

# THE BOOK OF BEDFORD



# INTRODUCTION

**This is The Book of Bedford. This is a guidebook made by children for adults. This is a way for you to see the town through our eyes.**

Bedford is a place that is teeming with joy. A place of rivers and greenery and architecture. A very historical and educational place full of exciting things.

You can use this helpful guidebook to find hidden avenues and shortcuts. It will tell you about Bedford's treasures and give you warnings about danger zones. You can use this book to find out what all the many shops and parks are called. If this is your first time coming to Bedford and you don't know anybody, you will need this book. If you are in a different country and you want to visit

England but don't know what the best town is, this book will be helpful research. If you're a person in Bedford who doesn't really go out and then all of a sudden you decide you want to go out, we can give you the knowledge you need.

We can tell you about the coffee shops and the cinemas. We can tell you about nature and the Harpur Centre and all the different markets. We can tell you how nice and friendly the people are in Bedford. We can tell you what the best playgrounds are and about the River Festival and the Butterfly Bridge. We can tell you how calm the river can be.

We can tell you about the zipline near the Priory Marina and the secret area in the woods by Goldington Green. We can tell you about the hidden forest school by Brickhill Primary. We can warn you about the haunted place. We can tell you what an adventure Bedford is when you come here for the first

time. We can tell you about the places adults think are boring but we know are fun.

You should read this guidebook somewhere very cosy. Read it on a summer's day on a bench in the park. Read it at home with a cup of tea. Read it sitting in bed before you go to sleep or read it under the covers with a torch. Read it in a flower field. Read it in a library on a bean bag with a cosy cushion. Go to Waveney Park and read it on the swings. Go to the River Ouse and sit down really close with your feet touching the river (but make sure the swans don't get you).

We recommend you do not read this book in the toilet. Do not read it at a disco party. Don't try to read this book in the Harpur Centre or whilst skydiving. Do not read it in a crowded house or in a dumpster. Do not read it in Halford's car park. Do not read it on the cold hard floor of a library with everyone stepping on you. Do not read when your annoying sister is talking in your face. Do not read it if you are on a bench that's just been painted or if you are in a kayak on the river in case you fall asleep and wake up without your paddle in the middle of the River Festival with everyone

watching you. If you are in a fighter jet in World War II whilst sat in a box full of spiders, we recommend you don't try and read this book.

When you have finished reading this book give your copy to a friend so they can read it too. Give a copy to anyone who wants to move to Bedford and anyone who wants to come here from another country. Give a copy to your aunty in Leeds and your dad in Ghana and your grandma who's never been to the UK but is coming for the first time next year. If your cousin in Spain is only 5 and doesn't speak any English, you should still give him a copy because he will enjoy all the pictures.

Give a copy to Cristiano Ronaldo. Give a copy to the Brownies for when they go on walks. Give a copy to your friends who like to explore. Give a copy to the Prime Minister so he can learn more about this wonderful town.

Welcome to Bedford. This amazing market town full of nature. We love it here and so will you.

