

### Dates for your diary

**Thursday 28th January 2021**  
**1.45pm Finance Committee  
Governing Board Meeting**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**3.00pm School Finishes**

**15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Half term break**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Government update on current lockdown measures. This is going to be difficult to plan any changes, if required, for the start of term beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

We will be sending out a Parentmail on 21/2/21 to update you on any changes made in education.

### **Free School Meals Hampers**

As you are aware there has been a lot of media coverage about the quality of food hampers. We have been working with Dolce, our catering suppliers, to ensure these are of a high quality. Today, Dolce are providing new style hampers; details of which can be found on school grid.

### **School News**

Wow, what a week! The children and staff have adapted brilliantly to a new way of learning.

It's all still early days and I think the staff have done the impossible by being able to plan and lead online sessions alongside teaching the children in school. They are running small group and 1:1 sessions and feeding back regularly to children on Seesaw, whilst teaching children

We are still having teething problems when sharing screens, with some families, depending on devices being used and staff are still navigating their way around teaching in this new way. So, a big thank you for bearing with us and for engaging so well.

We've had so much positive feedback, so thank you for taking the time to email in your thanks.

Please continue to send any questions and queries about remote learning to:

[remotelearning@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:remotelearning@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk)

I monitor this regularly and either respond directly or pass the query on to someone who can help you.

We will be changing our stars of the week to reflect current schooling.

The teachers will choose one remote learner of the week, who will be the, 'Seesaw Sar' and one school based learner of the week, who will be the, 'School Star'.

(The friendship star and playtime star will be taking a short hiatus during lockdown).

Mrs Nisbet

### **Blue Peter on Youtube**

CBBC has launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](#) at CBBC. If you fancy something different after your home schooling.

Blue Peter is the longest running children's TV show in the world and we are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how to, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. We also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.

Subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.00pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.

## **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**

## **Little Acorns Pre-Nursery**

Hello Little Acorns. Well it's a strange start to the new term but we are learning how to carry on and make the most of the situation we have found ourselves in.

Our topic this term is 'How Many Colours in a Rainbow?'

This week we are reading the story of 'Rainbow Rob'. We are looking at colours. Can you name all the colours of the rainbow? Can you sing the Rainbow song?

I'm so pleased to see so many of you accessing the different activities on the Seesaw app. I have loved seeing the children's responses – well done guys, keep up the good work.

If you haven't had a look yet it's not as scary as it sounds. The videos are short and are a few of the activities that we would do in class together such as: story time, singing and counting.

## **Acorn (Nursery am and pm)**

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a good break? We are really proud of the way the children are engaging with the remote learning sessions, Seesaw and the learning packs. Well done to the children who have come back into Nursery so well too, especially some new children joining Mrs Bland's. Please let us know if there is any way we can help you engage with the remote learning.

This term we have started a new topic, 'How Many Colours in the Rainbow?', and we have been exploring colours in the rainbow and our favourite colours. We have been learning the song 'I can sing a rainbow', and making our own rainbows. Next week we will be learning how to mix colours to create new ones. Keep an eye on Seesaw for more resources and to see what else we are learning!

## **Maple and Beech News (Reception)**

We have completed our first full week!

Thank you for your patience as we get used to this new way of working. This week the children in school and at home have been set similar tasks, as we explore the story of the Little Red Hen.

In literacy we learnt to retell the story and began sequencing the pictures and writing words from the story. In maths we have been working on one more and one less and using a five frame to help us understand this, including the concept of zero.

In other areas of learning we have worked on our football skills, searched outside for different leaves (we found a surprising number of different leaves in school, despite it being winter!), made bird feeders, baked some bread and worked on our rhythm with sticks and tumble tots songs.

## **Birch and Cherry (Year 1)**

We would like to say a big Thank You for all your support with getting our remote learning up and running. It is lovely that we can see the children who are at home and work with them also. The children in school have been enjoying seeing their friends in the first remote learning session of the day. This week we have been writing the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have been impressed with the amount of writing that all the children have done in school and at home. In maths we have been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's which is something that we will continue to work on.

It has been lovely to see the children at home joining in with the singing of the Three Little Pigs and trying some of Danny's football skills. Next week we will

clips of children learning the skills too! We are learning about the weather and creating a daily weather chart in school and we know that you have been doing them at home as well, well done!

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week, in writing, the Year 2 bubble and children at home have been working hard on work related to the story 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. They have answered comprehension questions in full sentences about the beginning of the story, and used the text to find language (such as adjectives and noun phrases) that the author used to describe Grandma, as well as facts about the character. Using these ideas, the children have written some fabulous, descriptions of Grandma! They have also thought about how George's emotions changed during the story. In maths, Year 2 have been re-visiting work on fractions, and have done some good work on finding  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of shapes and numbers. They have also applied this to solve problems involving fractions. The children have also enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale in history, investigating the properties of clay in science, and learning about how we can look after our environment as part of Life skills, Citizenship and British Values. In art we have looked at the foodscapes created by the photographer Carl Warner, as the children will be designing and creating their own foodscape photograph. Some children working at home have already made their own fantastic foodscapes!

Well done to all the children in Year 2 for working so hard this week, and we've really enjoyed looking at all the work you've shared on Seesaw!

### School Star of the Week



### Seesaw Star of the Week



## 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>