

Dates for your diary

Governing Board Meeting Friday
12th February 2021

Friday 12th February
3.00pm School Finishes

15th-19th February
Half term break

Proposed end to Lockdown
Monday 8th March

Latest guidance is that schools
will be closed until at least March
8th.

We will be send out a Parentmail
as soon as we have details of full
opening.

School News

This week saw the introduction of Lateral flow tests for school staff by the NHS. As 1 in 3 people are currently asymptomatic, the idea is we can break the transmission chain by regular testing. This does mean there's more chance of children needing to come home to isolate if they've been in contact with a positive test case. On a positive note, it also means we can then reduce the spread of Covid19 within the local community.

It seems we may have snow at the weekend...enjoy some time outside...we'd love to see photos of snow sculptures on Seesaw!



remotelearning@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk

Face Masks

Please can we remind you that all visitors to our site are required to wear a face mask. If you are exempt from this ruling please can you email the office, with evidence of the reason, so that we can provide you with an exemption lanyard. With 1 in 3 people being asymptomatic it's so important our school community support each other with this, to enable us to keep the school open.

Berkshire Maestros Half Term Music Courses

This February half term, we will be running a series of courses for only **£10!** Some of these require an instrument and a bit of musical experience (perfect for those doing In2Music, Play On or have just started lessons), some are for more advanced students, and some are for complete beginners, no experience or instrument needed!

Click on the link below to find out more:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/bmaestros/february-half-term-music.html>

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

or catch someone on the playground –

Loic Manneville, Claire Oakes, Ben Ash, Laura Hooke

Hello Little Acorns, it's been really lovely to speak to you all this week and to see your responses to the activities on Seesaw. We need to say a big Well done to the Mummies and Daddies who have posted videos or photos of the children at home working hard. You're all doing a wonderful job.

This week we have been read the story of Pip and Posy- The bedtime frog, thinking about what makes a good friend. In maths this week we looked at a few different shapes. We learnt how to describe the shape and what colour the shape was. We even went on a shape hunt around my house!

We sang tap, tap box together and sang the song 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom'. This song helps us to learn how to count down from 5 to 0- I hope all the grown-ups joined in too?

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

Well done to all the children who are working so hard with the remote learning sessions, Seesaw and the learning packs, as well as to all the children who are joining in so well in Nursery. Please let us know if there is any way we can help you with the remote learning.

With our topic, 'How Many Colours in the Rainbow?', this week we have been exploring the colours white and black in the story 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do You Hear?'. We have been learning polar bear counting rhymes, exploring how to mix colours, and having fun exploring the snow and ice! We have made ice balloons with treasure inside, masks for the animals in the Polar Bear story, and we have learned about animals that live in cold places. Next week we will be exploring Elmer stories, and learning about how we are all different and special. Keep an eye on Seesaw for more resources and to see what else we are learning!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have been creative with the gingerbread man story. The children have thought about the ending and drawn pictures and written labels and sentences for their own new endings, some of which were very imaginative! In Maths we have been exploring different measures using non-standard units. Using books to measure how tall they are and using water, flour, mud and pasta to help them talk about capacity. The children were able to use words like, full, empty, half full, nearly empty, nearly full to describe how much 'stuff' was in their containers. As well as counting how many cups, hands, spoons filled their different sized containers. In topic we have tried some different experiments; seeing if we can make a super-fast soap boat, testing out origami boats and seeing how long a gingerbread man can survive in water if he fell in!

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In English we have been thinking about different adjectives to describe Mr Wolf's character and have also written our own ending to the story. We have started work in our new Maths books and have been learning about number bonds to 10 and 20 to help us with addition. Some of the methods have been quite challenging but well done to everyone for persevering.

In Geography we have learnt about the four main points of a compass and made our own compasses. In school we found out which way is North, South, East and West in the classroom.

We have enjoyed making music by singing and playing instruments. It has been very interesting to see all the different objects that you have found at home to make sounds.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

In writing this week, everyone has worked hard on answering comprehension questions based on chapters 5 and 6 of George's Marvellous Medicine. The children have used both the knowledge of the story and the text to help them, and are getting much better at answering in full sentences. They have also learnt about the features of diaries by reading examples of different diary entries and identifying these, such as the use of the first person. We're really pleased with the children's own diary entries, written as if they were George, as they have used lots of their own exciting adjectives and noun phrases, as well as some from the story, and they were able to maintain the use of the first person in their work as well as refer to events in the story. It was lovely to hear some of the children reading their George's diaries on Teams, and they seemed very proud of their work.

Year 2 have enjoyed learning about equal groups, repeated addition and multiplication in maths this week, using the new maths books linked with the videos. Some children have also used practical equipment to help them to understand how to make and add equal groups.

In history, we have learnt about another important nurse, Mary Seacole, and why she's remembered, and in RE, the children have been learning more about the Passover meal and significance of the food on the Seder plate. They all enjoyed drawing different foods on their own Seder plates and explaining why it's important to them. Year 2 have also learnt about pollution, its effects on our planet, and what we can do to help.

Keep up all the fantastic work Year 2!

School Star



**Olivia - Acorns
Emily - Beech
Freddie - Maple
Henrieta - Birch
Ralph - Cherry
Daisy - Hazel
Ace - Rowan**

Seesaw Star



**Callie - Acorns
Jake - Beech
Charlie - Maple
Jaxon - Birch
Bella-Rose - Cherry
Lydia - Hazel
Natalie - Rowan**

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>