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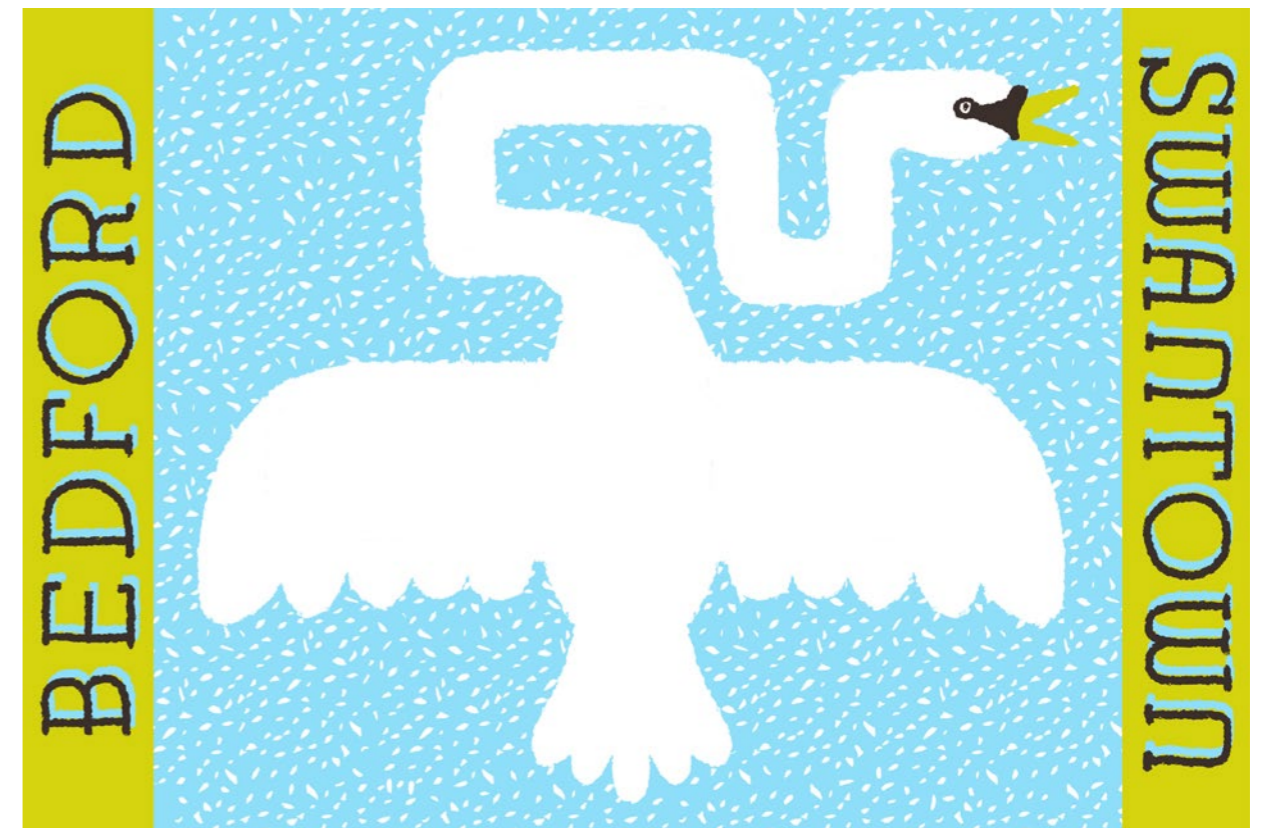
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## SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



# FACTS & INFORMATION

- The number of people that live in Bedford is either 120,000 or 70,000 or 4,000. There are 25,000 children and between 1,000 and 50,000 adults.
- There are 3,000 dogs in Bedford and 4,000 cats. There are 1,350 pigeons and 150,000 rats. The number of ghosts in Bedford is either 0 or 1 or 100.



- The most common jobs in Bedford are McDonald's worker, taxi driver, teacher, shopkeeper, babysitter, delivery driver and working in an office.
- The average adult in Bedford makes £200 per week.
- On a scale of 1-10 the average happiness of people in Bedford is 7.
- The people of Bedford like to eat pizza, fast food, lasagna, kebab, chips, egg and beans and chicken biryani.
- For fun they like playing sport, gaming, vandalising, pranks, baking, watching TikTok and walking around the River Great Ouse.

- The people of Bedford like to complain about football, traffic, Karens, the internet, the price of things, politics, the economy, the unpredictable weather and when you order something online and it takes a really long time to arrive.

- At night they dream about money, being celebrities, presidents and kings, the latest football scores, ghosts, happiness, flying everywhere, getting a job and all their teeth falling out.

## THIS IS THE TOWN ANTHEM OF BEDFORD

*Through the middle of Bedford runs a river called the Ouse  
There are so many restaurants there for you to choose  
It's the best, you can't refuse, just take a little funny cruise*

*Once Bedford had a castle but it doesn't any more  
All that's left is ruins now, it's level with the floor  
Take a trip there we promise it won't be a bore*

*If you come to Bedford you'll never want to leave  
There's so much to do you'll have to write it on your sleeve  
Because you're in Bedford you're never gonna grieve*

# THE SIGHTS OF BEDFORD

## THESE ARE THE FAMOUS SIGHTS OF BEDFORD

Batman, James Bond and Dumbo. They are really big and we respect them. There was once a spaceship which landed there.



### The Snowman

We made this snowman monument for our friend who likes snowmen in winter. She likes making them and naming them and sometimes puts a wig on it and we laugh.

### Bedford Corn Exchange

Bedford Corn Exchange was built in 1785 or 12 February 1962. When it was first built it was for farmers to exchange things like corn. Now it is for concerts and theatre where you can watch actors. The music here is nice. It is a haunted building to explore. We think that there are lots of spiders there. It is good but old. Some of us have performed inside.

