



Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

24th March 2017

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 29th March

9.15am-3.15pm approx

Year 1 visit to Marwell Zoo

Friday 31st March

PTA Quiz Night

7.30pm

Friday 7th April

9.30am

Hazel Class

Easter Assembly

Term ends Friday 7th

April at 2.15pm

Monday 10th April to Thursday

13th April

Forest School Holiday Club
Availability Tuesday (1 space)
And Thursday (3 spaces)

Monday 24th April

Inset Day

Tuesday 25th April

School re-opens for Children
for the Summer Term

School News

Thank you to everyone for your donations to Comic Relief. The schools raised £119.69 for this amazing charity! It was lovely to see our school uniform with a dash of red today!

Forest School Volunteer and Observation Workshops

Forest School Volunteer and Observation Workshops (Thursday 30th March and Tuesday 4th April). If you help at Forest School, or would like to volunteer, this short workshop will give an overview of how we observe and assess the children in their outdoor learning sessions and how you can help with this.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FSWshop>

KS1 Playground

Children who are not pupils at Mrs Bland's are not permitted to use the new Playground Equipment. The school insurance only covers school pupils using the equipment under the direct supervision of school staff. The equipment has been designed with Infant age children in mind and is therefore not suitable for children outside of the ages of 4-7. Thank you for your support.

We are now starting the fundraising for the next stage of revamping the KS1 playground. So help us to launch the next campaign by coming along to the PTA Quiz on 31st March at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 in advance from the school office or £5 on the door. A licensed bar is available, bring your own snacks.

Forest School Survey

We are running a short online survey to give your views on Forest School

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VolSurveyFS>

Thank you to those of you who have already commented.

Scarlet Fever and Chicken Pox

We have had further confirmed cases of Scarlet Fever in school. If your child is unwell, we would advise you take them to their GP and inform them of the outbreak. A throat swab will confirm the condition. We also have one confirmed case of Chicken Pox.

New Play Equipment for School

Well done to Gareth Evans who ran the Reading Half Marathon on the 19th March, to raise funds for **play equipment** at school. So far Gareth has raised £170 for his efforts - there is still an opportunity to donate via this link.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gareth-evans-MrsBlands>

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

This week we have looked at the colour yellow and read the story of "The Hungry Caterpillar". We counted the foods he eats and talked about what is good for us to eat. In the role play area we had some of the foods the caterpillar eats and sat down to have little tea parties together! The Happy Land toys have proved popular, especially the rail and road tracks. We made special cards for Sunday and wrapped up little boxes using foil and tape. Outside we planted out our little flower seedlings and washed toy cars with toothbrushes. We put pipe cleaners in the colander (which exercised our fingers) and played in the sand and mud kitchen. We have continued with our yoga stretches and practised throwing and catching bean bags!

Acorn (Nursery AM and PM)

In nursery this week we read the story of Rainbow Fish and talked about the characters and story settings. We discussed how to be a good friend and about how special it is to share. We have counted with fish and used the words 'fewer' and 'less' to take-away. We have discovered which animals live under the water and have listened for initial sounds in words and words that rhyme. Lastly, we have played at being scuba divers with flippers and snorkels in our underwater role-play area.

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have continued our focus on 'Little Red Riding Hood.' We have learnt the actions for the key connectives e.g. once upon a time, one, who, first, next etc. and have created a class story map to help us in our retelling of the story. This has then supported us in our sentence writing linked to the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood.'

In maths we have been focussing on addition. We all began with using number lines to help us work out the total of the additions. We have all learnt about the importance of starting with the bigger number before jumping on. To help us visualise this, we imagined a frog jumping on from the larger number. For those of us that were confident with using a number line, we moved on to using the counting on method to mentally work out answer to when adding two single digit numbers together.

Birch and Willow (Year 1)

This week we have been looking at a day in the life of a zookeeper. We made lists of all the jobs he has to do. We then sequenced pictures and wrote instructions to explain step by step what a zookeeper does during the day. We also learnt how to add the prefix 'un' to an adjective to change its meaning. In maths, we started to look at fractions and practised finding quarters of shapes and numbers. We have continued to learn about the Jewish faith and acted out the story of Channukah.

In science, we did a 'butterfly hunt'; we studied the pattern and colours on the wings of butterflies, discussed which butterflies had the best camouflage and had a better chance of not being eaten by predators. In preparation of our visit to Marwell zoo next week, we have drawn a map of the zoo and added a key to explain where all the animals live. We also designed an animal enclosure thinking of the material we will use to make it. In art we used different shades of green and created a collage inspired by the painting 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' by Henri Rousseau.

