



FEDERATION NEWS



November 2025

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all keeping well as the nights get darker and the colder weather sets in.

Through Forest School and outdoor learning, the children experience and learn about the seasonal changes that are happening around them. They connect with nature and engage in active learning. Meg is our Forest School teacher who works at each school to support the children in their outdoor learning. She is also working in the Cherry Trees garden and would love some parent volunteers to help her; please speak to Julie or Lisa if you are available to help with this project.

I was very impressed with the children's understanding and listening skills when we talked about the importance of poppies, and learnt about Remembrance Day. The children displayed our value of 'respect' when we lit the candles and listened to 'The Last Post'.

Jenny, our music specialist, visits the Nursery Schools every week and the children love playing and listening to a variety of instruments, singing Jenny's songs and moving to the music. We are busy learning our Christmas songs in preparation for our Christmas concerts. We hope that you will join us.

I will be taking a group of children to St Paul's Church next Tuesday to decorate our school trees as part of the Bedford Christmas Tree Festival. You can visit St Paul's Church from Wednesday 3rd December through to Sunday 7th December to see all of the decorated trees on display. Remember to vote for your favourite tree!

Best wishes

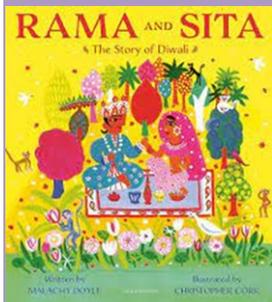
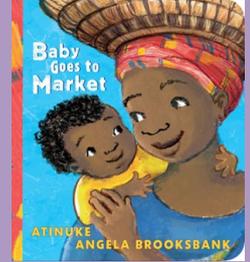
Julie Smith
Executive
Head Teacher



'Celebrating and Strengthening our Communities Together'

Our learning this term:

Diversity and Black History The children read 'Baby goes to Market' which is a very lovely book set in a Nigerian market. We talked about the fruits and foods in the story with lots of opportunities for writing shopping lists and counting. The book has some lovely illustrations of the characters' faces. We used these pictures as inspiration for creating our own self-portraits and celebrated how we are all different and special.

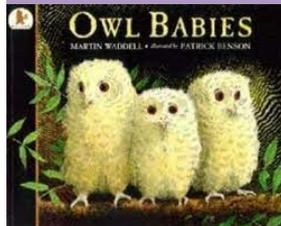


Diwali One of our curricular intentions is that the children understand that they are part of a diverse community. The children were excited to share the traditional story of 'Rama and Sita' and to learn about how Diwali is celebrated. Through our special Diwali stay and play day, children and their families and carers had the chance to participate in a range of creative activities linked to this cultural event. The day was full of bright colours, special food and songs that the children had learnt about the story of Rama and Sita. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time together on this special day.

Bonfire Night Following this, we went on to learn about Bonfire Night. We explored lots of creative ways of making fireworks using paints, chalks and black paper. The children love to sing our firework song and talk about their own experiences. We listened to music and had the challenge of moving like fireworks using the ribbons.



National Literacy Trust Rhyme Week Talking about words that rhyme can help children recognise sounds in words. During National Literacy Trust Rhyme Week we read rhyming stories, recited rhymes and sang songs.



The Forest The children have recently engaged with 'The Gruffalo' and 'Owl Babies', stories which are set in woodland environments, providing rich opportunities to develop their understanding and vocabulary. Through sensory exploration such as handling natural materials like leaves, bark, and pinecones, and experiencing the sights, sounds, and textures associated with the woods children were able to make meaningful connections to the books they were reading. The children have been curious in the garden following footprints from the characters in 'The Gruffalo.' We have used clay to sculpt owls as well as meeting a falconer who brought in some owls for the children to see.

TERM DATES

Last day of the Autumn Term: Friday 19th December (no tea club)

Nursery reopens: Wednesday 7th January

Half-term: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February

Last day of Spring term: Friday 27th March (no tea club)

Nursery reopens Wednesday 15th April

For parents' questions, BIG & small.



Can I get help with childcare costs?

How can I prepare my child to start school?



When should I wean my baby?

Get advice and support at [BestStartInLife.gov.uk](https://www.BestStartInLife.gov.uk)



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday 11th December
Christmas Stay & Play
Join us anytime between 9-11am and 12.30-2.30pm

Tuesday 16th December
Christmas Concert at 11.15am or 2.45pm

Thursday 18th December
Christmas Party & surprise visit from Father Christmas

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

Could we request that if you need to collect your child early from Nursery that you do so at **11.15am or 2.45pm** so that the children's learning during group time is not interrupted.

Winter Clothes

As the weather starts to change and get colder, please ensure that you send a warm coat, hat, gloves and wellies (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.



We were very excited to welcome back **Herrings Green Farm** who brought in a selection of owls to



Cherry Trees on Wednesday 19th November and Peter Pan on Friday 21st November

This supported our learning around the story Owl Babies. Thank you for your voluntary contribution of £1 towards the cost of the visits.

Toby Tall Tales

Toby Tall Tales will be visiting both schools in December to provide the children with his wonderful story telling experiences.

Starting School September 2026

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022

All the information you need to apply for a school place is available on the Bedford Borough website.

[Click here](#) for details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, Starting School 2026, which explains how they process your application for a school place.

REMINDER: We are a NUT FREE school.

NO FOOD OR WATER BOTTLES should be brought into nursery.

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.



NO IDLING



PLEASE TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF

Can we please ask that you turn off your engine while waiting or parking at the school.

This is to reduce pollution and protect your children

★ AWARD WINNING ★
**BEDFORD CHRISTMAS
TREE FESTIVAL 2025**

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS

Over 70 trees decorated in the theme of...

CHRISTMAS

Past

Present

Future

On:

Wed 3rd to Sun 7th December

Opening times:

Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12 noon-4pm

Venue:

St Paul's Church, Bedford, MK40 1SQ

Admission:

£4 (children under 16 free)

Find out more:

 **Bedford Christmas Tree Festival**

E: treefestival@stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk

T: 01234 340163



**Festival
Concert:
7.30pm
Friday 5
December**

In aid of:



Daily music & performances by community groups, refreshments, competitions and raffle.

Sponsored by:

