



## A message from the Head...

Dear Parents,

What a difference it makes having the sun out! Everyone has been in good spirits and the children are very busy finishing off their current projects including their project books to share with you in the lead up to the Easter break.

After Easter children will move into their summer uniform which for children in Years 3 - 6 is a polo shirt in their family colour or a summer dress in their family colour. For children in reception or nursery this is a blue summer dress should they wish.

A big warm welcome back to Miss S Bennett who came back as a teaching assistant in Year 2 (Serpens Class).

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Denise Burgess

### This week's letters home

All – Extra Curricular Clubs

Year 1 (selected) – Phonics tuition



## Mother's Day

We hope that all parents and carers have a lovely Mother's Day this Sunday. We'd also like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Great Denham who organised the Mother's Day Flowers this year.

## Online Safety

National Online Safety this week:

**What parents need to know about phone scams** (see poster attached to email).

*Scammers' tricks have become more sophisticated in the digital age: now they can convincingly pretend to represent our bank, our health services or even our loved ones. Stay wise to their rapidly evolving schemes and protect yourself – and your family – with today's #WakeUpWednesday guide to phone scams.*

**If you haven't signed up to National Online Safety already, please take advantage of this brilliant resource by following the link [HERE](#)**

## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 5 - Fabulous Finish

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Nursery - Fabulous Finish – Superhero day

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 3/4 – trip to the Science Museum

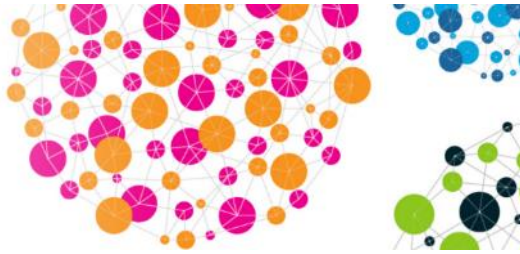
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 6 – Grafham Water trip

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March** – Year 2 - Fabulous Finish

## Reminder!

Please remember that school finishes for all children at 1:30 next Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April and there is no Friday afternoon club or after school club on this day.

There are still some places available for extra curricular clubs. These can be booked on PAY360.



## National Science Week

Last week was National Science Week and GDPS children (and staff!) had so much fun!

All of the children across the school were involved and there was a competition, class vs class! Each day, children were asked to examine zoomed in pictures, identify famous scientists and spot the odd one out. This certainly put our science skills to the test.

On top of this, children investigated how to make flowers colourful. They made patterns with skittles and explored their outside spaces whilst on a scavenger hunt. There was also a competition to see who could make the tallest tower using just paper and cello tape and we tested the theory that your arm span length is the same as your height.

Throughout the week, we met several scientists who inspired many of our children. We met a nurse, marine biologist, science teacher and food scientist and asked them many questions about their careers.

And so, the moment you have all been waiting for!! The results are in... It was very close...

*Drum roll please.....*

**3rd place - Volans**

**2nd place - Vela**

**1st place - Phoenix**

**Phoenix** - You can now choose a science workshop for your class next term!  
**Congratulations!!**

A huge well done to all classes for taking part!





# YEAR GROUP UPDATE

## Reception

What a fabulous term our Reception children have had exploring different types of transport, visiting the Steam Railway and learning all about what makes us healthy. The children have shown so much determination in all of their learning and produced some amazing work. We have been really blown away by their fabulous art work which they have created this term, especially their 100 decker bus; it has everything from swimming pools to party decks! Their imaginations really ran wild. The children have all been working extremely hard on their reading and writing and I am sure you will all agree that they have come on so far and we are so proud of them.

This week we have finished the term on a high with our 'Walk to school Week' and Art morning. Thank you to everyone who has walked with us this week, it has been so lovely to see so many of you there. Here are a few pictures from the week.



## SPORTS UPDATE

### Tuesday 29th March

Year 5 & 6

Quicksticks tournament  
Bedford Hockey stadium  
4-6pm

### Wednesday 30th March

Year 5 & 6

Athletics training  
Great Denham Primary  
3:15-4:15pm

## Physical Education (PE)

Our year 5 & 6 pupils have enjoyed completing this week's orienteering challenge around Great Denham, using a map of the local area. They planned their routes as a team and were determined to be the first team back to the school gates, with all 10 answers. It was great to see enthusiastic and determined pupils working so well together. Well done to you all!

Next week we are excited to finish the half term with an intra-school family competition. This is an opportunity to celebrate new skills learnt throughout the half term and to experience family competition. Good luck everyone!

## School Sport

### Year 3 & 4 Girls Basketball Week 1

This was a new competition, which both teams absolutely loved! The girls worked hard to support each other, move into space and develop their dribbling and passing. The girls are ready and motivated for week 2.