### The Green Bunkers

These are military hangars from the 1930s which were created for making guns and airships in WWII. Now they are a studio where they make films and tv shows like

### Pyramid Pool

Oasis Swimming Pool was built in 2005 and looks like a pyramid from Egypt. There's a giant swimming pool inside and we really like it, but it is really expensive. It was made for swimming and swimming lessons and water slides. Lots of people swim here because it is a popular place. It is for all ages.

### The Moon

This is a statue for our mums because we think they deserve to be celebrated for all the hard work they've done for us and our siblings to enjoy our lives. We made it in the shape of a moon because they love us to the moon and back.



### Boba Tea

This is a monument to Boba Tea because our friend really likes Boba and we always drink it together. She really likes the flavour peach with blueberry. We made a little face and added a straw to make it more detailed.

### Flowers

By King's Oak Primary School there is a park and in the park there are flowerbeds and if you look carefully at these flowerbeds you might see some flowers from the seeds we planted for this guidebook. We did this to make the streets prettier.

### The Blue Man in a Cape

This is a statue of John Bunyan, or it might be a soldier from 1964, or a king, or a prime minister. It might be his grave. It was created for respect and honour and to represent the time John Bunyan was in jail for illegally preaching.



### Baby Yoda

This sculpture of Baby Yoda near Primark was built for our Dad who we only see twice every two weeks. We built it near Primark because Primark has lots of Star Wars things.



### Football Pitch

This is a monument in the shape of a football pitch and a ball. It was built for our brothers who play football and inspired us to play as well. They play at the back so we play at the back.

### Castle Mound

The Castle Mound is a part of a castle that was abandoned. It was made in the Roman time or in 1066, and was built for King Edward. The mound is big and beautiful and from here you can see the view of the river. It's good for taking photos. It's very steep and hard to climb.



### River Great Ouse

The River Great Ouse was built in the early years of Bedford and now is home to swans and the Swan Hotel. It is for picnics, for kids to run around, and for looking at rowers getting chased by angry swans. We think it is a clean river. It is beautiful, peaceful and relaxing here. Every town needs a river. 8/10.



### Football Trophy

This giant World Cup trophy is for Aryan who deserves it because he is the goat of football and also he is kind in games and he makes us laugh a lot. If we had a real World Cup we would give it to him as a birthday present.



### Heart

This statue of a heart represents our lovely teachers because they help us a lot.

### The Higgins Museum

The Higgins Museum was made because of history. It is for looking at the ancient artefacts. There are lots of old things from years, years and years ago. It makes us interested in the history of Bedford. You can also look at art and artists live there. It has a haunted attic. We think William Shakespeare might have built it.

### Two Moon Faces

The Face-to-Face Statue or Two Moon Faces is in the town centre near JD Sports. It was built in 1983. Since then they have been in an endless staring competition. It is there to show positive relationships and to tell people to look at each other. It looks really nice and ugly at the same time. We like to climb on it, and we think it is cool when it glows at night.



### Cloud

If you go to the park you will find this sculpture of a cloud. This monument represents Pop-Pop and all the other grandpas and grandmas who have gone away into the clouds. It is to celebrate their lives.

## THESE ARE THE LESS FAMOUS SIGHTS OF BEDFORD

### This House

This house is a house that looks uncared for and looks abandoned. It is on a busy road but even if it was for sale you couldn't see the sign because it is covered by trees and ivy.

### The Woods

Goldington Green Woods is a place that I found when I was playing football and kicked a ball a bit too far. And then I saw it. I think no one knows about it because they're too busy playing in the park and aren't bothered to take a look. They just let their dogs use it as a toilet. But I found it fun walking there. I think if I kick other people's balls too far then they'll come with me.

### Strong Shop

There is a shop that is always dark and there are people in it, and then when they come out they look strong.



### **Climbing Tree**

My place is a tree in front of my house. It has been climbed on so many times it's all worn out. I am the one who found out how to climb it.

### **Old Dirty Caravan**

This is my grandpa's old and dirty caravan. The caravan is on his farm. I found out about this a long time ago. I think no one knows about this because it's somewhere where not that many people pass in the car. I think it should be used as a little den because if my grandpa wants to stay here then this is perfect for him.

