

Dates for your diary

14th February 2020

3.25pm Cake Sale – Birch
End of Term

24th February 2020

Start of Spring Term 2

2nd - 6th March 2020

World Book Week

3rd March 2020

Quirks Roadshow - Year 1
Rushell Farm Visit – Year R
Change of Date - Hazel Class
go to Forest School today and
not Friday

6th March 2020

Dress up day for World Book
Week – details tbc
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

Clubs for Years 1 & 2

The club booking form is now available through Parentmail. If your child would like to join a club for next term, please sign up through the Form and bring any payment that is required by Friday 14th February. All children will need to re-register for the clubs even if they have attended one this term.

Website

Have you seen our new look website www.mrsblandsinfants.co.uk with all new content and pictures, it's now your 'go to' place for all the information about Mrs Bland's Infant & Nursery School. As always we are happy to help in the School Office if needed. If you would like to see anything added to the website then please let Julie Dell know in the Office.

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.

Who let the Dad's out!

Please see the attached flyer regarding an activity time for dads, granddads and male carer's of 0 – 7 year olds.

Fostering in West Berkshire

Please see the attached flyer regarding information about Fostering in the West Berkshire area.

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**

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

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

This week in Little Acorns we have been reading the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' by Eric Carle, the children loved listening to the story and seeing the unusual coloured animals. We have had lots of colour matching activities this week inside and outdoors and the children are becoming very confident at naming the different colours. For snack time this week the children enjoyed making Teddy bear bread. They learnt different knife skills of chopping and spreading. The children had turns at chopping bananas and spreading chocolate spread. They were all very excited to eat their snack! We have enjoyed learning how to move our whole bodies to music as we danced in the hall this week.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week the children have been learning the story of 'Mouse Paint'. The children enjoyed learning about colour mixing and how to make green, orange and purple. In the art area the children explored how to make the colours independently and some children made up their own colours!

This week we have done a science experiment to see what would happen to sweets if we put them in water. The children loved watching the colours come off and into the water. 'It's like magic!'

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

We are continuing to explore different traditional fairy tales and this week our book is 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have been telling the story using puppets and joining in with the repeating phrases. Next week we are going to use these patterns to help us change the story!

In Maths we have been filling containers with rice and describing how much there is using words like full, empty, half full, nearly empty. Can you practise using these words at home over the weekend?

We have also been thinking about how to stay safe online and when we are out and about and recapped on how to stay safe near the road and what to do about strangers.

Remember next Monday we have our walk around the local area and then our fairy tale tea party in the afternoon. Can children please bring their costumes in a named bag to change into at lunch time.

A final plea, if anyone can help on our Rushall Farm trip on the 3rd March please come and talk to Mrs Pettifer or Mrs Wilby. We need to have a 1:4 ratio and at the moment we do not have enough helpers.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in English we have been writing the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, making our own innovations as we go along. We have tried very hard to use full stops and capitals in most of our sentences and adding a little extra detail to engage our readers. In maths we have been practising counting in multiples of 10 and doubling numbers. Practising these skills regularly at home would be hugely beneficial!

In Science we have been looking at our pinecones from last week and thinking about the results. We have been relearning the 12 months of the year and thinking about what season they belong to. We have also been learning about what a deciduous tree does in the different seasons. I wonder if you can spot any early signs of Spring yet? Last week in DT we designed our moving picture showing a scene from 'The Billy Goat's Gruff' and this week we have been making them, ensuring that we are following our design criteria. We evaluated them at the end. Perhaps you could make your own moving picture at home? In Geography we have been looking at maps of the school and in RE we have been thinking about how Jesus was a good friend. What a busy week!

Cherry Class would love some parent volunteers to hear readers...please?! It doesn't have to be a regular slot, a one off would be appreciated too, and you can come in at most times of the day, even if it is for half an hour. Please come and speak to us to arrange a slot. Many thanks.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in English, Year 2 have been identifying and using homophones correctly. Can they tell you which homophone we have been practicing this week? They have also been inspired by George's Marvellous Medicine and have been describing the effects it has on Grandma. Maybe they could tell you what they would put in their own marvellous medicine.

In Maths, the children have worked in teams to solve word problems involving fractions and are now able to find $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$'s of amounts. Can they tell you how to find three quarters of 20? They have also ended the week with our half termly tests, showing us just how hard they have been working this term!

In our history lessons over the last few weeks we have been looking at famous nurses through history and all the muck and mess they had to overcome! Can the children tell you any facts about the three different nurses we have learnt about?

Many thanks for your offers of help with reading and Forest School so far this term- we really appreciate any extra parent support!

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

This week in Bumblebees the children have been helping to make a Bumblebees bus! The children enjoyed cutting out the bus and painting it together. They have taken turns to go in the bus and travel around to different places. We have been trying to do origami this week which the children needed a lot of patience for! We have also been learning to draw with step by step guides to help us.

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: Isabel & Joey

Birch: Henry & Emily

Hazel: Thomas & Aminah

Beech: Isla & Evelyn

Cherry: Kayleighjayne & Mason

Rowan: Joey & Frankie

Star of the Week



Friendship Star



Perfect Presentation

Jacob - Hazel

Travis - Hazel

Oliver - 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, 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>