



## Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery School

### Newsletter

24<sup>th</sup> February 2017

#### Dates for your diary

Term ends Friday 24<sup>th</sup>  
February

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Friday  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017  
Book Week

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 2.15pm  
PTA meeting at School

Thursday 02.03.17  
Book Character Day Dress Up

Thursday 02.03.17 - 9.30am  
Willow Class  
World Book Day Assembly

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March - 7pm  
Governors Finance Committee  
Meeting

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Governor Visit Day  
(Governors in classes)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March- 7pm  
Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday 29.03.17  
Year 1 visit to Marwell Zoo

Friday 31.03.2017  
PTA Quiz Night

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30am  
Hazel Class  
Easter Assembly

[www.mrsblandsinfants.co.uk](http://www.mrsblandsinfants.co.uk)

### School News

Welcome Back. I hope you all had a restful February break?

Thank you to everyone for all your generous donations of bulbs and seeds. All the classes have been busy weeding tubs and flower beds to plant the spring bulbs. Hopefully you'll see the results of Bland's in Bloom in a few weeks!

This is the time of the year where the school has to plan its budget for the next financial year, which starts in April. As you have all probably seen and heard on the news, school funding continues to be cut and the new funding formula which the government were discussing is still being decided. School budgets have been cut year on year for the last few years. This means that we are trying very hard to create a plan which ensures the quality of teaching and learning and provision at our school is not compromised.

As part of our creative curriculum, we feel it is important for the children to go on educational visits and to have visitors in to school to enrich learning. This does mean we rely heavily on parental contributions to fund these as the school budget is only able to pay for the staff, the buildings and the learning resources. Unfortunately if we do not get contributions for these then our only option is not to do them.

Our PTA are working very hard to raise money to help improve our school grounds and staff at school (and some parents) have been very proactive in finding grants and donations for us. We are currently applying for a lottery grant for the outdoor area and have been given a grant from the MOD for some I-pads and other learning resources. We will also be letting you know of ways you can help us to raise additional funds.

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery School?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 and it's free! Go to...

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mrsblandsinfantandnurseryschool/>

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
  3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!
- There are no catches or hidden charges and Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery School will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.  
Mrs Nisbet

# Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

## PTA News

**Our next event is the  
March Quiz  
Friday 31<sup>th</sup> March  
7.30pm for a 8pm start.**

## **We need your help!**

**To paint the Forest  
School Cabin**

**Get in Touch via –**

[mrsblandspta@gmail.com](mailto:mrsblandspta@gmail.com)

**or catch someone on the  
playground –**

**Rachel James, Claire  
Oakes, Lizi Hawkins,  
Beki Streeter or Emma  
in the office.**



We have had great fun this week looking at our collection of Brown objects. We enjoyed reading "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" and singing lots of nursery rhymes together. Inside we have used our fine motor skills to pick up small objects to post into coloured tubes and together made a bear collage. We have continued using the play dough and doing lots of paintings and drawings. Outside we have continued to enjoy the sand pit, slides and mud kitchen. We watered flowers and planted some new bulbs together. We also welcomed new comers Bonnie and Ondrej who settled in happily to play with us. Children have enjoyed eating a wide variety of snacks including crackers, apples and raspberries. **PLEASE DONATE ITEMS TO SNACK ONCE A FORTNIGHT.** We were featured in the Newbury Weekly News last week which ran a small article on our opening.

**We go outside in all weathers and children are encouraged to be as independent as possible when getting changed. Please dress your child in shoes and clothing they can easily change in and out of and if possible provide water proof clothing and wellington boots (all named) for outdoor exploring. Thank you**

## Acorn (Nursery AM and PM)

In nursery this week we began our new topic, 'How Many Colours in a Rainbow?' We talked about if any of us had ever seen rainbow and what one looked like. We discovered that we need both rain and sunshine at the same time to be able to see a rainbow in the sky. We read some stories that had rainbows in them including, Noah's Ark, Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly and The Greedy Rainbow. We thought about different colours and which one was our favourite and why. We also read another story from the Bible about Joseph who had an Amazing Rainbow coloured coat and made our own coloured coats using coffee filter papers, felt tip pens and water. We watched as the colours mixed together to make other colours and made a fantastic coloured coat for our Josephs which are displayed in the nursery. We also tried mixing different coloured paints to see what would happen. Our main story this week was, 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?' by the author Eric Carle. We listened carefully and were able to put all the animals in the correct order and re-tell the story to each other. Eric Carle is our special author for Book Week and we are looking forward to dressing up as different characters from his books on Thursday the 2nd March next week.