### **Haunted Hospital**

I found out about this abandoned hospital from one of my friends. I think it is haunted from all the patients that died there. Nobody knows about it because nobody walks past it.

### **The Middle of Nowhere**

Near a park, there are these massive fields with lots of football goals. I randomly just came across it and it was abandoned. I think no one knows about it because it is in the middle of nowhere.

### **Electricity Building**

There's an electricity building that I saw. It isn't big. It's a bit like a garage that has lots of vines on it. I don't think many people see it because most people that walk past it are too interested in their phones and walking their dogs.

### **Creepy Castle Mount**

I found out about this place on a school trip. I think nobody cares about it because they don't know what is inside and haven't seen it because it's hidden in the bushes. I think this place is really cool and creepy at the same time.

## **THESE ARE THE SIGHTS YOU CAN FIND UNDERNEATH BEDFORD**

- Fossils
- Broken pottery
- Bones
- Soldier caps and jewellery
- Hacking devices
- A diary from World War II written by a German soldier
- Unknown creatures
- Pipes
- Boots
- Bits of a Roman sword
- Dinosaur teeth
- Lost wallets
- Abandoned houses
- An ant city
- A skeleton bar
- A Gucci vampire
- Secret bunkers
- Cave men and cave women
- Buried treasure
- Toxic waste
- The mole from *The Wind in the Willows*
- Expired chicken from 2 months ago

- An Anglo Saxon
- Water pipes full of mice
- Rocks
- Stones





# THE ORDINARY STREETS OF BEDFORD

All across Bedford you will find ordinary streets like the streets near our schools where we live.

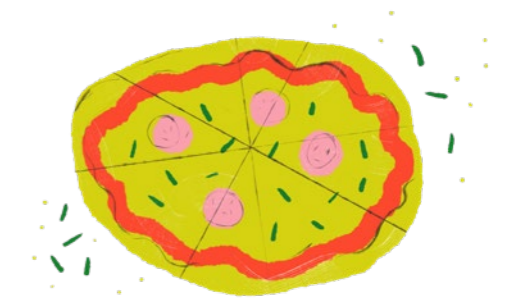
Our streets are full of nature and birds. There's a big tree and a play area and lots of grass to do gymnastics. There are two parks nearby and we can ride our scooters there. There's a neighbourhood garden and just down the road is an allotment which is always calm and peaceful. Our friends are always playing football and we can join in. We ride our bikes every day on the small path. We love all the sneaky animals that come at day and night. There are birds, squirrels, pigeons, spiders, hedgehogs, magpies, robins, newts, baby frogs, foxes and even deer. Our neighbour has a pet snake. There's a three-legged ginger cat, a cat with a cut-off tail, a pug called Hugo and a mouse that died due to the Coronavirus. Once

we saw 4 or 5 squirrels in a big bin. Sometimes there are foxes looking for food and sometimes we put food out for the foxes and the foxes go in circles around us and it is the best thing we ever felt.

Some of our streets are next to a forest and some of them are next to shops like Nisa Local and nice cafes and restaurants and a bakery. We have all the facilities that a citizen should have like a bus station, Lidl and Tesco. There's a shop on our street and the man in the shop gives us free candy nearly every day. We like it when the streets are calm. We like how quiet it can be when no cars are driving by. There are trampolines in the back yards. There are lots of different religions and they all have fireworks on different days. Sometimes the sky is pink and blue and it is very beautiful.

Lots of people live on our streets and everyone is really nice (well nearly everyone). There's always people making drama (we love drama). There's May and Richard and Ian who has motorbikes and Joyce and Aunty Carly and Mad Ricky and Zayn who tells everyone's secrets and Kate who always has something different to do each day. There's Asma who gives us food and Mike who just turned 90. There's a professional wrestler and a man who taught us how to fish and someone's mum who's always shouting at her son. There's a neighbour who always stares at his car and a neighbour who has a beautiful tree that blooms flowers. There's the lady whose house always smells of perfume and the man who has a business fixing vacuums. There's the family that own our favourite pizza restaurant and the old lady who comes to our house every Sunday to play some board games. Our neighbours smile at us every day and we say hello to them. There's a lot of respect on our streets. People treating each other like they would like to be treated. When we knock on their doors at Halloween they give us colossal chunks of sweets.