**Team:** Amelia, Anaya, Anna, Cawthar, Cleusia, Danielle, Eloise, Emilie, Florence, Gracie, Lena & Summayah

### Year 5 Netball tournament

Wow - what an exciting tournament this was for Great Denham!

#### Girls 7-a-side

The girls played some of their strongest netball to date, winning all of their group matches until they faced Bedford Girls A team.

Unfortunately, they lost which put them in second position in their group. They played a semi-final match against Bedford Modern school, which saw them put up a strong fight, however they just missed out on reaching the finals. Playing for third place, they were determined to win and what a game it was. Our defenders were strong, centre court play quick and our attackers took every chance to score a goal! Congratulations girls a thoroughly deserved 3rd place (out of 13 teams) for you all- we are very proud!

**Team:** Alesha, Alice, Amelia, Deborah, Eliyah, Grace, Holli & Sienna





### Mixed High 5

This tournament was great as all team members followed a rotation of positions, which suited the players well. The team played against very strong opposition, developing their passing, attacking and defending throughout the afternoon. It was great to see their determination and team work flourish. Well done for finishing in 3rd place overall, we are very proud of you!

**Team:** Alana, Ava, Charlie, Julia, Ken, Max & Zara

### Year 5&6 Mixed Hockey tournament

Many weeks of training after school definitely paid off for this team and wow what a performance. The team played strongly from the start; passing, tackling and defending well on a much bigger pitch than they were used to. The results were very close; winning two matches, losing two matches and drawing one. Congratulations team- we are very excited to see how you get on next week at the Quick sticks tournament.

**Team:** Charlie, Charlie S, Grace, Hugo, Joe-Joe, Ken, Niamh, Oscar, Sienna, Summer

### Year 2 - Serpens Multi skills festival

Serpens class enjoyed an afternoon in the sunshine, whilst participating in unihoc, football and dance activities. Sports leaders from Biddenham supported the children in activities that developed their skill and understanding of these different sports. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all- well done Serpens for showing all of our values and being stars!



# Physical Activity

## Sustrans Big Walk and wheel 21st March - 1st April

Well done and thank you to all of you who have walked, cycled or scooted to school this week. One week done, one more week to go!

## Forest school

Many pupils across the school have also enjoyed the opportunity to learn outdoors at Forest School this half term doing various fun activities including toasting marshmallows, bird spotting and tree climbing and even getting the chance to hold a newt.







## Climb Quest MK

If you're looking for some fun activities to do over the next few weeks, visit us at [Climb Quest](#) and book a climbing session for you, your family and friends. Read on for information about Easter Holidays, free Have A Go sessions and the National Lottery Days Out scheme! You have until 31.3.22 to book your National Lottery climb with us!

[BOOK HERE](#)

## SEND 'Have a Go' Sessions

On **April 25th** we are holding **FREE 'Have A Go' sessions**. These are special sessions for people with additional needs who haven't been to Climb Quest yet, to come and try climbing on our walls. We share an ethos around inclusion for all, supporting groups and individuals to challenge themselves, and promoting healthy lifestyle activities.

Our friendly team will be here to support and encourage, and we'll also have two climbing hoists for anyone who needs some extra help to climb.

Sessions are at **4pm, 4.30pm, 5pm and 5.30pm**. Numbers are limited so be sure to book ahead. Parents and carers are welcome on the arena.

If you have any questions, just email us at [mk@climbquest.co.uk](mailto:mk@climbquest.co.uk).

You can book your tickets online via the SEND session option on our website.

[BOOK HERE](#)





## In Person Get Together

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 10am – 12pm**

We are delighted to be hosting an in-person get together for the first time in two years! Come and join us for a cuppa, some cake and a chat. Whether you have been to our events before or if you are a new parent carer, everyone will be very welcome.

No need to book, just come along and join us.

**Kempston Council Chambers, 104 Bedford Road, Kempston, MK42 8BG**



## Healthy Parent Carer Training

**Starting Tues 19<sup>th</sup> April, 7-9pm (12 wk course)**

The healthy parent carer programme is designed to improve parent carers' health and wellbeing by promoting emotional balance through understanding, empowerment, confidence and resilience.

Kerri and Karen of Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum are leading on the delivery of the programme to parent carers of children who have SEND in Bedford Borough. Kerri and Karen are both parent carers themselves.

The course lasts for 12 weeks running every Tuesday from 19th April (with a week's break on Tuesday 31st May for half term). If you sign up, you will need to commit to the full 12 weeks. Places are limited so please book quickly if you would like to join.

