

### Dates for your diary

#### 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

School Disco  
3.15pm – 4.15pm – Year R  
4.30pm – 5.30pm – Years 1&2

#### 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

3.25pm Cake Sale – Birch  
End of Term

#### 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Start of Spring Term 2

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Quirks Roadshow - Year 1  
Rushell Farm Visit – Year R

#### 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2020

World Book Week

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Jungle Book Week

#### 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Magic Theatre “Jungle Book”  
in school

#### 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

3.25pm Cake Sale – Cherry

#### 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

3.40pm – 5.30pm Parent  
Consultations

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

5.30pm – 8.00pm Parent  
Consultations

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

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

### School News

Thank you to Beech Class for their wonderful Chinese New Year assembly this morning. Well done on learning your lines and performing in front of the whole school.



### Watches

We enjoy the fact that the children are learning to tell the time, however an increasing number of children are wearing smart watches and fit bit type watches. If your child wishes to wear a watch please can you ensure that they are an analogue watch which will help them read the time on a watch face. Pedometers and smart watches are too distracting during learning time and also too valuable to be lost or damaged.

### 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.

### St Marys Burghfield Church

St Mary's Church, Burghfield is holding the following services on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.  
08:00am Breakfast Church – ‘A sight for sore eyes’  
10:00am Parish Communion.

## Governor News

### **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](mailto: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 learning the different colours of the Rainbow and making their own rainbow clouds to display in our classroom. We have been reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and the children have enjoyed exploring with the Caterpillar puppet, making him eat lots of different foods. At snack time we have been trying kiwi fruit, and talking about which fruits we like to eat. The children have also been learning about 'big' and 'small' objects.

## Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week the children have been reading the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children have enjoyed retelling the story in our small world area and acting it out together. Some children found different versions of the story and sat and listened at our Listening Station to them.

In maths this week we have been learning that we can count anything, from cups at snack to claps and jumps we do!! The children worked very hard to make sure they counted very carefully!

## Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have been reading, 'The Little Red Hen'. We have been learning the story through our story map and using it to help us write parts of the story too. Can you create your own story map at home?

In maths we have been learning about subtraction. The children have been calculating take-aways, using objects to help them, as well as working them out as a group and on the interactive whiteboard. Use teddies or sweets to help you subtract at home, see if a grown up can challenge you.

A big well done to Beech class this week for their Chinese New Year assembly. The children have been working really hard to remember their lines and be very brave to say it to the whole school. Next term is our visit to Rushall Farm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Please let us know if you can be a helper on the day (this does include attending a short meeting about the trip on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February at the end of the school day).

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In year 1 this week we have been reading the story of Goldilocks. We can recite the entire story with actions, ask us to show you. We also created wanted posters to describe Goldilocks and had a debate about whether Goldilocks was a good or bad character. This links to our work on British values - learning what it means to live in a democracy. We listened carefully to different arguments for and against and know it's okay to have a different opinion.

In maths we have returned to partitioning numbers and thinking about how we can record our work systematically so we can see if we have found all the possibilities.

In science we have begun another weather investigation - asking the question: Do pine cones know when it's raining?

In DT we have begun to plan how we are going to make our own story, using moving mechanisms.

In art we have continued to explore the work of Andy Goldsworthy with natural materials.

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

In English this week, Year 2 have read examples of diary entries, and learnt about the features of diary writing, such as it is written in the first person, is mainly in the past tense and consists of chatty or informal language. Using this knowledge, the children have worked hard to write their own diary entries as if they were George from the story we are using as our text this term, 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

Both classes have started learning how to find fractions of shapes and numbers in Maths, such as  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$ . Much of these lessons has been practical or by drawing pictures to help calculate these. The children have also learned to count up and back to 10 in halves! You can help your child to understand fractions by talking about them in a practical context such as when cooking and cutting up a pizza. There are also interactive games involving fractions on Purple Mash and other websites such as [snappymaths.com](http://snappymaths.com).

In Science this week, the children have been learning about the basic properties of solids liquids and gas, including identifying things around us that are solid and liquid, as well as explaining the difference between them.

In art, having looked at the artist Carl Warner, the children have been really excited to start creating their foodscapes based on their own designs, using real items of food that they have purchased from a local shop. Once completed the children took photographs of the foodscapes.

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

This week in Bumblebees the children have been helping to create a canvas to put up in the room. The children decided on the design and drew examples we could use.

We have been making sun catchers this week and the children have enjoyed displaying these on our windows.

### 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: Saffron & Theodore  
Birch: Joshua & Isabella  
Hazel: Kaci-May & Jaxon

Beech: Holly & Samuel  
Cherry: Kirah & AJ  
Rowan: Jack & Izzy

### 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>