On our streets there are often too many cars and people park them badly. We don't like it when the cars go rushing by and we don't like it when they don't stop for you on the zebra crossing. The houses don't look very cosy and they're too close together. It's not good to have a train track right next door and sometimes at night people play loud music, have fights and shout swear words. On Saturdays you can feel the vibrations from the bars and nightclubs and it's really so hard to sleep. We can smell when people are smoking nearby. Cats sick on our doorstep and poo in our back garden. People are always damaging doors. It can flood.



We need a bigger field and a park in the field. More bins for litter. Add more trees and more flowers. No more busy roads. Change the flats into houses and add a sweetie shop around the corner. Get rid of the 'no ball games' sign. We want more kids our age to play with. We want to have a swimming pool in our street every summer. We want people to invite us to their Halloween and Christmas parties. We want space to ourselves.

But really we love our streets. We love the street parties and the bonfires. Our neighbours celebrating Pakistani Independence Day and our aunty's wedding party with the loud drums. Every new year we have a street party and we dance and celebrate together and it makes us really happy to spend time with our neighbours. The streets are lit up by fireworks.

We remember when a tree got hit by lightning and the power cuts and when we saw a lady filling her car with trays of cakes and biscuits as if she was getting ready for a massive party. Once we saw three birds fighting over an apple and once a swan knocked on the

kitchen window asking for food. A rabbit escaped. A police car chased another car down the street. We remember when two grown men were fighting in the street at Christmas for 10 whole minutes until the police finally came and when the fire alarm went off and everyone went outside and we got a picture with a fireman. We remember seeing a wild deer and when there were four foxes all running around. We remember the Northern Lights and when someone had a heart attack. We remember the fire in Tyne Crescent and the explosion on Cleat Hill. We remember when our street was at the end of a rainbow.



On our streets there are lots of things you might not see unless you look very closely. Things like little dust particles, bacteria, and phone calls. Lavender and radio signals. Conkers, plastic bottles, rubbish, unraked leaves. There are satellite dishes, two caterpillars, a cat under a car, a colony of ants, a 20p coin stuffed in a bottle cap, birds on the rooves, tiny black dots on a house. Maybe there is a rabbit. Maybe someone is looking out of a window. There are aeroplanes in the sky, drones, footprints, music. Spiderwebs, moss, still water, rain.

These are the streets where we live, and everyone we know is very close by.

## THE NEW STREET OF BEDFORD

The best thing about Bedford is the new street that we designed ourselves.

There are more flowers on this street and no bumps in the road. It has brighter streetlamps and a bike lane and a silent leaf vacuum to clear the paths and stop leaves getting in our shoes. There's a robot to stop smoking and litter, and a robot to water plants, and a speed bot with cameras for eyes who says "thank you" if you are driving below the speed limit. There are mountains and lakes for hiking and a bench so if you go on a bike ride or a hike or most importantly if you're elderly you can rest. At certain times like Christmas we put decorations up all along the street.

On our new street we built an open-air cinema and a snake pet shop and a 17-million-megapixel simulator room. There's a halal burger stop, a Nutella shop and a pasta drive-through (because who





doesn't love pasta?) where you can get rigatoni, bacon and cream cheese for £6.20. There's also a foodbank so people with no food can get food and a shop with a rainbow door where they have meal deals, sweets, toys, newspapers, birthday cards, magazines, cereal, snacks and electronics. There's a fun club where people can play and an escape room made by the one and only Alfredo (he is Spanish and he has a creepy laugh). Outside the escape room it says, 'Entra si te atreves'.

There's an animal hotel for stray cats, foxes and dogs and a swimming pool where people can learn to swim. There's a shelter where people can go if they're homeless or struggling with rent and a noodle and bubble tea shop. We also built a secret treehouse that is only for kids with a big slide and a ball pit. Drinks and snacks are free for everyone and the council restocks it every day. You can go there when you don't want people to bother you.

The park on our new street is better than the old basic and boring ones. It has an entranceway shaped like a heart and inside there ziplines,

monkey bars, playing blocks, a spinney thing, a ship, trampolines, rock climbing, a chill out area, a car track with real small cars, a waterslide and a submarine. It has a slide with a robot hand to push you and an automatic swing with hard and soft modes. There's a massive field with short grass and different sports like football, basketball, cricket, badminton and running so people can play whenever they want without walking too far and a robot footballer so you always have someone to play with. There is also a skate park and a gym for parents to work out. There's a pond and green leaves and a first aid post in case you fall over.