We have been running two courses already this term and the feedback from parent carers who have attended has been really positive.

Quotes from parents who have attended this term:

*'I'm really enjoying this'*

*'This course has really inspired me'*

*'It's great talking to other parents who get it'*

*'I really love these sessions, why are more people not doing them?'*

**[BOOK HERE](#)**







## Our 10 Year Anniversary – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Please note that on Friday 9th September 2022 **there will be no Friday afternoon club or after school club available on this day.** School will end for all children at 1:30pm.

We are letting you know now to give you plenty of time to make alternative arrangements. This date marks the 10-year anniversary of our school being open and we will be hosting celebrations for ex pupils and staff on the afternoon that day. The children in school will enjoy celebrations in the morning as well. If you have older children who attended GDPS please share the flyer with them and ask them to put the date in their diary - we would love to see them and show them how the school has changed over the years as well as share memories with them!



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILDCARE IN BEDFORD

Take part in our survey and help shape childcare in Bedford  
Closes 1st of April



Scan the QR code above to take part and have your say on the availability and accessibility of childcare across the county, or go to this website:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedfordParentsCSA>

A poster for a survey about childcare in Bedford. It features a green background with a photo of a young girl blowing bubbles. The text is in white and yellow. It says 'HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILDCARE IN BEDFORD'. Below that is a paragraph: 'Take part in our survey and help shape childcare in Bedford Closes 1st of April'. Then there is a QR code. Below the QR code is a paragraph: 'Scan the QR code above to take part and have your say on the availability and accessibility of childcare across the county, or go to this website: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BedfordParentsCSA'. The Bedford Borough Council logo is in the top right corner.

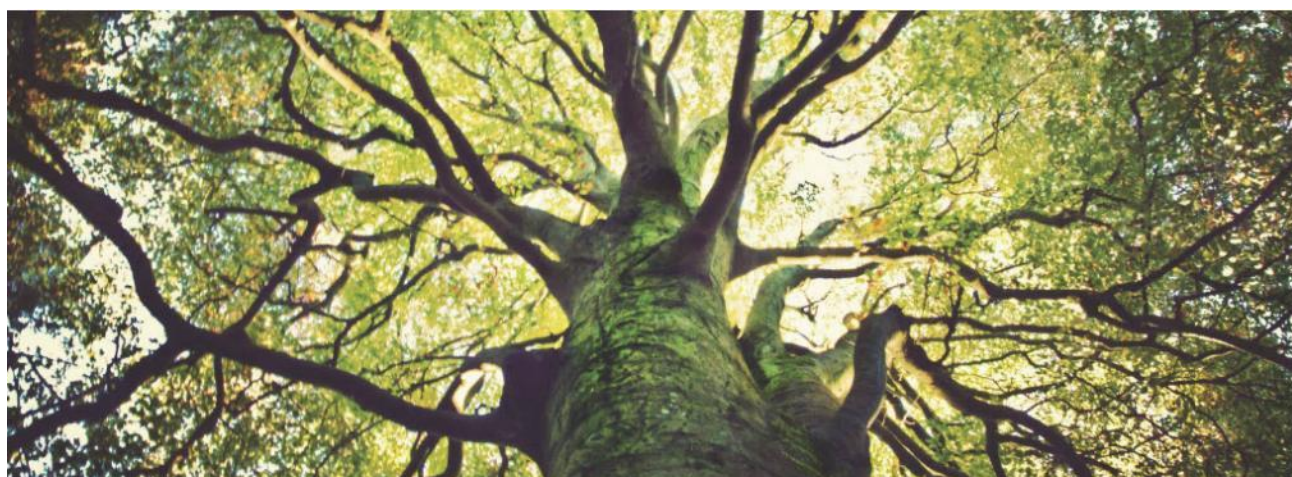
## Awareness days and religious festivals

21<sup>st</sup> March – **Mothering Sunday**

15<sup>th</sup> April – **Good Friday**

17<sup>th</sup> April – **Easter Sunday**

18<sup>th</sup> April – **Easter Monday**



## COUNTRY DAYS

EASTER COURSES 2022

Country Days is an educational charity providing outdoor learning in a beautiful 6-acre nature reserve for young people aged 7-11 in Bedfordshire. Visit our website for more information about our sponsors; we are so grateful for their ongoing support.  
Registered Charity Number 1181833



## EASTER COURSE PROGRAMME

### When is it?

Course 1: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Course 2: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Course 3: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Activities begin at 9.30am and finish at 3.15pm

### Where is it?

The Leys Nature Reserve, Pavenham Road, Felmersham, Bedfordshire, MK43 7EX

### Who can attend?

Primary school children in years 3 -6 who live in Bedfordshire

### How much does it cost?

Places are £10 for the day or \*free\* for those on Free School Meals or Pupil Premium

### What will they be doing?

Over the course of the day, every child will have the opportunity to do pond-dipping, bushcraft, sport, and arts & crafts

### How can we book?

Download the booking form from our website: [www.countrydays.net](http://www.countrydays.net) or contact the office on [info@countrydays.net](mailto:info@countrydays.net) for more information



# LOCAL EVENTS & ADVERTS



## Holiday Activities and FOOD Programme

**HAF is back! This Easter,** Bedford Borough Council is funding an exciting range of **FREE activities** for children and families on **income related free school meals**.

