

Dates for your diary

24th February 2020
Start of Spring Term 2

2nd - 6th March 2020
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

The children have been working hard this term and have been enjoying the new learning they have developed through the different topics and of course through our Chinese New Year Week!

Each year group will be learning through a different theme next half term:

Nursery: Are Eggs Alive?
Reception: Things That Grow
Year 1: Animals around the World
Year 2: The Scented Garden

We hope you have a peaceful and relaxing half term break, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 24th February!

Clubs for Years 1 & 2

There are still spaces in the clubs for next term. If your child would like join in please use the club booking form which is now available through Parentmail. Payment needs to be made directly to Danny Williams (for Football and Tag Rugby) and Rebecca Biruls (Street Dance) by cash (exact money only) or cheque in a named envelope and will need to be made by the 25th February so that they can join in from the start. 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.

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 busy using our ears! Our story this week has been 'Polar Bear Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?' The children have loved listening to the story and using their ears to hear what sounds they can hear in the nursery. We went for a walk around the school grounds to see if we could hear any different sounds outside. The children have been busy looking at different shapes, learning their names and continuing their counting skills from 1-10. We have enjoyed a 'Rainbow salad' snack at snack time this week- noticing all the different colours of the fruit and vegetables we have on offer. The children have worked really hard to learn the Rainbow song and to recognise the different colours. Well done Little Acorn's for your hard work this half term. Enjoy your break!

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week in maths the children have been learning about patterns. We have made patterns with bricks, animals and vehicles. The children have enjoyed making different sand shapes using the moulds and learning to fill the mould to the top to get the best shape. We have enjoyed going to the hall to do ring games.

We were very lucky on Wednesday morning to have Gareth in nursery as was he took the children to the Key Stage 1 area and we had a fire circle and marshmallows. The afternoon children also went and had their snack and a story there. We are hoping to do more of this when the weather improves next term!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

We rounded off our final week with a fairy tale tea party. The children could all talk about their characters and enjoyed making sandwiches and showing off their costumes.

We have been exploring different shapes using feely boxes, construction, lolly sticks and elastic bands. The children could name most of the flat 2D shapes and some of the 3D ones so over the holidays if you see any cubes, cuboids, pyramids, spheres or triangular prisms point them out to your child!

Next term our topic is 'Things That Grow.' We have been busy planning lots of exciting learning in our role play areas -Beech class are going to have a Garden Centre and Maple class are going to have a Greengrocers. Over the holidays it would be beneficial if you could visit one of our local garden centres or greengrocers so the children have some prior knowledge of what happens in each of these places that they could share with the rest of the class when we return. There is the Fruit shop on *Reading Rd, Burghfield Common, Reading RG7 3BL* and Englefield Garden Centre *The Street, Theale, Englefield, Reading RG7 5ES*.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Year 1 we continued looking at the story of Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. We considered who was really the baddie - was it Goldilocks, or were the Bears wrong? The classes had a good debate about who they thought was wrong and we then took a vote. We wrote a letter from our chosen baddie to apologise to the other character, learning how to lay out a letter.

In maths we were introduced to multiplication. First we looked at doubling numbers to 10. Then we were introduced to the X sign and the concept of 'lots of' (or groups of). We have done lots of practical work finding different amounts, mostly focussed on finding lots of 2, 5 and 10. We have also done lots of skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. It would help if they children practised this at home over half term.

We finished our Design technology project, making different mechanisms that moved for the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'.

In science we have been looking in depth at evergreen leaves and drawing them, observing the different edges of the leaves, the veins that go through them etc.

In geography we made our own maps of the playground, which was a bit of challenge in the wind, but we all managed to draw an aerial view!

In RE we have been reading stories about Jesus, looking at how difficult it was for him to always be a good friend and how that can be a good example for us to try being kind, even when it's hard.

We hope that everyone has a much-deserved break over half term!

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

To finish our topic in English this week, the children have enjoyed writing their own imaginative stories based on the lovely picture book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. In their work they have tried hard to write creatively using a variety of vocabulary such as adjectives and noun phrases, time connectives, adverbs and similes. Your child should be able to explain what these words or phrases are and give some examples!

In maths, both classes have been learning practically about capacity and have been learning to read different scales on measuring jugs such as those in ones, twos, tens and hundreds. They have also learnt to read the amount on a marked scale where some of the numbers are missing.

In Science this week Year 2 have conducted an exciting investigation comparing different sticky substances, (jam, honey, flour and water paste, and icing sugar paste), with real glue. They learnt how to make the test fair, made their predictions, recorded their results on a table and discussed their observations. The results were certainly interesting and unexpected! Many thanks to all the parents who have helped out at Forest school and with reading this term. Your help is much appreciated.

Next term our new topic will be 'The Scented Garden' so if you would like to help the children to do any planting or general gardening in the wild garden or kitchen gardens, please do let us know.

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

This week in Bumblebees the children have been helping to make some food props for the school kitchen. They had to draw and paint them. Some of the children decided to make a model of the school. The children have been enjoying going outside in the nice weather and we look forward to this next term. We have been using hamma beads to make hearts and stars.

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: Niamh & Darcy
Birch: Reggie & Theo
Hazel: Travis & Ellen

Beech: Amelia & Jaxon
Cherry: Era & Toby
Rowan: Eva & Tegan

Star of the Week

Friendship Star



Eira - Acorns
Alejandro - Beech
Lilly - Maple
Bella - Birch
Ruby - Cherry
Tommy - Hazel
Annabel - Rowan



Thomas - Acorns
Fraser - Beech
Katy - Maple
Maisie - Birch
Jasmin - Cherry
Sianna - Hazel
Sophia - Rowan

Perfect Presentation

Jessie - Hazel

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>