We also built a weather machine to control the weather so you can go places every day and you don't need to wait for the rain to stop.





## OUR SCHOOLS

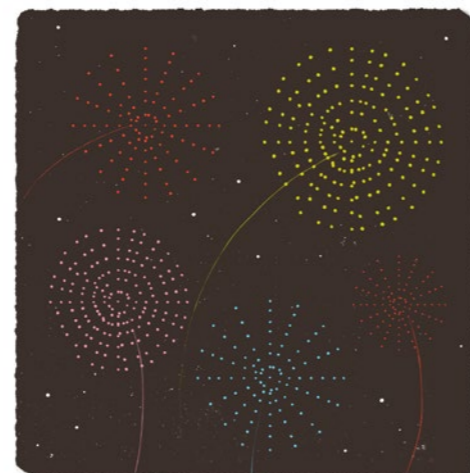
One of the most important parts of Bedford are our schools.

Our schools are full of diverse people with different cultures. People like Mr Jarret, who plays the trumpet, and Mrs Zaman, who had an interesting childhood. There is Kingston who knows so much maths and Joseph who is the fastest in the whole school (including teachers) and our friend Mohsina who has the most interesting ideas. There's Mrs Allcorn who has 8 dogs and Mr Wiltsher who changes from happy to upset very slowly.

We love learning and working because you get smarter if you learn, but we also love break time because that is when we have fun chatting with our friends on the playground and doing backflips on the climbing area. The hardest things are staying focussed, the 6× tables and Spanish, which we are ok with but it is still learning a new

language. Also, as you get older, you have to live up to expectations.

We wish school would start in the afternoons so we don't have to get up in the morning and we wish we could get rid of our uncomfortable uniforms and wear our pyjamas instead. We wish we could get a school pet. We want to banish bullies and litter. We want to turn the playground into a swimming pool. But also, we might just change our schools to be rich and famous because really they are already perfect.



## SOME INTERESTING WALKS

### **An Autumn Walk**

As you leave my house you will smell the dandelions on the porch. The autumn trees fluttering in the breeze. The dogs being walked and the stray cats going for a stroll. The bees buzzing in the sky, taking some pollen to their hive. Then you cross the road. Be careful though, the road is very busy. Once you've crossed the road turn right. Then when you get to a gap move forward and there you'll see the park, a place where only happiness is. The smell of the grass is luscious, the daisies are cute and you can feel the metal as you open the gate.

### **A Great Feeling Walk**

If you walk around my neighbourhood you shouldn't get tired, but you might. The most beautiful place around my neighbourhood is the wood. I don't know what name it is, but this is near where I live. It's really difficult to walk where I live because it rains a lot so there's a lot of puddles, so

get some wellies. You will be able to hear lots of shouting because there's a pub down my road which normally is pretty loud because of the very good football. If you were there you would smell farm animals and beer because of the pub. It would smell horrible, disgusting and kind of good sometimes if you are lucky. If you go on this walk you feel calm, happy and loving. You'll feel great!

### **An Emotional Walk**

As you enter the flower forest, you can already smell all the colourful flowers. It will make you feel calm. As you continue walking, you will see a big, cute butterfly and it will make you feel emotional. Walking might make you tired so you should sit on the big wooden bench and relax. On your way home you will see some big trees.

### **A Sunset Walk**

First, start in the Aldi car park on Church Lane. Then, go straight and turn right. Go straight and see the sunset. Go through the roundabout and see a big bus. Keep on going straight on Church Lane. Then, see an old church and go straight and then turn and there is the park. Play in the park. When you get hungry, go straight and turn left on the roundabout. Go to Janta Supermarket and get some snacks.

### **A Walk in Five Parts**

First start in town then make your way to the pond with a little island in the middle. You'll likely see ducks and sometimes turtles. Second go to the cemetery for a spooky surprise. Third, Oasis is an excellent swimming pool. I would recommend the slides and there's a thing that pushes you with water. Fourth, the church where people pray. Fifth, the hospital where people get healed.



### **A Woodland Walk**

I usually go to the woods because not many people go to the woods and it is so quiet. There are some treasures hiding in the woods. And there are some clues. It is fun in the woods.

