



# FEDERATION NEWS

## Autumn Term 2 – December 2023

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools  
Bedford Nursery Schools Federation



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting your children to establish positive routines in their learning.

The children have grown in confidence and developed their independence. They have had opportunities to explore, discover, create and make links in their learning.

I am sure that you will join me in sending our sincere thanks to Cllr Jane Walker who has decided to step down as our Chair of Governors after many years of service. We are pleased that Jane will continue to support the Nursery Schools as a Governor. We are extremely fortunate to welcome Deborah James as our new Chair of Governors. Deborah has recently retired from a Headship at an Infant School and was also a National Leader of Education. She brings a wealth of experience to our federation.

We look forward to seeing you in school for your parent meetings with Key People and at our Christmas celebrations.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2024.

Enjoy the break with your family and friends and the Spring Term starts on 5th January 2024.

Julie Smith  
Executive  
Head Teacher



*'Celebrating and Strengthening  
our Communities Together'*

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

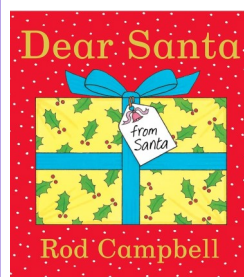
On our return to Nursery School after the half term, we spent time learning about all of the events and celebrations that were taking place in our community. We started with learning about how diverse our community is and understanding about ourselves and others by creating self portraits.

Following this, we went on to learn about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday. We explored lots of creative ways of making fireworks by using salad spinners, glitter, and paint. Julie and Suzie spoke to us about Remembrance weekend, and we created Poppy fields and a wreath which we proudly displayed at each school.



The children then shared the traditional story of 'Rama and Sita' to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. It was great to see so many parents at our Diwali stay and play. It 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.

As the nights began to get darker earlier, we explored the story of 'Owl Babies' which takes place in the dark woods. The children created clay owls, painted owls and carefully listened for the sounds in the woods through musical inputs. The children used positional language when describing where the Owls lived and where they sat in the story. Chocolate nests were made and real owls visited our Nursery. All children showed courage and high levels of involvement for the visiting owls and the falconer who brought them in commented on the children's positive learning behaviours. They planned questions they wanted to ask about the owls and communicated these confidently to find out new and exciting facts.

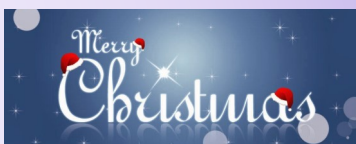


To finish off our term, we plan to spend time learning about the Christmas celebrations and traditional story of the Nativity, through the story book 'The First Christmas'. The children will engage in re-enacting the story to a set of songs we have learnt from ongoing musical visits with Jenny Browne. We will also look at and share the stories of 'Dear Santa' and 'Letter to Santa', to offer us ideas on what we could include in a Christmas letter to Santa. We look forward to welcoming our families to our Christmas Stay and Play sessions and to our Christmas Concerts where we can showcase the songs that we have been learning.

Today we walked with some of the children to St Paul's Church to decorate our school trees at Bedford's Christmas Tree Festival. This event is open to the public and the theme for decorations this year is 'Kings and Queens'.



**For more information about local events over the Christmas period, please visit:**  
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/your-council/about-council/christmas-bedford-2023>



# UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 13th December

**Christmas Stay & Play**

Thursday 14th December

**Peter Pan Christmas Party & Visit from Father Christmas**

Friday 15th December

**Christmas Concert at 11.15am or 2.45pm**

Monday 18th December

**Cherry Trees Christmas Party & Visit from Father Christmas**



## FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

The nursery school would like to ask parents if they would be able to provide a book for Father Christmas to leave at nursery for the staff to give to the children on his behalf.



We ask for books each year as Father Christmas is always very happy when he sees children reading and enjoying stories, so it would be great if this could be a book you can share with your child.

There are some very good deals on books at the moment, both in the shops and online and many only cost £1 or £2. Please speak to a member of staff if you need help with this.

Please bring your wrapped and labelled book into school by **Tuesday 12th December** and leave it with the school office – we will then send it on to Father Christmas.



## Mobile Phones

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



## Winter Clothes

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

**Crocs are not suitable footwear to wear to Nursery School.**



## 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.

## Starting School September 2024

**Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020**

All the information you need to apply for a school place is available on the website [www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/startingschool).

It gives details of all the schools in the area and a PDF copy of the admissions booklet, Starting School 2024, which explains how they process your application for a school place.

## SPRING TERM DATES

Last day of this half term:	Tuesday 19th Dec (NO TEA CLUB)
Spring Term 1:	5th Jan 2024 to 16th Feb 2024
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	19th Feb 2024 to 23rd Feb 2024
Spring Term 2:	29th March 2024 to 18th April 2024