PTA News

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

**Get a team of 6
together or come along
and we can join you up.**

**Tickets are on sale at
the School Office from
Monday 6th March at £3
per head in advance or
£5 on the door**

**A licensed bar is
available, you are
welcome to bring your
own snacks.**

**Come and have some
fun whilst raising
money for a good
cause.**

We need your help!

**To paint the Forest
School Cabin**

Get in Touch via –

mrsblandspta@gmail.com

**or catch someone on the
playground –**

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

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week we have been showing off what we can do by completing maths and literacy assessments. In maths we have been learning about clockwise and anti-clockwise as well as quarter and half turns. In literacy, Hazel class children have been writing a story about travelling into a forest. Rowan class children have been improving their use of descriptive language. In RE, the children have been learning about the Easter story and why it is important to Christians. The children have been thinking about traditions and important meals that they eat to celebrate occasions that are important to them. Thank you to those parents who have offered and brought in their small world play sets. These will help the children to learn through creative play. And finally, this week the children in Year 2 have been enjoying playing on the new play equipment and visiting the school library to choose books to take home for the week.



Forest School



Wednesday – Beech Cuckoos

We had very interesting weather on Wednesday but luckily we experienced a lot of sunshine in the woods! Some of the children were invited into the Year 2 woodland area to see their den and we made a little shelter using a tarpaulin in our woods. Several of the children acted out the story of Little Red Riding Hood using masks and we also had quite a few litter pickers using the "grabber"! Charlie, Jarro and Joey were very excited to find some charcoal and painted their hands and faces whilst other children used it to draw on the trees.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALEX AND EVIE MAE'S MUM FOR JOINING IN OUR FUN.

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MRS HUTCHINS (TOBY AND ZOE'S MUM) FOR GETTING OUR FOREST SCHOOL TROLLEY REPAIRED - WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL.

Monday – Maple Wagtails

The Wagtails encountered a rather miserable first day of Spring on their trip to the woods on Monday, but the wind and rain did not dampen their spirits! We enjoyed a quick drink and biscuit and then got down to the important work of playing! We built shelters to go in and played hide and seek. The children enjoyed using these spaces to talk in. Several of the children used masks to act out "Little Red Riding Hood" and did a brilliant job - they have obviously learnt the story well in class!

A special well done must go to Hope who fell right into a very muddy puddle but picked herself up and went on to enjoy the whole forest school session despite being a bit damp and very muddy

Thank you so very much to Finn's Mum for stepping in to help us out - we couldn't have gone to the woods without you! Antec's Dad is helping next week BUT WE WOULD LOVE ANOTHER HELPER IF ANYONE IS FREE! ALSO, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PARENTS FOR THE FINAL WEEK WHICH IS OUR FIRE SO PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

Wednesday - Hazel Pheasants

The Pheasants were all very busy today with various activities. Reception children paid us a visit to admire some of the dens that Year 2 children had built and to have a little dig in mud mountain. The children excavated some clay from mud mountain, some of which was used to decorate a nearby tree. Some of the children sat and drew a map of the woods. We will use the maps next week to add in the species of tree and bush in the area. The dens were put to good use by Kaycee-Louise when it started to rain. We finished off with some singing with ukulele accompaniment. Thank you to Mrs Oakes and Mrs Reeves for helping this week.

Thursday 23rd - Willow Kingfishers

Willow class listened well and followed the instructions walking to and from the woods. Once in the woods Madison took a group of children on a bird watching trip with a bird spotting book she had brought. The children also used binoculars and the bird noise book. Some of the children drew some lovely pictures of birds using the book's illustrations. Several of the children had a 'gentle' swing in the hammock, I tried to have a little snooze, but kept getting woken up. The fallen tree became a space rocket, with Noah and Jonpaul as the pilots; making sure that everyone had their space suits on! We finished with a drink and snack and a sing-along to the ukulele, including 'Happy Birthday' for Luca. Thank you to Luca's Mum for helping us at Forest School this week.

If you haven't completed an induction for Forest School then please ensure you book one in through the office before you attend.

Forest School Cabin



Thank you to the members of the PTA who gave up their time to paint the first coat of paint on the Forest School Cabin, which is to the benefit of all the children. If you would like to help at the next painting session, please speak to Rachel James or Emma Shumsky.

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. You need to register and pay in advance for your child's place.

Heidi Evans

Star of the Week

Friendship Star



Help us to Raise Funds for the School:

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/>

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. 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.

If you have a tablet or smart phone you can download the 'easyfundraising' app which is easy to access.