

**Dates for your diary**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Yr 2 visit to Oxford Castle**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Sir Linkalot school visit**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Yr 2 Millets Falconry in  
school**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
**Inset Day – school closed to  
pupils**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Friday  
29<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Half Term**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**  
**Autumn Term 2 begins**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**Yr 1 Explorer dome in  
school – am**

**Yr 2 Junkman visiting – pm**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Remembrance Assembly-  
led by Rowan**

**School News**

We have enjoyed having parents back in school this week and hope those of you that could attend our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions found it useful and that it gave you an insight into the classroom setup as well as a chance to meet and talk face to face with our teachers. If you were unable to make the sessions, then we will be putting the presentations for each class up on the website.

The Year 1 children have had a visit this week from the West Berkshire Museum, who brought along a collection of their toys from long ago. It was lovely to see them so interested in the toys from the past and for them to compare them to the toys they have at home and in school today.

The children in Year 2 are all very excited in anticipation of their visit to Oxford Castle next week. We have sent an email via Parentmail regarding lunches for the visit. Please ensure that you log in and select the type of lunch your child requires.

As mentioned last week, our children love building their own obstacle courses outside. Please may we ask for donations of used (but not damaged) tyres, and scaffold planks. We would also like any small wood offcuts that the children can use during their outdoor learning sessions for woodwork.  
Thank you in advance.



We would also like to remind parents that we will be having a planting week from 27<sup>th</sup> September. Please could we ask each child to bring some bulbs in to plant in their outdoor learning session that week. The children can then track the development of their plants through to spring when they will all be in bloom.

## **PTA News**

To see what you may have missed out on please visit the PTA on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MrsBlandsPTA>

## **PTA AGM Dates - TBC**

### **Get in Touch via –**

[mrsblandspta@gmail.com](mailto:mrsblandspta@gmail.com)

**or catch someone on the playground –**

**Ben Ash, Laura Hooke,  
Sian Killen, Charmaine  
Kelly**

## **Little Acorns Pre-Nursery**

This week in Little Acorns saw the children focus on mathematical language and being able to describe as well as identify objects as big or small. The children were excellent at this, and everyone enjoyed having a go at sorting the different object into 'big' or 'small' groups.

During rhyme time this week the children sang along to the song 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. We all enjoyed stretching our bodies and being able to identify and name the different parts of our body. We talked a little about the function of those body parts to, for example, eyes to see, ears to hear and nose to smell.

The children were very curious to explore in the sensory tray with week. They enjoyed touching the different textures they found and together we used some big describing words such as, stretchy, spiky and bouncy.

In our creative corner, the children were able to paint using stamps. They were able to choose from a range of stamps which each had a different pattern on them. The children became very confident at this activity, and they were often found printing independently.

Outside our bravest of children dared to explore with shaving foam and wooden blocks! A child led activity which saw it being used in a wide range of ways.

As the good weather remained, we practiced our balancing skills walking along the balance beam- stretching our arms out wide to help us keep our balance.

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

It has been lovely to see the Nursery children coming into Acorns Nursery so independently and with big smiles this week, well done to all of them! With our topic based around the theme 'Why do you love me so much?', they have been learning this week about their families and pets. The children loved the 'Spot Goes to School' story and have talked about how they felt when they first started Nursery. There is still a chance next week to bring in photos of the children's families and any pets if you haven't yet, and to speak to the class about them. In the role play corner, we have had a 'School' this week, and the children have especially enjoyed being a teacher or Headteacher! They also loved their outdoor learning session, finding and sorting different sticks, and making 'log dogs'! See if your child can find sticks that are long/short/wide/thin etc. if you go out for a walk or in your garden.

Next week we will be thinking about how we 'belong' in our families as well as any pets we have. We will also be exploring the book 'You Choose' and 'Home'. In Maths we will be practising counting and matching numbers and sorting objects by how long/short they are. With the weather becoming more Autumnal, please remember to bring a coat everyday as we go outside in all weathers. If you have any questions, do ask Mrs Collis, Mrs Tanner and Miss Phillips.

## Maple and Beech class (Reception)

In Literacy this week we have read the story "Be Who You Are"

The children have talked about things they like and have started to notice things that are similar between themselves and their friends, like hair colour, eye colour, their age. As well as talking about things that are different, their favourite food, their hair length and who is in their family.

In Maths we have been subitising – spotting groups of objects, without counting them. Can you see if you can spot groups of 2 or 3 things when you are out and about? Or from a larger group of objects or numbers of spots on a dice.

We have looked at Van Gogh's paintings and used these to help us paint our own portraits.

In outdoor learning we have explored sticks. We learnt how to carry large sticks and read the story, 'It is not a stick', coming up with lots of wonderful things their stick could be, a unicorn, wand, saw, pencil and spade.

The children were really interested to find out from Dr Marshall what kinds of things Doctors do in their job and next week we will be using this to help us turn our Role play into a Doctors surgery.

We have practised 'a' and learnt 'cat' in Sir Linkalot this week.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In year 1 this week we have been writing the story "The Tiger Who Came to Tea". We have been using our phonics to help us spell words and word mats to help us with some of the trickier words. In Maths we have been comparing sets of objects using the vocabulary greater than  $>$ , less than  $<$  and equal to  $=$ . In Science we have continued to learn about our bodies and the five senses. We used our senses when we tasted some popcorn describing how it looked, smelt, felt and tasted. We had a good listen to what we could hear as we ate it!

We were very lucky to have a visitor into class: a curator from West Berkshire Museum. She brought in lots of old toys in which we got to have a close look at. We even tried skipping, which was very popular in the Victorian times! We learnt a lot of information about toys in the past and how they were different from toys today.

We have learnt about the artist Georges Seurat and created our sunflower pictures. First we sketched the lovely sunflowers growing in our playground, and then we painted them using the pointillism technique.

Please remember to hear your child read regularly. If anyone would like to volunteer to hear some readers we would be very grateful. Please come and see us at pick up or phone the office. It does not have to be a regular thing, a one off is still appreciated!

Purple Mash is a great tool to support your child's learning at home. Each week we will set a few 2Dos which your child can do. We will set them to expire after 2 weeks so as not to overwhelm you! If you aren't sure how to access this, or have lost your code, please pop a note in your child's reading book and we can get it sorted!

Sir Linkalot words this week - he me we she be, I, the, new,

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

We've had another exciting week in Year 2. In maths, we have continued to work on place value, and have been comparing numbers using 'more than' and 'less than' mathematical vocabulary. We're also continuing to build upon our knowledge of tens and ones, and how to partition numbers in different ways

In English, we have been planning and writing our own fact-files about jobs in castles and have learned lots about what it must have been like to live in a castle hundreds of years ago!

We've had lots of fun finishing our castle pictures which we started with Mrs Nisbet, based on the picture, Castle and Sun by Paul Klee. We've also talked about what a stereotype is and read the book Amazing Grace. Ask your child if they can give you an example of a stereotype.

Our Sir Linkalot words this week are **Interest, machine, marvellous and natural.**

## Star of the Week



## Friendship Star



## Playtime Star



## **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 Bland's is now registered with Amazon's 'smile' charity programme.

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



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