

Dates for your diary

Monday 18th October

Yr 2 Millets Falconry in school

Friday 22nd October

Inset Day – school closed to pupils

Friday 22nd October – Friday 29th October

Half Term

Monday 1st November

Autumn Term 2 begins

Tuesday 2nd November

Yr 1 Explorer Dome in school
– am

Yr 2 Junkman visiting – pm

Friday 5th November

Remembrance Assembly- led by Rowan

Friday 12th November

Children in Need assembly
led by The School Council

Tuesday 16th November

Parents Consultation Evening
3.30pm-6.00pm

Thursday 18th November

Parents Consultation Evening
5.30pm-8.00pm

School News

Our school played host to a very interesting character this week and we hope your children have mentioned him to you.... Sir Linkalot! Andy Salmon (Sir Linkalot) ran a workshop for each class to demonstrate the difference that the Sir Linkalot programme can make to children's spelling. The sessions were lively and interactive, and all the children were buzzing with enthusiasm at the end of the day. Thank you to those of you that could attend the zoom session that ran after school, we hope that you found the session informative, and we look forward to seeing the difference that this programme can make to us as a school. Please do let us know if you have any feedback on the programme at: reception@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk

More information regarding this programme can be found at the end of the newsletter.



The children in year 2 are looking forward to their visit from Millets Falconry next Monday. It is a chance to have a close encounter with birds of prey as part of our Towers, Tunnels and Turrets topic this term. Please ensure that you have paid via parentmail and completed the online consent (a tick box) to enable your child to take part.



Please also remember to purchase your child's tickets for the school discos next week. The ticket price is £5 and includes a drink and a snack. A Halloween crafty gift has also been kindly bought for the school by Control Care Ltd – thank you for your generosity.



Our drop-in sessions are open once again with Mrs Hodson (our Emotional support), so if you have any concerns you wish to discuss with her about your child then please book an appointment through the office. Mrs Hodson is available after drop-off on Monday & Tuesday mornings and can help with your concerns or guide you to other places for support.

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>

PTA AGM Dates - TBC

Get in Touch via –

mrsblandspta@gmail.com

or catch someone on the playground –

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

This week in Little Acorns we have been busy learning about different shapes, their names and how we would describe them. The children have enjoyed the challenge of the shape sorter and different shape peg puzzles this week too. In the mark making area, the children have had the opportunity to use felt tip pens and big chunky pencil markers whilst drawing and making marks in notebooks.

In the creative area the children have been able to print with paints and different fruit and vegetables independently.

Our fine motor skills have been used at the threading station this week. The children liked to thread the coloured laces around different animal pictures.

Outside we practised our scooping and pouring skills at the water table with the water wheels.

We have been encouraging our children to try and put their coats on or pull up their zips independently- why not challenge your child this weekend and help them become independent in this area. Lot of practice helps.

Well done Little Acorns, another brilliant week.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

Well done to the Acorns children for joining in so well with Outdoor Learning! This week we learned how to do 'sticky toes' to come back to our circle, and we made some super tree pictures using stones, conkers, twigs and leaves.

They are learning really well to put their coats on by themselves in Nursery - here is the link again to show the method they have been using to do it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FaxBoCvNqM> Please can you also ensure that they wear shoes that are easy to take off and put on again (e.g. not lace up shoes) as they change into wellie boots for Outdoor Learning, and we are trying to encourage them to be independent - thank you.

The children have enjoyed the story 'My Mum' this week. Next week we will be learning about positional language - maybe at home you could play games hiding a favourite cuddly toy under/over/next to/in front/behind other toys and tell your child clues to find it!

In phonics, we have been using Jolly phonics and listening to the 's' and 'a' songs this week, see if your child can sing along to the songs at home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmMoFbhpFk4>

With the weather becoming more Autumnal, please remember to bring a named coat everyday as we go outside in all weathers, and to wear outdoor clothes on a Wednesday when we have Outdoor Learning. If you have any questions, do ask myself, Mrs Collis, or Mrs Tanner and Miss Phillips.

Maple and Beech class (Reception)

In Literacy this week we have read the Elmer stories. The children have all designed and made an Elmer, which they have then described. Some children even had a go at writing some of the simple words. In phonics we are continuing to learn single letters and are starting to blend them together to make words like, it, is, sun, fin. Can your child name any letters that they see in books or on signs? Can they hear the first sound in a word when you say it? Maybe you can start to play I spy.

Our Sir Linkalot word this week is 'to'

In Maths we have been spotting 1, 2, and 3 objects in pictures and groups of objects and starting to recognise what the numeral looks like. We can respond to the phrase 'what can you see? what's the amount, don't count!' Encouraging the children to spot small groups of objects in different patterns without counting them.



We have also talked about Harvest and experimented with Beebots.

Next week we are going to talk about our families please could your child bring in a photo to share with the class by Tuesday.

Maple outdoor learning will be on Monday afternoon next week not Tuesday.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In Year One this week, we have continued to describe old toys, writing labels for them. We have used a picture dictionary to find letters. We have been looking at rhyming words. Can the children tell you what rhymes with cat? The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit of Sir Linkalot on Tuesday. Can the children remember how to spell cat, key and colour? Thank you to the parents who joined the zoom.

In maths, we have introduced subtraction to the children by telling it through a story e.g. first there were 8 counters then 5 were taken away. Now you have ____ counters left. See if the children can do this with you by drawing counters to help them. Please can we also ask that you practise writing numbers with your children in order from 1-20.