## Maple and Beech News (Reception)

Our topic this term is 'How Many Colours in a Rainbow?' As a starting point to our new topic we visited The Look Out Discovery Centre, in Bracknell. The different zones within the centre provided us with engaging and first-hand explorations and investigations. We also attended a workshop titled 'Splash, Bubbles and Balloons!' which was very interactive and taught us lots about water and gravity. Throughout the week we have been reading texts linked to the theme of colour and rainbows, such as 'The Rainbow Machine' and 'Red Rocket and Rainbow Jelly.' We have talked about when rainbows appear and have learnt a rainbow colours song to help us learn the name and the order of the colours of the rainbow. In maths we have been applying our understanding of number in helping us to find the number that is one more and one less using objects and numbers lines. As an extension to this, we were then challenged to visualise numbers in order to identify one more and one less.

## Birch and Willow (Year 1)

Our topic this half term is 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers'. This week we have started to learn about domestic animals. The children brought pictures of their pets and thought about questions to find out about different animals. They researched in books and on the computer, identified and labeled animal parts in Science, then wrote factual sentences about their chosen animal to compile an information book. We also discussed how to look after animals according to the RSPCA '5 freedoms'. In geography, we have learnt there are 7 continents in the world and we had fun learning their names in a song. In Maths, we have been investigating numbers, sorting odd and even numbers and solving problems involving doubling and halving. In Art and DT, we have painted animal markings looking at the different patterns and made animal masks. We are getting excited about World Book Day next week (*Thursday 2/3/17*) when we can dress up as an animal from Dr Seuss books. We hope you will be able to join Willow class for their special assembly on Thursday morning at 9.30am.

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

The topic for this term is Street Detectives. This week the children been learning to read a key on a map and identify the symbols. In writing we watched the video of 'The Window' and have discussed and described the changes that happen throughout the story. We then planned and wrote our own version of the story using descriptive language. In maths we have been recapping our work on number; such as place value, comparing greater than and less than, ordering numbers, counting in halves and solving problems. Please can you make sure your child has their full PE kit in school every day.



## Forest School



## Monday – Year R – Maple Wagtails

We had a gloriously warm day on Monday for the Wagtails! With the help of Isla's Mum we had wonderful time in the woods. Some children made bird feeders using pine cones and hung them up in the tree. We also had some amazing nests made and discussions about how birds lay eggs. I had brought in two soft toy birds and the children could press them and listen to the correct bird song. We talked about woodpeckers and how they get insects out of trees. In the field there was a pine tree that had been cut up and lots of fun was had dragging branches and logs across to be used in our part of the woods.

## Wednesday – Year R - Beech Cuckoos

Beech class enjoyed a terrific session in the woods on Wednesday afternoon. With the help of Charlie's Dad we explored the woods, playing games with our friends. Some children made bird feeders and hung them in the trees whilst others looked at bird books and listened to bird song. Because it was quite windy a few children made leaf kites and had great fun flying them before tying them to a tree. Children spoke at the end about their favourite part of forest school and the majority of them commented on how much they enjoyed playing with their friends.

IN TWO WEEKS TIME WE WILL HAVE A MINI FIRE TO HEAT SOME HOT WATER!

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE can parents, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, friends and neighbours volunteer for forest school, as without volunteers we cannot visit the woods and the children will lose out on the wonderful opportunities that the woods offer.

## Outdoor/Additional Learning

Eco-School Committee - We had full attendance at this week's Eco Committee meeting. We talked about trying to gain a Green Tree School Award and the activities we need to undertake in order to achieve it. The committee started by picking up some litter in the year 1 area and taking photos of the environment from the perspective of a bird and an insect. I will print the photos out for next week and also submit to the Woodland Trust to help towards our award.

Woodwork - Our first meeting started with everyone doing some great sawing and sanding. All the boys stood round chatting away happily for a good 20 minutes, taking time to decorate their pieces of wood. Some of them started to make the wings of an aeroplane. We will start attaching the wings to the bodies next week. If anyone has any spare softwood that they can donate for woodwork club, it would be gratefully received.

## Forest Fun Holiday Club

**Don't forget to sign your child up to Forest Fun Holiday Club**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 9.00am – 4.00pm.**

**Contact the school office for details or look on the school website!**

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is now held in the Fun zone building from 7.30am every morning. For £4.00 you can drop your child off and they will be given a healthy breakfast and the opportunity to chat and play with their friends. Please contact the office if you would like to book your child a place.

Heidi Evans.

## Star of the Week

## Friendship Star



## Perfect Presentation

Harry  
Alex