



# FEDERATION NEWS



FEBRUARY 26

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools

Dear Parents and Carers

We welcomed new families to our federation in January as well as 3 new members of staff. Charlotte and Chloe are our new teachers at Cherry Trees and Ali is our new teacher at Peter Pan. Both new children and staff have settled in well at each school, and Chloe, Charlotte and Ali bring valuable experience to our teaching team.

The children should all now have a library book to share with you at home. Reading is a perfect way for children to spend quality time with their loved one as well as developing vocabulary for everyday use. Please bring your child's library book to nursery school each week on their library day so that it can be changed.

The children at Peter Pan have enjoyed Forest School with Meg this half-term. Meg will continue with Forest School after half-term with the children at Cherry Trees. This half-term the children have been bird watching and making bird feeders, as well as building dens. The experiences provided by Forest School support language development. Forest School helps to build self esteem and activities such as sharing tools and den building help the children to work together as a group.

I have included an important poster about the recommended screentime for 2-5 year olds which is no more than 30 minutes per day. There are also some local activities which may be of interest to you for getting out and about over the half-term break. Please share your half-term adventures with us by emailing the school offices ([peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com](mailto:peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com) or [cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com](mailto:cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com)).

I hope that you all enjoy the half-term break.



Best wishes  
Julie Smith  
Executive  
Head Teacher

*'Celebrating and Strengthening our Communities Together'*

## TERM DATES

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

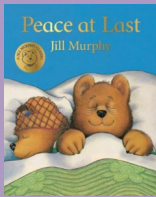
Last day of Spring term: Friday 27th March (no tea club)

Nursery reopens Wednesday 15th April

Half-term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Last day of Summer term: Friday 17th July (no tea club)

## Our learning this term:



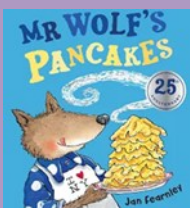
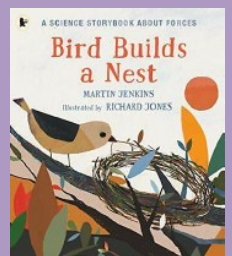
### Peace at Last

We shared the nighttime story 'Peace at Last' to support settling into nursery. Talking about bedtime routines, such as brushing teeth and getting ready for bed, helped children make links between home and nursery and feel safe within familiar routines. We also explored the different sounds in the story to support early phonological awareness, encouraging children to listen, copy and join in. Alongside this, children created swirly star drawings inspired by Van Gogh, developing their creativity and fine motor skills while expressing their ideas through art.

### Bird Watching and Winter

The following week was the start of the 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. We talked to children about seeing birds in their garden and shared a tally chart for home enjoyment and participation. Having read 'Bird Builds A Nest', the children spent time learning all about birds, painting and drawing birds and creating clay nests. We used our beautiful gardens to 'bird watch' and the children enjoyed talking about what they spotted.

We also looked carefully at our environment and landscape to spot the signs of winter. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking around the garden noticing and talking about the cool winter wind. 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.



### Traditional Tales and Pancakes

For the last two weeks before half term we have been learning about traditional tales. We brought the stories to life by acting them out, joining in with repeated refrains, and representing our ideas through imaginative play. The children especially enjoyed retelling familiar tales in the role-play area, using props and their own words to recreate favourite moments from the stories. We also shared the story Mr Wolf's Pancakes, which inspired lots of excitement as the children made pancakes together, talked about the ingredients, and enjoyed tasting their creations. To finish the week, everyone had great fun taking part in pancake races, developing coordination, teamwork, and lots of smiles along the way!

### MEDICATION

Please ensure any medication is handed in to the office with a form completed and not left in your child's bag.

### Wellies and socks

If your child comes to Nursery in wellies can we please ask that you also provide indoor shoes in their bags.

Please include at least one pair of spare socks in your child's bag—particularly while the weather is wet!



## 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.



### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Please do not bring your child to school if they are unwell. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they must stay away from nursery for **48 hours** from the last time they were unwell.

If your child is not attending school for any reason then please notify the school office by phone or email, if we do not hear from you, we will contact you to ascertain the reason for your child absence.

A planned absence form must be completed to request time off during term time.

### REMINDER: NAMING CLOTHES

Can we please ask that you name all clothes that your child uses for nursery including hats, gloves and scarves.

### UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Friday 27th February**  
Lunar new year: Dragon Dance  
Join us at 11.30am or 3.00pm

#### World Book Day

Toby Tall Tales will be visiting  
Cherry Trees on Thursday 5th March  
& Peter Pan on Friday 6th March



**STEM Stay & Play**  
Friday 13th March

Join us anytime between 9-11am and 12.30—2.30pm

**EID celebration Stay & Play**  
Friday 20th March

Join us anytime between 9-11am and 12.30—2.30pm

**Thursday 26th March**  
Sing in Spring Concert  
Join us at 11.15am or 2.45pm

The Family Hubs and Children's Centre session timetable for [Spring 2026](https://familyhubs.bedford.gov.uk/family-hubs-timetables) is now available at:

<https://familyhubs.bedford.gov.uk/family-hubs-timetables>



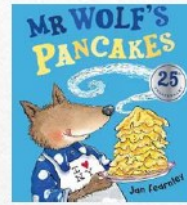
**Spring Timetable**  
2 January - 12 April 2026

### SNACK

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 £100 per week to spend on the children.

Thank you.

# At Nursery School we will be learning about... Traditional Tales and Pancake Day



**Reading**

Reading traditional tales Three Little Pigs and Billy Goats Gruff - creating our own bridges, houses and play connected to these.  
(Curricular Intention 4: To lay the foundations to become confident reader.)

**Experience**

Measuring, cooking and tasting pancakes.  
(Curricular Intention 3: To attend to their own self-care needs and understand healthy living Curricular Intention 8: To develop number sense

**Running Races**

Learning the origins of Shrove Tuesday, pancake races and having a go ourselves!  
(Curricular Intention: 6 Being Part of a Diverse Community)

**Drawing**

Can you draw a picture of the pigs' house for them? What will you need to include?

**Counting**

How many Billy Goats/ little pigs were there? Can you show 3 on your fingers? Can you make some other groups of 3 with things you can find at home? You might find 3 toys, 3 spoons or 3 books. You could take photos of your collections to share with school.

**Cooking**

Cooking together is a great way to encourage adventurous eating and is a fun language learning opportunity that can help with everything from counting to descriptive language. Watch video for top tips <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iny-happy-people/articles/zybg7h>

## Adventures at home together...

Your time and interactions with your child are so important to their learning and development. Please tell us about what you have enjoyed doing at home together!!



## YOUR TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCREEN TIME

'How much is too much screen time for children?'

|                      | Birth to 5 years   | 6 to 10 years  | 11 to 17 years  |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Waking up</b>     | <br>No screen time between birth - 24 months   | <br>Waking up without screens. It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day                                    | <br>Waking up without screens. It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day |
| <b>Hours per day</b> | <br>2 - 5 year olds no more than 30 mins/day<br>No screen time between birth - 24 months   | <br>M T W T F S S<br>Not more than 1-2 hrs/day<br>Up to 2 hrs/day<br>'Walk, run, ride a bike, anything that gets kids up, outside and off their screens' | <br>M T W T F S S<br>Up to 2 hrs/day<br>Up to 2-3 hrs/day   |
| <b>Leisure</b>       | <br>Avoid using a device to settle your child down. Instead try a book, a game outdoors, or just a cuddle                                      | <br>Try and ensure screen-free time together<br>Keep active<br>'Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for 1-2 hours'                             | <br>Stay active. More green time, less screen time  |
| <b>Sleep Hygiene</b> | <br>'Bedtime stories are the best and healthiest way to settle your child'<br>Under 5s should not use a screen at least 2 hours before bedtime | <br>'Buy an alarm clock so that screens are not in the bedroom'<br>No screens at least 1 hour before bedtime   |   |

Accepted by NHS England Mental Health Leads

'Studies have shown a clear link between excessive screen time and issues such as delayed speech and language development, short-sightedness, communication difficulties, reduced concentration spans, poor sleep and mental health problems.'

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS



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5 March 2026

The reading for fun charity



**Choose your £1 book for free!**

with your World Book Day® book token

Books are available in shops from 12 February until 15 March 2026.



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# Oral Health in Early Years

for early years practitioners in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire



- Tooth friendly snacks and drinks
- Bottle, cups and dummies
- Toothbrushing tips
- Dental visits
- Activities in your setting
- Resources for your setting and families

19.6% of five year olds in Bedford have tooth decay and 15% in Central Bedfordshire

EYFS 2024:  
*'Promote the good oral health of children attending your setting.'*

2026

- Tuesday 10 February, 10:30am-11:30am
- Wednesday 4 March, 12:30pm-1:30pm
- Tuesday 31 March, 7pm - 8pm
- Monday 20th April 12:30pm-1:30pm
- Wednesday 29th April 7pm-8pm
- Wednesday 13th May 10:30am-11:30am
- Monday 8th June 12:30pm-1:30pm
- Tuesday 30th June 7pm-8pm
- Wednesday 15th July 10:30am-11:30am

All sessions are via TEAMS

This training was easy to access and has given me lots of resources and ideas for my Early Years setting. I encourage all working in Early Years to attend!