In Science this week we investigated 'what our hands do' where the children had to complete different activities blindfolded to see if they needed touch or sight to complete the activity.

Please can you ensure that named PE kits are brought in on a Monday. They children will need tracksuits now it's getting colder as well as T-shirt and shorts for gymnastics.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week, Year 2 have been reading, and writing their own version of the George and the Dragon story. They have answered comprehension questions about the story, and have identified nouns, and adjectives. Please ask your child to retell the story of George and the Dragon. Can they explain to you the difference between a noun and an adjective?

In maths we have been learning to subtract, using dienes and a number line. The children have used their knowledge of adding and subtracting 10 to help them.

In PHSE, we have been thinking about stereotypes and the children have been able to give some great examples of stereotyping. We have also been learning about Black History Month and have been reading some stories linked with this topic. The children have been able to talk about famous black people in history, and why we remember them today.

This week, we have been practicing all the words from the Patient Potter bundle, ready for Sir Linkalot's test next week.

Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

This week in Bumblebees we have been busy playing games, learning to take turns, and putting our things away.

We have painted our clay pumpkins ready for Halloween fun! In keeping with the Halloween theme next week, we will be using face paints with the children (only small pictures). If you have any objections to us using the face paint, then please do let the bumblebees staff know this week. If we do not hear from you then we will rely on the consent forms that were signed as part of your application for Bumblebees.

Thank you all for a lovely week and we look forward to some spooky fun next week!

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, the trainline 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!



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



SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES



(LOCAL OFFER) INFORMATION DAY

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

Wednesday 20th October 2021

9.30 am—2.30pm

Thatcham Town Football Club, RG19 4PA

With stallholders from Local Services, Health, Social Care and the Local Authority to chat to, it will be a great day, so do come and meet the people who work with your families.

Behaviour Talk with Kelly Evans – Family Autism Advisor

10.00 –11.00am

WB Parent Carer Forum Talk — Who we are, what we do

11.00am—12.00

Home Education - Speak to Home Educators

12.00—1.00

Dyslexia & Dyscalculia Talk with Sue Whiting from the Cognition
and Learning Team at WB Council

1.00pm –2.00pm

For more information, Please contact Fiona Worby at
fionaworby@roseroad.org.uk Or Phone 07860 942280



Check our FB Page for more information
West Berkshire Parent Carer Forum



WestBerkshire
COUNCIL

FREE PARKING

FREE ENTRANCE

COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS

Hosted by West Berkshire Parent Carer Forum in collaboration with West Berkshire Council

SEND INFORMATION DAY

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Parent Zoom demo for Sir Linkalot

The award-winning app for spelling tricky words, all the way from 'was' up to 'onomatopoeia'

I'm sure most of you have heard about Sir Linkalot's (Andy Salmon) successful visit to the school this week.

The children and staff were all enthused by the visit. To see them spell out loud words that would normally be out of their reach was a joy to behold.

Part of the day was a fun-packed parent Zoom demo which was well-attended. For those that couldn't jump on, here it is [Sir Linkalot demo](#)

We will be using it in class, working our way through various bundles. No parent supervision is required. So, any communication is purely for your information.

Access details:

To access it on a tablet or mobile:

1. Download it from the App Store, Play Store or Amazon
2. Tap on 'log in' (top right)
3. Click on 'Have a 2020/21 access code?' (not 2021/22)
4. The username is Mrs Blands
5. The access code is AANGC5QWJJ

To access it on a laptop, Chromebook, Mac or PC:

1. Type in the browser itself where you normally type www (not a search engine)...app.sirlinkalot.org (with no Ws before it)
2. Click on the log icon (for log in)
3. Click on 'Have a 2020/21 access code?' (not 2021/22)
4. The username is Mrs Blands
5. The access code is AANGC5QWJJ

To remind you what it's all about....

Sir Linkalot is transforming how to commit to memory the spelling of tricky words, all the way from *was*, *some* and *they* up to *manoeuvre*, *fulfil* and *onomatopoeia*. It's achieving incredible results, particularly with those who find spelling an issue. There are ways to learn the 125+ Rec & KS1 red words are on the app, e.g *one*, *the*, *my*, *done*, *I*, *some*. So, there's no clash with phonics programmes; it complements them.

To find out what it's all about, take a peek at this (you'll be hooked when the boy says 'I was terrible at it') **NB celeb warning** [The Future of Spelling](#)

This clip is extremely convincing. It's feedback from three primary teachers though the children, as is always the case, win the day, especially 5 year old Alex spelling *manoeuvre* which is incredible [You want proof!?!?](#)

It is not solely for spelling, however. There are animations for homophones, spelling rules & patterns, punctuation, grammar, prefixes and the origin of words, as told by Lady Lexicographer (Countdown's Susie

Dent who is on the app as Lady Lexicographer who reveals the etymology of certain words on the app that have an interesting story to tell). Etymology is very much in vogue with the DfE.

Here are three examples of a 'Susie Story' plus Sir Linkalot's spelling animation and a one minute clip of her talking about Sir Linkalot...

[Biscuit - Origin](#) [Biscuit - Spelling](#) [Ocean - Origin](#) [Ocean - Spelling](#) [Manoeuvre - Origin](#) [Manoeuvre - Spelling](#)

[Why Countdown's Susie Dent has joined Sir Linkalot on his quest of making "I can't spell" a thing of the past](#)

No one has done this before to this extent and that's why it's getting a lot of attention.