

# Newsletter

## 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Dates for your diary

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

3.30pm – 4.30pm Year 1 Disco

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

##### Rainbow Mufti Day

Dress up in your class colour for a £1.00 donation to PTA

Nursery – Pink

Beech – Violet/Purple

Maple – Red

Birch – Indigo & Blue

Cherry – Green

Hazel – Yellow

Rowan – Orange

3.30pm – 4.30pm Year 2 Disco

#### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Bonnet Parade  
Class Christmas Lunch and parties

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

School finishes:

Maple, Birch, Rowan  
- 1.20pm - 1.30pm

Beech, Cherry, Hazel  
- 1.30pm - 1.40pm

Nursery 1.30pm

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

8.50am School Re-opens

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

6.00pm Finance Governing Body

#### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Year 2 SATs Parents Meeting

#### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

3.30pm School Finishes



### School News

This week the Year 2 children have finished their Phonic Screening which should have taken place in June.

We have been showing lots of prospective parents around the school, via Zoom, and the children have all been confident to share their learning. I have been very impressed with the children's attitudes to their learning.



### PTA Raffle

We're having a raffle!

Mrs Blands Christmas Fayre is typically our largest fundraiser of the year. Whilst we obviously can't hold the event in person we're holding a virtual raffle for parents of Mrs Blands.

You'll now see an option in your parent mail shop for raffle tickets! £5 gets you 5 tickets.

Go to Payments -> Shop -> Mrs Blands PTA's Virtual Raffle  
Purchasing is now open, closing 6pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, with winners drawn on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Further details in the attached documents, and on the PTA Facebook page.

### Advent Trail

St Mary's Church, Burghfield have set up an Advent Window Trail on the theme of Christmas Carols, running until the 13<sup>th</sup> December. When you've completed the trail, drop in to see the Christmas Tree Celebration on the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December to collect your prize.

Mrs Bland's School have an entry!

Please see the attached posters for more information.

### Current Vacancies

We are looking to recruit two lunchtime carers from January 2021.

#### Fixed Term Nursery Lunchtime Carer

Fixed term for initially one term to supervise the nursery lunch club from 11.45-12.30 each day

#### Permanent Lunchtime Carer

To support the children during their lunch hour. One hour during the middle of the day, Term time only.

Please see the Job description and application pack on the website.

## 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, Claire Oakes, Ben Ash, Laura Hooke**

Another busy week in Little Acorns. This week we have been reading the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. The children have enjoyed a farmyard scene in the tuff tray- we have been naming different animals we would see on a farm and trying to make the animal noises- to help us practice we have been singing Old McDonald- why not sing with your child this weekend and see how many different animal noises they can make.

The children have been doing lots of activities to develop their fine motor skills such as placing beads along zig-zags or spirals, undoing different types of locks on puzzles and threading with different wooden shapes.

In the role play area the children have been playing together to make dinner for the babies- lots of pizzas and cups of tea were made.

## Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week we have enjoyed re-enacting, 'The Gruffalo's Child' story in PE, and making sound effects for characters from The Gruffalo story during Outdoor learning. This week we have been practising some Christmas songs and started our Christmas crafts and cards. We have been learning lots in our small colour groups for phonics and maths.

Next week we will learn about the Nativity story and about how baby Jesus was born in a stable. We will be exploring how to wrap up different sized 'presents' in our role play 'Santa's workshop' using different sized pieces of wrapping paper. We have been practising hearing the 1st sound of a word with 'I Spy' type games, and learning about the s/a/t/p/i/n/m/d/g/o/c/k letter sounds - see if your child can sing along to these phonics songs at home <https://vimeo.com/76605648>

## Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week in Reception in maths we have been learning about time. We have learnt the days of the week and the order that we do things during the day.

In outdoor learning we got creative and made Christmas trees from twigs. We have decorated these trees and the trees will go on display as part of the festival of trees at St. Mary's church from the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

In class we have been using Argos catalogues to help us write our Christmas wish lists and begun to make festive calendars, cards and other decorative bits!

In PE we have continued practising our rugby throwing and catching skills and we are getting really good at skipping too. In dance we are learning dances and actions for our Christmas songs. In computing we have been programming the Beebots and using 2go on Purple Mash.

We will be writing our letters to Santa next week, please could you provide a stamped envelope so the children can write their home address on it (with help of course!) so Santa can write a reply to your child. This will help ensure your child receives their letter before Christmas.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Cherry and Birch class we have been working hard on the story of 'Beegu' and really trying to use the illustrations to infer how she is feeling at different points of the story. We have then written letters to Beegu's parents, from Beegu's point of view, describing what we have done on Earth!

In maths we have been continuing to work on addition, and in particular using a number line or fingers to add. We have also started subtraction, and we will be continuing next week. Any practise you can do with your child, adding and subtracting numbers under 20 (e.g. 5+4; 14-3) would be very beneficial.

In RE we have read and talked about the Christmas Story, and thought about the gifts that Jesus received from the Three Wise Men. In PSHE we have been learning about what a democracy is, and have set up a voting station in class where we will vote for the story we want at the end of each day! In Outdoor Learning we have started to make Christmas decorations out of natural materials such as sticks and leaves. I wonder if you can make a star out of sticks at home?

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in English, Rowan class have started to watch Raymond Briggs', 'The Snowman', and have done some fantastic descriptive pieces of writing based on the story. We had great fun on Wednesday when some children even pretended to be the Snowman, whilst the rest of the class asked 'him' questions. Hazel class have been learning about 'The Steadfast Tin Soldier', and have had lots of fun acting out part of the story! They also have done lots of fantastic work thinking about the characters' different personalities. See if your children can retell their story to you at home. In maths, we have been learning about fractions. In particular, we have focused on how to calculate halves, quarters and thirds, using resources to help divide our starting numbers into equal groups. Our Beat, Band, Boogie topic is still influencing lots of our lessons. In outdoor learning, we used our bodies to make percussion instruments and made microphones from sticks and leaves. Next week we are planning to perform some of our outdoor music to each other! In science we are investigating how to make different sounds and pitches using containers and water, and we have carried on learning about the band, The Beatles, and their music in history. We have all enjoyed performing our Christmas Songs too this week, and they have now been filmed so that they can be shared with parents and carers.

## Bumblebees News

This week in Bumblebees all the children have been feeling very festive. We are continuing to make our Christmas decorations, hats and cards for our party on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The party will be during Bumblebees hours and we will be having a Christmas meal after.

The children have been very lucky this term and we have been donated lots of resources. We really appreciate this. A special mention to Mr.Ash, Mrs.Oakes, Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Sibley for their kind donations.

### Star of the Week



### Friendship Star



### Playtime Star



## Covid News

We are seeing an increase in positive cases nationally, so to continue to keep the school community safe could all parents, who are not exempt, please wear masks whilst dropping off and collecting your children at school.

**If you or your child are showing Coronavirus symptoms and have a Covid test, the whole family bubble must isolate until the test result is received back. Please do not come into school if you or your children are showing any of the symptoms.**

## 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>



Mrs Blands is now registered with Amazon's 'smile' charity programme!

If you select Mrs Bland's as your selected charity, 0.5% of eligible spend will go straight back to the PTA.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1050019-0>