



# FEDERATION NEWS

July 2025

Peter Pan & Cherry Trees Nursery Schools



Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and extended family at our summer picnics, Carnival Day and Leavers Concerts. We value your involvement and understand the importance of working in partnership with you all. Thank you also to the staff for their commitment and hard work at these events and throughout the academic year.

It is the time of year when we say goodbye to lots of our families as the older children transition to their Reception Year at Primary School. We are also saying goodbye to a few families who are moving to a different nursery or pre-school. We wish you all a smooth transition and send our good wishes with you on your onward learning journey.

Please come back to see us in your new school uniforms to let us know how you are settling in.

We also say goodbye to some members of staff: Mel, at Cherry Trees, is moving to a new position; Radmila and Rahena, at Cherry Trees, will also be leaving us; Sandeep, at Peter Pan, is relocating. I would like to thank them all for their contributions to the Nursery Schools. In September, Farry will be moving from Cherry Trees to Peter Pan, and Bev and Toni will be working across both Nursery Schools.

I would like to give a special thanks to the parents, children and staff who helped in the garden on our 'Digging Day' at Cherry Trees. We achieved so much in just an hour and I hope to plan some further opportunities for parents and carers to help in the gardens.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break. We have been touched by your cards, gifts and kind words, I feel so lucky to work with you all to provide the best start for your children in their early education.

Best wishes

Julie Smith  
Executive  
Head Teacher

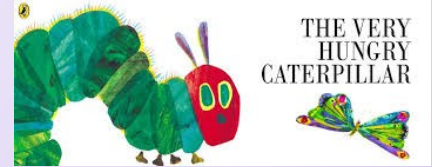


*'Celebrating and Strengthening our Communities Together'*

## Our learning from the Summer Term:

### The Very Hungry Caterpillar

The children excitedly observed real caterpillars as they grew and changed into butterflies. This learning was strengthened through sharing 'The Hungry Caterpillar' story and by singing 'There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf'. The children took part in various colourful butterfly art projects including a large scale collage and individual folded paint prints. Adults supported children as they created by using vocabulary such as symmetry, caterpillar, chrysalis and even metamorphosis! This learning culminated in the release of the butterflies in the gardens. There were gasps of wonder as the butterflies fluttered up into the sky!



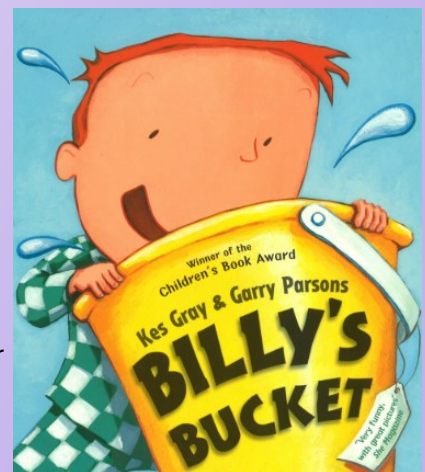
### Starting School

We continue to work closely with schools and settings as children move towards the next phase in their education. We believe a smooth transition is essential for the children's well-being and learning. To prepare children for 'starting big school' we planned group times where we read stories about starting school and encouraged conversations about how they were feeling. Children have had a school role-play area to explore their experiences following transition visits to their new schools. We have been working with the Harpur Trust on the 'Mouse Club' project which supports positive partnerships for learning between families and Early Years settings. All the children leaving to start primary school have been given a toy mouse to join them on their new adventure and provide a reassuring link to nursery and home as they settle at school. We have supported parents with their new Mouse Club transition booklet for home/school activities.



### Sea Life

The children learnt about the seaside, holidays and sea life through a range of imaginative experiences. They loved the story of Billy's Bucket and enjoyed watching sea creatures on the big screen. Inspired by the story, the children drew and made marks to show what they would put in their own magical buckets. They explored small-world sea creatures, pretended to be at the beach and built sandcastles using wet sand. During the hot weather they cooled off by paddling in water as though they were at the sea. Their learning came to life as they listened to the sounds of the ocean and used large blue sheets to discover how waves move, helping them to connect more deeply with the sights, sounds and sensations of the seaside.



## AUTUMN TERM DATES

Nursery reopens: Thursday 4th September

Half-term: Monday 27th October—Friday 31st October

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

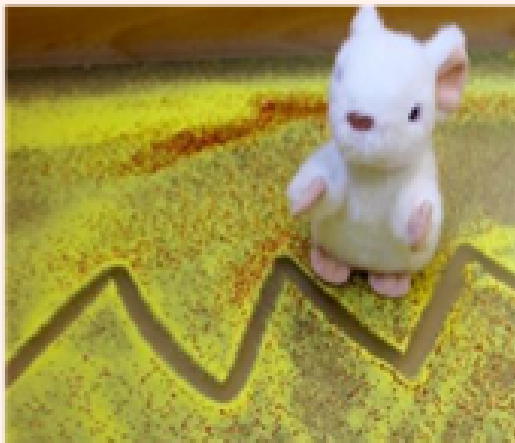
Cherry Trees and Peter Pan Nursery Schools will be taking part in Mouse Club.