*Places are limited and so booking is essential, eligibility will be checked before bookings are confirmed.*





Visit the Bedford Local Offer website for more information:  
<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/hafeaster22>

Website & bookings will be live from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm.

## JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR Easter Camp

**Ages 3-14**




Tennis	Cricket	Go Karts
Nerf	Football	Easter Hunt, 40ft Maze, Danos, Gymnastics & More! (select locations)

Week One: 4th-8th April Week Two: 11th-14th Week Three: 19th -22nd

Banbury / Bedford / Brackley / Flitwick / Milton Keynes

9-3:30pm / 10-5:30pm / 8-4pm / 8-5:30pm / 10-2pm from £18 per day

Activities: Specialising in Tennis, Cricket, and Football plus an introduction to a wide variety of other sports and activities like Go Kart, Zorbs, Nerf, Laser Tag, 40ft Inflatable Maze. Throughout the day children can choose their themed activities depending on who is feeling adventurous, or maybe on the creative side!

Food Options now Available to add on to your booking



**BOOK NOW: [www.sportyscholars.com](http://www.sportyscholars.com) Tel: 07511194319**




*"The teaching is a joy and I have the flexibility to deliver a course that engages and empowers the children in a fun way."*

an Outspoken cycle instructor



[careers.outspokentraining.co.uk](http://careers.outspokentraining.co.uk)

## We're searching for new Cycle Instructors

### Could you inspire the next generation of cyclists?

Outspoken Training are looking for confident communicators to enthuse school children to make more journeys by bicycle.

If you have loads of enthusiasm to share and are looking for rewarding work to deliver during school term time, we would love to hear from you.

Role: Employed-Variable Hours  
Hourly Rate: £12

Cycle Training Programme: Bikeability

Training and Support: We provide full, free training and ongoing support including nationally recognised qualifications.

For more information, please contact Graham:  
[jobs@outspokentraining.co.uk](mailto:jobs@outspokentraining.co.uk)  
 01223 473820







## Football Development Centre

### Bays Sporting Facilities

Mark Rutherford School - MK41 8PX

by 4 Corner Coaching







**Individual skills**

**UEFA coaches**

**Team play**

High Quality Football Coaching by very experienced coaches  
who supplement your own club sessions.

Developing - **Technical skills** – **Physical skills** – **Psychological skills** – **Social skills**

**Start Back Date - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**£4 per session – 11 week block of Development**



Times/ages: **5-6pm = 5 - 9 years**    &    **6-7pm = 10 - 14 years**

UEFA B coaches – Youth Award Level 3 - Enhanced DBS - Safeguarding  
BFAS (Basic First Aid for Sport)

Contact: **Mark – 07419764033** – [mark@4cornercoaching.co.uk](mailto:mark@4cornercoaching.co.uk)  
[www.4cornercoaching.co.uk](http://www.4cornercoaching.co.uk)







**Levelz+ Basketball**  
**High Performance Training**  
**Start Date: Friday**  
**7pm-8pm**  
**U10s-U11s**  
**Location: Bays Sporting**

BEDFORD MARIANETTES PRESENTS

# MIS-CASTS


A showcase of our favourite songs from the  
musicals with a unique twist...

**FEATURING SONGS FROM:**


HAIRSPRAY  
HAMILTON  
BILLY ELLIOT  
WICKED  
MATILDA  
AND MANY OTHERS...


APRIL 6 - 9, 2022 AT 7:30PM  
(2:30PM SATURDAY MATINEE)  
TRINITY ARTS AND LEISURE  
BROMHAM ROAD, BEDFORD MK40 2BS  
TICKETS - £16.00\*

ENQUIRIES: [MAIL@BEDFORDMARIANETTES.ORG](mailto:MAIL@BEDFORDMARIANETTES.ORG)  
BOX OFFICE: [TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MARIANETTES](http://TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MARIANETTES)



Be inspired by amateur theatre





Enjoy. Learn. Perform.

\*Concessions priced tickets available for select performances