefully at our environment and landscape to spot the signs of winter. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking around the icy garden and noticed changes to our garden trees. We read the story 'Gruffalo's Child' to build on our previous knowledge of the Gruffalo. This story is set in a winter landscape and helped the children observe seasonal changes through visual story pictures too.

#### Lunar New Year

The children were curious to learn about how Lunar New Year is celebrated, and engaged in lots of cooking and arts to celebrate the occasion. We read key stories to support learning and on the Friday we performed some fun rhythmic songs to parents and carers and carried out our own dragon dance!



#### National Storytelling Week

During this week's learning the children shared 'Float', a wordless story, and added their own narrative to the story. Adults and children were authors by retelling and creating stories together and the children acted out some through 'Helicopter Stories' sessions.

#### The Gingerbread Man

We have made a great start to learning about traditional tales by sharing, retelling and acting out this story. This week the children have been baking or decorating their own gingerbread men and carrying out some specific 'oracy' (language) sessions talking about their ideas in a group.

### TERM DATES

Half-term: Monday 17th February — Friday 21st February

Last day of Spring term: Friday 4th April (no tea club)

Nursery reopens: Thursday 24th April

Half term: Monday 26th May — Friday 30th May

Last day of Summer term: Friday 18th July



The Early Years Team at Bedford Borough have asked us to share their survey with you.



They are collecting data on whether the type of childcare within Bedford is sufficient and in the right location.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M5HP38V>

## UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### World Book Day

Toby Tall Tales will be visiting  
**Cherry Trees on Thursday 6th March**  
**& Peter Pan on Friday 7th March**

Join us to share stories  
when you drop off at 9am or 12:30pm

### Tuesday 1st April

Eid celebrations Stay and Play  
Join us anytime between 9-11am and 12.30—2.30pm

### Thursday 3rd April

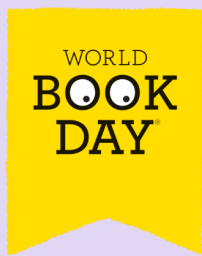
Sing in Spring Concert  
Join us at 11.15am or 2.45pm



## **ORAL HEALTH TEAM VISIT & INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

The Oral Health team will be visiting  
**Cherry Trees on Monday 10th March and**  
**Peter Pan on Wednesday 12th March.**  
between 11:30am & 1pm

Please come along to talk to the Oral Health Team.  
They will be available to discuss tooth-friendly snacks and sugar attacks,  
tooth brushing, fluoride varnish and registering with a dentist.



We will be celebrating World Book Day on 6th or 7th of March 2025.

The World Book Day Book Tokens will be given out to the children before half term.

The tokens can be used for one



FREE World Book Day 2025 Book or £1.00 off a book or audiobook. T&Cs apply.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/books/>

## COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

Could we request that if you need to collect your child early from Nursery that you do so at **2.45pm** so that the children's learning during group time is not interrupted.  
**This must be agreed in advance with the Head Teacher.**

## APPOINTMENTS

If your child has an appointment that requires collection during their session please email a copy of the medical appointment to : [cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com](mailto:cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com) or [peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com](mailto:peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com)

## 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.

You can download the app from the Google store or Apple store.

Create an account and search for @PeterPan for Peter Pan or @CherryTrees for Cherry Trees.

Please remember to verify your account.





## Leek & cheese scones

Makes 6 scones

- 1 leek (finely sliced)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt & pepper
- 250g wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 60g unsalted butter (at room temperature)
- 80ml water
- 80g cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp milk (to brush the top)

Preheat the oven to 200C/180c fan/6 gas mark.

Place the leek in a frying pan with olive oil and fry for 5 minutes, until soft.

In a large mixing bowl, add the flour, baking powder and a generous pinch of both salt and pepper.

Add the butter and use your fingertips to rub the ingredients together.

Mix in the cheddar and leeks, and water. Use your hands to bring the mixture together into a dough.

Cut the dough into scones using a glass or cutter and place on a lined baking tray.

Brush the scones with milk and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through.

**BEDFORD ARTS COUNCIL CREATIVE**

**RIVER/ FLOW/ CONNECT**  
**LOVE KEMPSTON LIGHT WALK**

**LANTERN & CLAY DROP IN WORKSHOPS**

**NO BOOKING REQUIRED**

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2025**  
**10:30AM - 3:30PM**  
KEMPSTON LIBRARY, BEDFORD, MK42 8AT

Join us for a free lantern making and clay workshop, creating sculptures and props with natural materials to be used as part of our 'Love Kempston Light Walk'.

More Info: [bedfordcreativearts.org.uk/events/love-kempston-light-walk-lantern-making-workshop-drop-in/](http://bedfordcreativearts.org.uk/events/love-kempston-light-walk-lantern-making-workshop-drop-in/)

**HARPUR TRUST** **COMMUNITY FUND** **BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL** **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

**50** things to do **before you're five**

**Fifty low or no-cost activities for families in a FREE app**

Scan me!

Download

**Welcoming space**

Every Wednesday from 1 to 5pm

**Friendly, multi-lingual and inclusive space**

**ART & CRAFT, SEWING** **ADVICE & INFORMATION** **SNACKS & DRINK**

TRAINING & INFORMATION ON CARBON MONOXIDE, SLOW COOKERS AVAILABLE AND MUCH MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 07824035000

**FREE WIFI**

**Bhagwan Valmik Mandir Community centre**  
**10-12 Bunyan Road Bedford, MK429JB**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**LIVING WELL FUND**  
**Cadent** **BL** **Centre for Warmth** **BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**BHAGWAN VALMIK SABHA**  
Cultural and Community Development Centre  
Rajapur, Sarkar Nagar, 10th Floor, Bedford, Bedford MK42 9JB

**Queen's Park Community Organisation**  
Empower people to make a difference  
@QPCBEDFORD  
admin@qpc.org.uk 07824 035 000 qpc.org.uk