Mouse Club is a way of engaging parents and helping children with their transition to Primary School

Each child leaving nursery this year will be given their very own little mouse toy. The children will be encouraged to follow activities at home with parents that will enable them to become prepared for school.



We are really excited to take part in Mouse Club!



*"Mouse Club for Schools is a set of fun and friendly parental engagement resources designed for schools, nurseries and other early years settings to foster learning relationships with parents and prepare children and families to be ready for school."*

[Get Ready for School with Mouse – Mouse Club](https://mouseclub.co.uk)

<https://mouseclub.co.uk>





Bedford Borough  
**Family Hubs**  
 & Children's Centres

**Summer Holiday  
 Timetable 2025**

23 July - 31 August

**FAMILY HUBS  
 FESTIVAL 25**

Daisy Hill  
 Children's  
 Centre

**SATURDAY  
 13 SEPT**

9.30am to  
 12.30pm

Get ready for more  
**FREE family fun!**  
 Inclusive hour 9.30 - 10.30am

*More details to follow*

**Follow us on socials for updates**

Please click the link for the [Summer Holiday Timetable](#)



BACK FOR **SUMMER**

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) is a nation-wide programme, funded by the Department for Education.

This summer we are pleased to be able to run HAF sessions alongside some of our standard timetable sessions.

HAF sessions are marked by **HAF** on the timetable.

*Please note - Not all activities will be available at all HAF sessions*

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

- Snack**
- Food etc. (meals on a budget)**
- Toby's Tall Tales**
- Good Life Garden**
- and more!**

There will be a Family Support Worker at each session and access to various agencies for support.



THE  
READING  
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge



# Story Garden



[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)

Join the Summer Reading Challenge at Bedford Borough Libraries and earn stickers and rewards for reading books over the summer.

Saturday 12th July  
to Saturday 6th  
September 2025

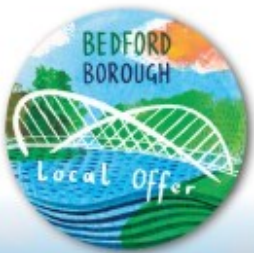


Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
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**Culture & Heritage  
Bedford**

**BEDFORD  
BOROUGH  
YEAR OF  
READING  
2025**

Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adedola and © The Reading Agency 2025



## EXCLUSIVE SEND ONLY Relaxed/Quiet Fire Station Open Day

*Come along & visit Bedford Fire Station on Barkers Lane...*



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 2pm - 5pm**

- Explore the fire engines
- Engage with Fire Safety Team about fire safety in your home
- Meet fire fighters
- Book in a FREE home safe and we'll check with the safety team

To register your interest (so we have a rough idea of numbers), please email:

📧 [Local.Offer@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Local.Offer@bedford.gov.uk)

Please include how many people in your group will be attending.



**Toby's Tall Tales**

**20 July**

**Free, no need to book, 2.30pm**

Join trained actor and teacher Toby in the art gallery on a creative exploration of stories. Toby will engage children with immersive story reading and help children create their own stories using puppets, drawings, songs and the artwork from the gallery. Ideal for ages up to 7. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please be aware, space in the gallery is limited and is offered on a first come first served basis.



**Friday 8 August**

**The Goodlife Garden Free, Suitable for Under 6s**

Join The Good Life Garden to explore art through nature. These are free sessions but places are limited so booking is essential. **11.15am, 12.45pm and 2.15pm**



**1 August & 5 September 2025**

**Free, Drop In 10.30 – 12 and 1 – 2.30pm**

Art & craft activities for children aged 2-5 years with their parents and carers. Pop in between 10:30am-12 or 1-2:30pm. (Siblings are welcome to attend). No booking required but, if the room is busy please wait a short time, until there is space.

Join Kevin the Platypus' little cousin Puggle for lots of creative fun. Puggle Club offers different creative activities for children aged 2 to 5 years.

Have a go at nature themed arts and crafts, experiment with sensory materials, enjoy a book in the Puggle Snuggle or have fun mark making at the Puggle Scribble Station.



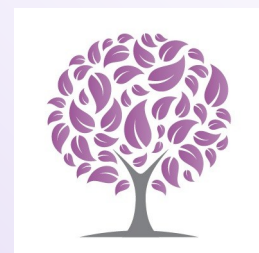
**Useful contacts:**

For any Safeguarding concerns

<https://familyhubs.bedford.gov.uk/staying-safe/safeguarding>

For Health concerns

<https://www.bedslutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/services/bedfordshire-and-luton-health-hub/>



Our last day of term is Friday 18th July,

Please email if you need to get in touch, we won't be in every day but will pick up your message when we are back in the office.

[cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com](mailto:cherrytrees@bedfordnurseryschools.com)  
or  
[peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com](mailto:peterpan@bedfordnurseryschools.com)