To enquire or book onto our training, please email us at: [ccs.oralhealthbeds@nhs.uk](mailto:ccs.oralhealthbeds@nhs.uk)

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust: delivering excellent dental care across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Suffolk.



## HALF TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT THE HIGGINS BEDFORD

- 17 Feb:** Explore wildlife on your doorstep with the Good Life Garden
- 18 Feb:** Create your own clay puffin with Anne-Marie Abbate
- 19 Feb:** Have a go at circus skills with Tabatha Ladbrook-Hutt

To find out more or to book a place, scan the QR code, visit [www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk](http://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk) or call the Booking Office on 01234 718044

## Potty Training Workshop

Are you ready to start Potty Training?

Not sure where to start?

Come and join our Potty Training Workshop:

Cherry Trees Family Hub  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
2pm

Places are limited so please speak to Clare Oliver to secure your place.



## IMMUNISATIONS protecting you and your family

|                   |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| GP                | <b>Pregnancy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pertussis ('whooping cough' - you can have this &gt;16 weeks pregnant)</li> <li>Respiratory syncytial virus ('RSV' - you can have this &gt;28 weeks pregnant)</li> <li>Flu (at any stage of your pregnancy, throughout 'flu season' which usually runs September - March)</li> <li>COVID (if you have certain medical conditions - ask your GP)</li> </ul>   | Antenatal Clinic* |
| Community clinic* | <b>Newborn (up to 4 weeks)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hepatitis B (given to baby after birth in hospital + 4 weeks old in a community clinic, if mum is Hep B positive)</li> <li>BCG* (given to baby at 4 weeks old if they are at higher risk of tuberculosis, BCG is currently offered to those &lt;16 years)</li> </ul>   | Hospital          |
| GP                | <b>Infant (up to 12 months)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diphtheria / Tetanus / Pertussis / Polio / Hib / Hep B (given at 8, 12 &amp; 16 weeks)</li> <li>Meningitis B (given at 8 &amp; 12 weeks)</li> <li>Rotavirus (given at 8 &amp; 12 weeks)</li> <li>Pneumococcal (given at 16 weeks)</li> </ul>  | GP                |
| GP                | <b>Pre-school (1 - 4 years)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pneumococcal (given at 12-13 months)</li> <li>Meningitis B (given at 12-13 months)</li> <li>Measles / Mumps / Rubella / Varicella (MMRV given at 12-13 months and again either at 18 months OR at 3 years, 4 months dependent on your child's date of birth)</li> <li>Diphtheria / Tetanus / Pertussis / Polio (given at 18 months and / or 3 years, 4 months dependent on your child's date of birth)</li> <li>Flu (nasal spray - given to 2 &amp; 3 year olds and those with certain medical conditions - ask your GP)</li> </ul> | GP                |
| School*           | <b>School-age (4 - 16 years)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flu (nasal spray - offered every year during 'flu season')</li> </ul>  | School*           |
| School*           | <b>Adolescent (12 - 17 years)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HPV (protecting against certain types of cancers - given at 12-13 years)</li> <li>Tetanus / Diphtheria / Polio (given at 14 years)</li> <li>MenACWY (given at 14 years)</li> </ul>  | School*           |
| GP                | <b>Adult (18 - 64 years)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have certain medical conditions, you can have immunisations to better protect you, such as: flu, COVID, pneumococcal, shingles, MenB, MenACWY, Hep A or Hep B immunisations</li> <li>Please speak with your GP to see which immunisations you are eligible for</li> </ul>   | GP                |
| GP                | <b>Older adults (65+ years)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pneumococcal (given at 65+ years)</li> <li>Flu (given at 65+ years yearly during 'flu season')</li> <li>Shingles (given at 65 or 70-79 years, or at 18+ years if you have certain medical conditions)</li> <li>Respiratory syncytial virus ('RSV' given at 75 years)</li> </ul>   | GP                |

Recommended immunisations may change if you / your child is older than the recommended age - please check eligibility with your GP practice

\*Community & school-aged immunisation service (CSAIS) provides community-clinic and school immunisations: 0300 555 5055