

Dates for your diary

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



This week we have had a themed week as we have been celebrating Chinese New Year! The children have been learning all about Chinese New Year across all areas of the curriculum.

On Tuesday we had a Chinese New Year inspired art day and on Friday we brought the week to a close with a special assembly whereby children from each class shared their work with the rest of the school. It was great to see all the new learning that had taken place.

Parent Governor Election

An email has been sent out today regarding a parent governor vacancy on the School's Governing Body. More information about the Governing Body is supplied on the next page, but if you are interested and would like to speak to a governor about the position please do get in touch.

Effective Boundaries and Consequences Workshop

An Effective Boundaries and Consequences Workshop is being held at Mortimer St John's on Wednesday 5th February. Please see the attached poster for more details. The workshop is limited to 15 places so to reserve a place please contact the Mortimer St John's school office (officemsj@mortimerschools.org) – there is a charge of £12 per person.

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

My name is Chris Rowlands and I chair the Pupil Progress Committee, which is responsible for analysing the performance data of the school and working with the senior leadership to continuously improve. I serve in the RAF and currently work at RAF Odiham as a Chinook helicopter crewman instructor on one of the front line squadrons. I have been at Odiham for over 12 years so I have a good understanding of the demands on service parents, and with so many service children at the school I am pleased to represent the Armed Forces on the governing board. One of my other governor roles is to monitor the way pupil premium grants are used to best support the children in the school.

On a personal level, I train in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and enjoy mountain biking when I get the chance.

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

What a lovely week we've had in Little Acorns celebrating Chinese New Year. Our role play area was dressed in the lucky Chinese colours of red and gold. The children have enjoyed making their own Chinese lanterns and they have enjoyed tasting some Prawn Crackers and Tangerines during snack time. The children have also been busy learning a happy new year song called 'Gung Hay Fat Choy'. Well done Little Acorns!

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week in Acorns we have been celebrating Chinese New Year. The children have learnt the story of 'The Great Race' and have tried very hard to remember the animals. We have practised our Chinese numbers on the white board and watched some Chinese dancing. The children have been working hard with their phonics and recognising numbers to 10.

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have been learning about Chinese New Year. We started the week off with an Art session, where the children produced some beautiful Art work inspired by the Chinese culture. They used different media, such as black paint for fans, charcoal and pastel flower drawings, collage people, painting cherry blossom and painting Chinese numbers. We have also looked at the Chinese New Year story and talked about the animals in the race. In Maths we have looked at coins, matching different amounts and working out how much money is in their red Chinese envelope. We are looking forward to hearing more about Chinese New Year from Beech class next Friday in their class assembly! Also next Friday (31st January) we would like every child to bring in their favourite book to share. As the colder weather hits, can we please ask that you provide your child with more layers for Forest School and that they are old clothes that you don't mind the children getting muddy. We have some children that are still struggling getting waterproofs on so if you could have a practise doing this at home it would help with their independence. Thank you

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In English this week we have been learning a traditional tale set in China called 'Goldy Luck and the three Pandas.' We have sequenced the events of the story to help us with our writing. In DT we have been making sliders and levers in preparation for making our own pop-up book. In Maths we have been using Dienes to help us learn about place value. We have also been finding one more and one less than a number. In Science we have continued to keep a record of the weather each day. We have also been learning about the difference between an evergreen and a deciduous tree and naming parts of a tree.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in Maths we have been continuing to look at money. We have been researching prices and combining the total to ensure we stick to a budget for our trip to the shops. We have been comparing different amounts and using different coins to make the same totals.

In English, we have been looking at the Story of 'The Magic Paintbrush'. We have acted it out and have planned the story using the beautiful Chinese patterns. Finally, we have written our own versions of the story to share with the class.

As we are celebrating Chinese New Year this week, we have been looking at Chinese culture. We have compared how we celebrate New Year to how Chinese New Year is celebrated. Perhaps you could ask if your child can remember any of the differences?

We also got to complete many different Chinese Art activities including, making our own fans, watercolour paintings, pastel drawings and copying the beautiful Chinese symbols.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help with reading, the library and Forest school so far this term. If you would like to volunteer to hear readers, help at Forest School or share your exciting jobs/hobbies this term please let either of us know!

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

This week in Bumblebees the children have been making some lovely Chinese crafts to celebrate Chinese New Year. We have made lanterns and practised our Chinese writing. The children have been enjoying using the playdough that they have made

Forest School

Reception - This week Maple and Beech sang nursery rhymes to ukulele accompaniment and made bird feeders and bird nests. On Tuesday Maple class had a chilly session. Please remember extra socks if possible to keep little toes warm.

Year 1 - This week Cherry and Birch made houses for the '3 Little Pigs' out of straw, sticks and bricks. Cherry class were also keen to make a 'Chinese flag' with red wool and sticks.

Year 2 - Rowan and Hazel were having a messy session this week as they helped prepare medicine for 'Grandma' using all the ingredients in the book (mostly)! Rowans mixtures looked and smelled interesting, especially after the addition of vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.

Thank you again for all our volunteers, we could not take your children to the woods without your support.

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:	Gracie & Isla	Beech:	Harvey & Logan
Birch:	Ella-Mae & Samuel	Cherry:	Lydia & Austin
Hazel:	Jessie & Noah	Rowan:	Brooke & Oliver

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.

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>