### **An Everything Walk**

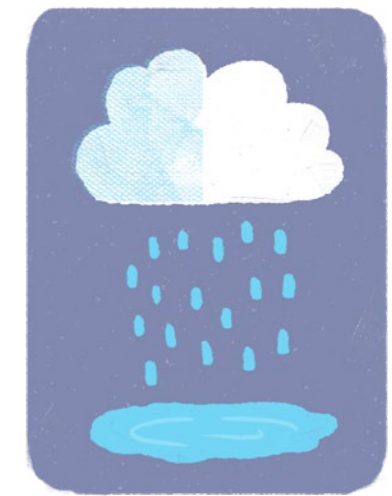
Start at King's Oak Primary School on Oak Road, to learn subjects. Then go to Domino's on London Road, to order a pizza. Then go to The Gym Group on London Road and use a dumbbell. Next go to the South Bedford Mosque on Elstow Road and pray. Next go to River Ouse in the town centre, sit on the bench and relax. Next go to Nando's in the town centre and order chicken. After, go to Jubilee Park and go down the slide. Next go to the football pitch next to Jubilee Park and score a goal. Finally, go to the Butterfly Bridge next to the River Great Ouse.

### **A Quiet Creepy Walk**

Walk forward from Goldington Green, next to the skate park (I wish I was there). Go forward to the house that always has a dog barking, then the house which always has their car on, then make it to Church Lane, next to St Mary's. Go on the path near Samra, where you always see people coming out with sweets. Walk through the creepy, quiet path then walk up the hill and cross the road to school.

### **A Walk Full With Tears**

When you walk to Russell Park, you will notice things like flowers, birds, animals and minibeasts. After the sun suddenly disappears, some raindrops might fall from the sky! The sky, full with tears, very sad. When the sadness stops, sniff the pleasant smell of petrichor. This smell is very special, and only for people with very good senses of smell! You will feel very calm.







## A MAP OF BEDFORD

1. The woods in Mowsbury Park are the best place to hide a tiger – just be careful it doesn't get hit by flying golf balls!
2. Sainsbury's is the most confusing place in Bedford because they always change the ice cream aisle.
3. The scariest place is the old hospital as it is old, scary, abandoned and it might be haunted!
4. B&M Bargains is better than people think it is because it has really good deals.
5. The place that will disappear quickest is town because shops keep closing down and people like to shop online.
6. The place where a zombie apocalypse would start is in the stockroom at Primark.
7. Wetherspoons will survive the longest because of its history.
8. Underneath Bedford Town Bridge is the best place to bury treasure because it is guarded by the swans.
9. Another confusing place is the Castle Mound because it doesn't look like a castle.
10. A place that makes us proud of where we live is the Embankment because it is pretty.
11. The best place to take beautiful pictures is the Butterfly Bridge with its large metal "wings" and its great view.
12. Oasis Beach Pool is the best place in town because it is a very fun place with fast slides.
13. The worst places are the coffee shops because there are too many and coffee is gross!
14. All the roads make us angry because they are busy, loud and people don't drive sensibly.
15. Cardington Hangars would be the best place to take shelter in an emergency because they are really big and will fit everyone in town inside.



# SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

*Before we go, we have a few questions to ask you:*

- Who are you?
- Where are you from?
- How old are you?
- What job do you do or if you don't have one, what do you want to be?
- Do you live in Bedford or are you just visiting?
- Are you planning to come to Bedford?
- If you're in Bedford and you have friends out of Bedford, are you planning on inviting them here?
- Where did you get this book?
- How did you get this book?
- Do you like this book?
- What did you like about the book?
- Who would you recommend the book to and why?
- What are your hobbies?
- What games do you play?
- Do you have a Ronaldo football card?
- Can you give us your Ronaldo football card?
- Do you own any exotic items or animals?
- How's life going?
- Do you think your friends and family will be interested in this book?
- How are you going to be kind to someone today?
- Can you give me a Roblox card?
- What languages do you speak?
- What colour is your Bugatti?
- What are we worth?
- Are we worth a lot like Jenna Ortega?
- Where is your favourite place in Bedford?
- Will you make the world a better place? And if so, how?
- Do you have a cat?
- What age are you?
- Are you 100 years old?
- Do you speak any languages?

- Will you help the environment or will you ruin it?
- What colour is your Tesla?
- Is AI going to take over?
- What made you pick out this book?
- Can you lend me some money?
- Are you a person that likes to explore?
- What can you do to make Bedford better?
- What is your zodiac sign?
- Who are you going to pass the book on to?



Thank you for reading our guidebook to Bedford.

