

Dates for your diary

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 last week of this half term has been a fantastic one! The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have all been very busy making their Halloween gifts to bring home after the discos on Thursday. Year 2 have had a visit from Millets Falconry, and the PTA have been busy collecting and placing the final orders for the children's Christmas cards.

The Food Bank have confirmed that the total weight of the food collected by Mrs Bland's for the Harvest Festival was 194.9kgs, the equivalent of 409 meals! This is an amazing amount and we thank you all for your generosity.

Looking forward to the next half term, in our first week back Year 1 have the explorer dome in school as part of their 'To Infinity and Beyond' Topic and Year 2 have a visit from 'Junkman', who will show them how music can be made from anything as part of their 'Beat, Band, Boogie' Topic. Please can you ensure that you have made the required payment for this on Parentpay as soon as possible and provide your consent too (tick box). If you have any issues, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office who are always happy to help.

Our school boiler which heats the main school building is awaiting repair and parts are coming from Europe. To keep the school warm we have been heating the school with portable radiators. Whilst this solution is temporary, it may be in place until early December, so we would advise children to come to school wearing plenty of layers to keep warm as the weather gets colder (vests, long sleeve school shirts, school jumpers and coats). Please make sure all clothing is named! We still have to have windows open to ventilate rooms as per our risk assessment, but we will be aiming to keep the room temperature at 18 degrees.

West Berkshire Council have been in contact in relation to their recent statement about PCR tests taken between 3rd and 12th October. The statement can be found [here](#).

Individuals who took a PCR test between 3rd and 12th October and had a negative result are invited to seek a re-test. Although the article mentions the Showground specifically this would apply to any test centre where a negative result was returned during this period.

While we appreciate that as the months get colder and wetter, more parents may choose to drive to and from school, we would like to remind you to be courteous and considerate to all of our neighbours. Please do not block drive ways or park on the school zig zags and ensure that there is space for an emergency vehicle to pass by your car if required. We would also like to ask that you do not sit with your engines running as not only is this harmful to the environment, it is also damaging to young lungs.

We hope the children all have fun over half term and we look forward to seeing them back and rested on Monday November 1st.

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**

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

What a magical week in Little Acorns! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the Halloween themed activities set out in the nursery this week from mark making in spellbinding glitter using their witch's pointer finger, moulding pumpkin shapes using our squidgy orange playdough or listening to spooky stories from the nursery's beloved characters such as Room on a broom, Pip and Posy and Peppa Pig.

We have been working hard to use our core strength muscles during some physical group tasks this week. We have enjoyed crawling through tunnels, stepping independently onto a small footstool, rolling along the carpet like wriggly worms and raising our knees to march like soldiers as we sang 'The Grand Old Duke of York'.

The children have worked extremely hard this first term, learning the rules and routines of the nursery along with their friends and staff names. We are very proud of them all.

We hope you have a fantastic break over the half term.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

We are really proud of the way the Acorns children have settled in so well to Nursery this half term, well done to all of them!

The children have enjoyed the stories about Mums, Dads, brothers, and sisters this week. We have been learning about the s and letter sounds, blending sounds together and making words with magnetic letters - see if your child can sing along to these phonics songs at home <https://vimeo.com/76605648>

We have been practising counting carefully at times like snack time, counting how many children have got bananas/apples/oranges etc. We are taking part in an exciting book project with Burghfield Library over the next few weeks as part of the Book Trust project! The Library have given us books to read each week, and then if you take your child to the library, they can pick up a resource pack for that week's book. The resource packs will be available on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of each week (they will be able to pick up two packs for this week and last week), following the books being read in school. The pack will contain an activity sheet, sticker and cardboard cut-out characters pertaining to the book. In the first week they will also get an activity book that can be used throughout the project. When they go to collect their pack each week they will be asked to vote and decide to give 1,2, or 3 stars for the book of the week.

Next term our topic will be 'Why Are Leaves Crispy?' and we will be learning about leaves and trees changing in Autumn, as well as learning about nocturnal animals.

On Wednesdays for Outdoor Learning, please bring all in one waterproofs or waterproof trousers if you have them. We hope you all have a lovely half term break!

Maple and Beech class (Reception)

In Reception this week we had a very exciting outdoor learning. We had a fire with popcorn and marshmallows! We looked at how a fire is started and what we need to do to keep ourselves safe around fires. We also began to use tools – learning how to safely use a hammer. We used a lump of clay to practice the movement, after half term we will begin to introduce nails. We also began to play co-operative games using the parachute.

We used the hot glue guns this week, to create our own house pictures. We then drew our families inside the houses and talked about how our families are all different.

In maths this week we have been comparing the numbers 1 to 3 and saying whether we can see more or fewer of a number. We have been matching objects to numerals and sorting objects.

Our Sir Linkalot words this week are: to, go, so, do no.

After half term we will be looking at how we have changed since we were babies. Please could you send in a photo of your child as a baby/young toddler. These photos can be emailed to reception@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk if you would prefer to send it digitally. Thank you to all those who sent us in photos of the family this week, the children have loved looking at the photos and talking about similarities and differences in their families.

Our topic next term is, 'Let's celebrate!' We hope you have a restful half term.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In year 1 this we have been learning about writing instructions using the vocabulary, first, then, next, after that and finally. We have looked at different types of instructions and followed a recipe to make biscuits. We really enjoyed eating them at story time!

In maths we have been using a number line to take away, starting at the greatest number and counting back the correct number of jumps.

We have been thinking about wellbeing and what we can do to help ourselves and others by saying kind words, helping in the classroom and being active through exercise.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

We've had a very exciting week in Year 2 this week, as we had a visit from the falconer! The children were able to see and learn about lots of different birds of prey. We met Quintessa the white-faced owl, Tinkerbelle the barn owl, Ray the African spotted eagle, Jill the kestrel, Mabel the peregrine falcon and Ronnie the vulture! The children have also re-written the story of George and the Dragon, including all the fantastic things they've learned over the term to make their writing exciting to read! A huge well done to them all on their fantastic story writing!

In maths, we've carried on practising addition and subtraction and have learned lots of different techniques to help us, including using dienes and number lines. See if your child can show you their favourite way of adding or subtracting 2-digit numbers!

We've also continued to practice our Patient Potter bundle, ready for Sir Linkalot's test at the end of the week.

Next term we'll be making instruments from junk, so in preparation for this we'd very much appreciate it if you could save any junk modelling materials over half term and send them in with your child when we're back to school. Specifically, we will be needing boxes, tubes, tubs and elastic bands. Thank you!

Wishing you all a lovely, restful half term and we look forward to welcoming all the children back again after half term!

Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

This week in Bumblebees the children were very excited to see Halloween arrive early. The room had a spooky make over and there were pumpkins everywhere.

The children have enjoyed designing pumpkin faces and finishing off their own clay pumpkin. We have had our faces painted and watched Halloween DVDs.

The children had fun dressing up in creepy costumes and wrapping each other up as 'mummies' Some children tried 'pumpkin bowling' and used their hands to guess what was in the slimy cauldron!!

Have a lovely half term break and enjoy!

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!



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