

Dates for your diary

20th to 24th January 2020
Chinese New Year Week

31st January 2020
Chinese New Year Assembly –
Beech Class parents invited

7th February 2020
School Disco
3.30pm – 4.30pm – Year R
4.45pm – 5.45pm – Years 1&2

14th February 2020
3.25pm Cake Sale – Birch
End of Term

24th February 2020
Start of Spring Term 2

3rd March 2020
Quirks Roadshow - Year 1
Rushell Farm Visit – Year R

5th March 2020
World Book Day
No Forest School

23rd – 27th March 2020
Jungle Book Week

26th March 2020
Magic Theatre “Jungle Book”
in school

27th March 2020
3.25pm Cake Sale – Cherry

31st March 2020
3.40pm – 5.30pm Parent
Consultations

2nd April 2020
5.30pm – 8.00pm Parent
Consultations

3rd April 2020
9.30am Easter Assembly –
Year 1 parents invited
End of Term – School Finish
1.45pm

School News

Chinese New Year

Next week we will be having a Chinese New Year themed learning and on Tuesday a Chinese Art Day, in the school hall. All children from Reception to Year 2 will visit the hall during the day to create Chinese themed artwork. If you would like to help, and can offer part of the morning or afternoon, please speak to Mrs Nisbet

School Uniform

A reminder that:

Girls should wear navy blue skirts, trousers or pinafore dresses with grey, cream or navy blue tights.
Boys should wear grey trousers or shorts with grey socks.
Boys and girls should wear black shoes, blue shirts/polo shirts and a jumper or cardigan with a school logo.

We also have several children who are not bringing in PE kits each week. This can cause anxiety with children who don't like wearing the spare kit. Where several children don't have kit PE, lessons are not starting on time as we are having to source extra clothes. Children need their yellow T-Shirts and navy shorts for indoor PE which happens each week along with a navy tracksuit to wear for weekly outdoor PE.

ALL uniform must be named.

West Berkshire Museum

Please find attached with this newsletter a leaflet about What's On at the West Berkshire Museum in Newbury.

Volunteers

Thank you to our wonderful group of parents and grandparents who come in weekly to help with Forest School, reading and support in class.

We are always looking for more helpers...even if you can donate just half an hour of your time at morning drop off to hear children read or help with spellings; please do speak to your child's teacher. Thank you.

Governor News



Introducing the School Governors

I'm Julie Spratley and it is my privilege to serve as chair of governors. I've been a governor at the school for 3 years, however, as a former pupil, my association with Mrs Bland's goes way back to the start of the seventies when maxi-dresses, lurid wallpaper and space hoppers were all the rage the first time around!

Before I joined Mrs Bland's Governing Board in 2017, I'd been a school governor for many years in the locality and therefore I bring years of experience to the role. I'm conscious, however, that not everyone is aware of what school governors actually do and why they are so important, so, over the coming weeks, we plan to outline who we are and what we do.

What Do the School Governors Do?

Arguably, one of our most important responsibilities is to recruit the Headteacher. Once we've recruited the Headteacher we hand over the day-to-day running of the school to her/him. This means that ordinarily, governors don't get involved in the nitty gritty of daily tasks, however we do come into the school on agreed occasions to see what's going on and ensure the children are safe, happy and receiving a broad, exciting education that makes them want to come to school.

The governors also come into school in the evening and during the school day to attend meetings with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher and sometimes other senior staff. These meetings allow governors to question the senior leaders about the performance of the school, asking for evidence to support their answers. Governors' questioning covers all aspects of school life, whether it be the safety and well-being of the children, the children's achievements, the management of staff, the running and agreement of the school budget, the maintenance of the school premises and more besides. We also offer support to the Headteacher in many ways as we acknowledge that it is a very demanding role. Governors come from different backgrounds with diverse vocational experiences and their ideas, skills and knowledge can help with strategic planning and decision making.

Governors' meetings also involve the review and adoption of policies and procedures that provide the framework for the way in which the school is run. We also decide the direction of travel of the school, for example, what sort of school we want Mrs Bland's to be to best meet the needs of all of our pupils.

If you're interested in finding out more about the work of the governors, we have a dedicated area on the school website with more information, or please feel free to contact the clerk to governors via the school office. We're currently looking for more governors to join the board and soon we'll be holding a parent governor election. We're also looking to recruit new governors from the wider community who aren't necessarily parents or have a direct association with the school, but who are community-minded and have an interest in helping the next generation of children get the most out of their time at Mrs Bland's.

