



FEDERATION NEWS



MARCH 26

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to the Easter break. It has been a busy half-term at both Cherry Trees and Peter Pan, and it has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers joining in with the children’s learning at our Eid and STEM Stay and Play sessions or our Sing in Spring Concerts. The positive relationship between home and school supports the children’s learning and development and is an important start to their educational journey.



We were joined by Mohammed Yasin, MP at Peter Pan yesterday. He loved watching the Sing in Spring Concert and felt that ‘the atmosphere was full of joy’. He shared the news that Peter Pan has successfully received government funding to expand our Nursery School provision. We are thrilled to be able to offer more Nursery School places to our community and will begin a consultation process with stakeholders after the Easter break.

Both gardens are in full bloom and they provide a lovely opportunity for the children to learn about growth and the seasonal changes. The beautiful tulips at each school have grown from the bulbs that were shared from the Bedford Embankment last year. Thank you to Meg and Caroline who help to keep the gardens looking beautiful for the children to enjoy. They are helped by the children who also love gardening too!

I hope that you all have an enjoyable Easter holiday at home with your families and friends and I look forward to welcoming the children back to Nursery School on Wednesday 15th April 2026.



Best wishes

Julie Smith
Executive Head Teacher

‘Celebrating and Strengthening our Communities Together’

TERM DATES

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

Nursery reopens Wednesday 15th April

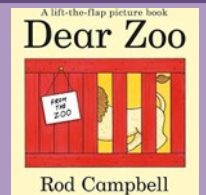
Half-term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

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

Our learning this term:

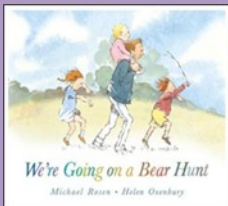
Dear Zoo

The story Dear Zoo supported children in naming and describing animals. During whole-school singing sessions, children learned and performed a range of animal songs and rhymes, which they continued to sing independently during play.



STEM Play and Stay

During British Science Week, children and their families engaged in a variety of STEM activities during a stay and play session, developing curiosity and critical thinking skills. Activities included mixing colours using pipettes, exploring mirrors and coloured lenses on the light table, investigating frozen materials and observing changes as ice melted, and exploring floating and sinking using boats and small world figures.

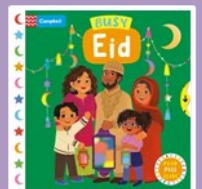


Bear Hunt

Children enjoyed the story We’re Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. The strong rhythm of the story supported children in retelling it with adult guidance and independently through role play. Children explored a sensory retelling experience and were observed repeating key phrases and story patterns, demonstrating a deep understanding of story structure. They also enjoyed searching for bears in the garden and investigating “bear prints,” encouraging curiosity and problem solving.

Eid

Children learned about Ramadan, including fasting, prayer and the moon. They explored the celebration of Eid through stories and non-fiction texts. Children who celebrate Eid also shared their experiences and family photographs. At the Eid Stay and Play children and parents made cards and enjoyed tasting pakoras at the snack table.



Easter and Spring

Children have explored Easter by sharing what celebrations they already know and learning about the Easter story. They have taken part in an Easter egg hunt, with opportunities to develop positional language (under, next to, behind) and counting skills in an engaging and exciting way.

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.



The Family Hubs and Children's Centre session timetable for Spring 2026 is available at:

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

This includes Easter Holiday sessions

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ark Farm

will be visiting
Cherry Trees on Thursday 14th May
& Peter Pan on Friday 15th May

REMINDER: We are a NUT FREE school.

NO FOOD OR WATER BOTTLES should be brought into nursery.

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.



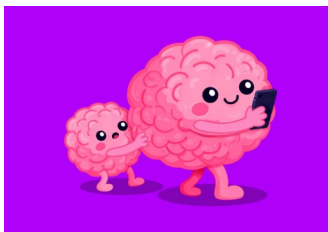
UK Government

Screen time guidance for under 5s

Juggling family life and raising children in a digital world can be challenging. Find out more about how to support healthy screen habits for children under 5.

Click on the link below for tips and advice around the use of screens:

[Screentime guidance](#)



Useful Information:

Office Emails will be checked every few days:

- cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com
- peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com

If you have a concern about a child but not in immediate danger contact the [Integrated Front Door](#)
Or call: 01234 718700 during office hours
0300 300 8123 out of hours

Children's Community [Health Hub](#): 0300 555 0606

Family Hubs: 0300 323 0245
or email: familyhubs@bedford.gov.uk



The Children's Toothbrushing Guide

Healthy smiles start at home: a guide to brushing your child's teeth

[The Children's Toothbrushing Guide](#)

[The Potty Training Guide](#)



The Potty Training Guide



EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT THE HIGGINS BEDFORD

Puggle Club

Friday 10 April, 10.30am-12noon and 1pm-2.30pm
Free, Drop in, creative sessions for early years age children
(age 5 and under)

A chance to get creative, have fun, and socialise! Come and join in the fun.
It's a free drop-in activity, so no need to book. Just pop in any time between
10:30am-12pm and 1pm-2:30pm, stay for as long as you like. Siblings are
welcome during holiday Puggle sessions.

Hop on over for our
EASTER
Trail

Take part in some egg-citing fun this Easter!

28th March to 12th April 2026

Pop into **Cloverdale Cafe** at **Priory Country Park** during their opening hours to pick up a map for £4. Follow the trail, collect the codes and then go back into the cafe to collect your **Chocolate Easter Egg!**
(non-dairy and non-edible alternatives available)

Ideal for children under 12

Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford, MK41 9DJ

All proceeds go to:

Charity Number 1156447

Supporting children and families affected by disability in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire

Grange Academy
Belong • Believe • Achieve

FARM OPEN DAYS EASTER DATES

Tuesday 31st March
Thursday 2nd April
Saturday 4th April
Tuesday 7th April
Thursday 9th April
10am - 12 noon
£5 per person
Under 3s go free
Cash only payment
on arrival

Treasure Hunt & Ice cream van on site

Visit www.grange.beds.sch.uk to book places

EASTER

at the Forest Centre

**EXPLORE OUR
KIDS' EVENTS**

Eggs-cellent Easter trail
Tuesday 31st March -
Monday 6th April

Krisgar's Easter magic show
Thursday 9th April

Hopping Easter crafts
Friday 10th April

Scan the QR code or head to:
WWW.MARSTONVALE.ORG/EVENTS

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

Waking up



No screen time between birth - 24 months



Waking up without screens. It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day



Phones, tablets and computers should not be in any child's bedroom overnight.

Hours per day



2 - 5 year olds no more than 30 mins/day



'Walk, run, ride a bike, anything that gets kids up, outside and off their screens'



Watching lots of short videos is being linked to concentration difficulties in children.

Leisure



Avoid using a device to settle your child down. Instead try a book, a game outdoors, or just a cuddle



Keep active

'Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for 1-2 hours'

'Try and ensure screen-free time together'



Stay active. More green time, less screen time



Reports suggest adults touch their phones over 2000 times a day.

Sleep Hygiene



'Bedtime stories are the best and healthiest way to settle your child'

Under 5s should not use a screen at least 2 hours before bedtime



'Buy an alarm clock so that screens are not in the bedroom'

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



SCAN ME