Bedford is a peaceful place to live with lots of nature. It's a very safe place (not like America where they have lots of guns). There are free libraries and free schools and lots of shops. It's awesome. Sometimes there's a lot of poverty which you can see in the town centre, but it's good when your family are nearby and lots of stuff happens here, like the River Festival. We give it 5/10 (but it'd be more if there was a McDonald's playpark).

Overall we think Bedford is a good place to live right now but we are worried about the future. If the shops keep closing, maybe they'll all be gone in 50 years or there will only be regular shops like Tesco and Primark. There is lots of pollution in the air already and unless humans get better at not polluting it's going to be worse in the future, not just in Bedford but everywhere. We worry that all the animals will be extinct and trees will be cut down and robots will take over. We worry that too much tech will make everyone in the future very lazy. We worry that there'll be no people left just AI. We worry our schools might get shut down.

Maybe technology will take over or maybe everything will just be upgraded. Maybe AI will be the new king and it'll open new shops and be everywhere. We're looking forward to new technologies. We're looking forward to the PlayStation 6 and getting social media accounts. We're looking forward to learning new languages. We're looking forward to going to upper school and then college and then university and then saving up some money and buying a house and all the food we need. We're looking forward to being artists and nail technicians and famous footballers with their own cards on FC Mobile. More than anything we're looking forward to Universal Studios.

We might not all still be in Bedford in the future. We might be in Madrid or Barcelona playing football or in Poland with our families. We might be in Egypt or Jamaica or working at Addenbrooke's in Cambridge. Or we might be who knows where. Some of us will still be here because Bedford is where our memories are.

Wherever we are remember us and remember what we showed you. This is a memento from a moment in time. This is what it was like to live in Bedford in 2025.

The Book of Bedford was created by children from Brickhill Primary School, King's Oak Primary School, Priory Primary School and Putnoe Primary School in collaboration with Andy Field & Beckie Darlington

The book's editors were Aerith, Aiehla, Emmanuel, Faizah, Jasmine, Jayden, Ketrin, Maxwell, Medina, Mia-Louise, Riccardo, Simba, Stephanie, Subhangana, and Zosia.

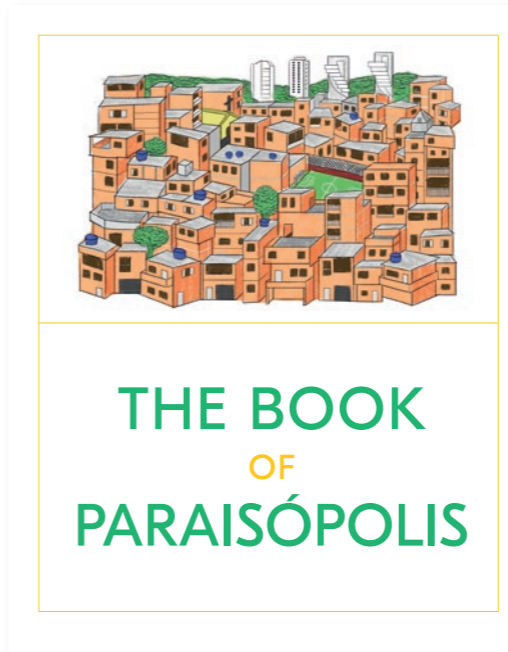
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**If you enjoyed *The Book of Bedford*, you might also like *The Book of Paraisópolis*.**

Paraisópolis is a place in Brazil.

In Paraisópolis and in Bedford you can find lots of restaurants and motorcycles racing down the road. In both places neighbours have loud parties and we both celebrate lots of festivals. There are alleyways and churches and cars block the path at home time. Sometimes you can hear arguing and screaming but sometimes Paraisópolis and Bedford can both be peaceful.

In Bedford and Paraisópolis there are lots of dogs and cats and pigeons, but we don't have snakes on our streets and in Paraisópolis they do.

They also have monkeys and parrots and chickens and roosters. Electric doesn't work very well there and they don't have very good rubbish bins, but their grandmas live very close by and there are always people singing. They have paintings on the streets and we have flowers and trees.

We both have hairdressers, influencers and bakers and we both have wifi. We both have markets and we both have bumpy roads. We both have schools and sports centres and lots of corner shops. Santa Claus visits the streets of Paraisópolis and he comes to the streets of Bedford as well.

*Scan here to download your free copy of *The Book of Paraisópolis*.*





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