**Julie Spratley,
Chair of Governors**

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

PTA News

To see what you may have missed out on please visit the PTA on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MrsBlandsPTA>

Get in Touch via –

mrsblandspta@gmail.com

or catch someone on the playground –

Loic Manneville, Jo Nuckley, Claire Oakes, Gareth Bowen

This week in Little Acorns the children have been very busy. We have been reading the Story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' the children were very excited by all the different food he tried. We too have been looking at lots of different fruits and learning their names. We have been printing with fruit and have enjoyed getting messy! The children have helped prepare the fruit for snack and have tried to name the different colours of the fruits too.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week the children have been reading the story of 'Red Rockets and Yellow Jelly'. We have talked about our favourite colours and what colours we have seen in the garden. We have been learning to order the colours of the rainbow. Some of the children made their own rainbow pictures and some used the Interactive White Board to make their picture.

We have started a science experiment to see what happens when we give flowers different coloured water. Ask your children what they have seen or what they think will happen to the flowers!!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have been reading , 'The Little Red Hen' story as part of our Once Upon a Time topic. In each class we have made a story map where we use pictures to re-tell the story all together using words and actions.

In Maths this week we have been learning how to work out one more and one less. Lots of the children were very good at doing one more and one less to 10, so we have been focusing on one more and one less to 20 now. We have also been adding by combining two amounts together and looking at the addition and equals symbols to make number sentences.

On Thursday both classes baked bread. It was lots of fun, we got a bowl each and measured out our ingredients, mixed them together, kneaded our bread and finally we baked it in the oven. Next week is Chinese New year week and we are hoping to try some Chinese food.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week Year One have been working extremely hard! We have been writing the story of 'The Three Little Pigs,' trying to use full stops in the correct place and adding some adjectives. We learnt the story off by heart last week and this had really helped our writing!

In maths we have been thinking about place value - the value of digits in a number. We have been practising counting forwards and backwards in 1s within 100 and we have been learning about tens and ones. For example 53 is 5 tens and 3 ones. Lots of counting at home within 100 would be really useful.

We have made sliders in DT - these are moving pictures. We have made sculptures using natural materials based on the work of Andy Goldsworthy in Art and begun exploring the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees in Science. In geography we have begun looking at maps and talking about where things are on a map (we mapped our classroom). We are practising our language to talk about where things are in relation to each other - near, far away etc.

We are using our role-play area to help us act out traditional tales and outside we have been using natural materials to make our own Andy Goldsworthy pictures and taking photos of our work.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in English, Year 2 have learned why and how to use apostrophes in contracted words (such as it's, I'm, you're, etc.), and have practised writing some of these in sentences. They have also used excerpts from the story 'George's Marvellous Medicine' to help plan and write fantastic descriptions of one of the main characters, Grandma.

The focus in Maths has been on money, so the children have been learning about the value of each coin, adding different combinations of coins and making different combinations of notes and coins that equal the same total. They have also started to work out change both practically and by recording their calculations using subtraction. Both classes have also enjoyed continuing to plan and prepare their art work in the style of the photographer Carl Warner, making slime and conducting an investigation on soap in Science. They have learned too, about how to stay healthy and safe, including safety around medicines, and about the life of the nurse Mary Seacole. Please could you ensure that your child has a complete, named PE kit every Monday consisting of a: yellow t-shirt, navy shorts, navy tracksuit top and bottoms, trainers and spare socks. Thank you.

Breakfast Bees and Bland's Bumblebees (Before and After School Club)

A massive THANK YOU to all the lovely dressing up donations this term-the children have loved using them! We have been painting bug houses this week to put up in our outdoor area to help the environment. The children have enjoyed stencilling and drawing on the art table too.

Friday Funday Cafe

This week's children who have shown lovely table manners at lunchtimes, kindness to friends and have kept the dining hall tidy and will visit the Friday Funday Cafe are:

Maple: Lilly and Nevaeh
Birch: Romany and Myla
Hazel: Oscar and Emily


Beech: Evelyn and Dylan
Cherry: Carys and Tarrick
Rowan: Bradley and Oscar

Star of the Week

Friendship Star



Natalia - Acorns
Sophie - Beech
Isla - Maple
James - Birch
Seren-May - Cherry
Rihanna - Hazel
Teagan - Rowan



Reuben - Acorns
Layla - Beech
Darcey - Maple
Sarah - Birch
Ondrej - Cherry
Jessie - Hazel
Bradley - Rowan

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, the trainline 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.

School Lottery

Please click on the link below to access the new school lottery where you can win money and prizes whilst supporting the school. Please share this link with your friends and family. The more people that buy tickets, the better the prizes and the more money we raise. Thank you for your support and good luck everyone!

The PTA

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/mrs-blands-infant-and-nursery-school>