

### Dates for your diary

#### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas performance  
costume deadline

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Deadline for PTA Shhhop  
payments

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

##### December

PTA Christmas Day  
Thursday – Little Acorns,  
Acorns, Reception and  
Rowan Class

Friday – Year 1 and Hazel

#### 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Performance. This  
will be recorded for parents to  
view.

#### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Theatre visit, 'Beauty and the  
Beast' at The Hexagon (whole  
school excluding Nursery)

#### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Jumpers,  
Christmas Lunch and Class  
Parties

#### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

End of term Whole School  
closes at 1.45pm

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Start of Term 3

### School News



Another busy week in school! Classes have been practising their Christmas production performances, we have had prospective parents show rounds for September 2022 and we had a photographer in to help us showcase the school in our new prospectus. Today, the children all came in dressed in their normal clothes in return for bringing in a Christmas gift for the PTA Christmas shhhop. Thank you all for your help with this fundraising, it is greatly appreciated.

We had to make the difficult decision to close a year 2 class this week for the day and would like to thank the parents for their co-operation but most importantly, the children, for their mature handling of the situation. You should all be very proud of yourselves!

The school is looking glorious at the moment and the classes have been decorated ready for Christmas. It always brings a wonderful atmosphere to the school and the children are enjoying getting into the festive spirit.

The children are all looking forward to the Christmas activities that are taking place next week in place of our usual Christmas Fair. Thank you to the PTA for organising some exciting activities. We can't wait to see the children's excited faces!

## **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**

The snow brought lots of excitement to the beginning part of the week in Little Acorns. We seized the opportunity to become artic explorers for the day and enjoy the snow before it left.

The children absolutely loved exploring outside in the snow. They were fascinated to see where the snow had landed and observed how the walking over the snow gave a very satisfying crunching sound. The children discovered they could make patterns with their feet, whilst some children enjoyed using the snow as cooking ingredients in mud kitchen and others tried to mould the snow using their hands and build small snowmen.

We read the story of Pip and Posy - 'A Snowy Day' and talked about how we stay safe when playing with the snow and how to keep ourselves warm. Some children were able to independently dress ready for the cold weather.

Inside this week the children have enjoyed using small ICT toys, threading with pipe cleaners, and learning about the Jewish holiday Hanukkah. We read the story 'Sammie's spiders first Hanukkah'.

Well done Little Acorns!

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

This week we have been busy practising our song for the Christmas Play - I have uploaded it to Seesaw if your child would like to sing it to you at home! The children enjoyed re-enacting the Gruffalo's Child with actions and making sound effects for characters from the Gruffalo story during Outdoor learning, as well as making piles of leaves to jump in! We have also started doing lots of Christmas crafts.

Next week we will learn about the Nativity story and about how baby Jesus was born in a stable. We will be exploring how to wrap up different sized 'presents' in our role play 'Santa's workshop' using different sized pieces of wrapping paper. We have been practising hearing the 1st sound of a word with 'I Spy' type games, and learning about the s/a/t/p/i/n letter sounds - see if your child can sing along to these phonics songs at home <https://vimeo.com/76605648>

## Maple and Beech class (Reception)

This week in Literacy we made Christmas lists, cutting out our favourite pictures from Argos catalogues and having a go at writing the words. In maths, we have been revising our learning about shapes and numbers this term.

We have also been busy making Christmas cards and Christmas decorations and practising our Nativity songs and lines. If your child has been given a line in the performance, please can you help your child practise at home? Please can we also ask that you let us know if you cannot provide a costume for the Nativity?

In outdoor learning, Beech class got to make a tiny snowman and explore the snow and ice on Monday. Maple class practised their skipping skills and played lots of co-operative parachute games, as the snow had all melted by Tuesday (though they did get to play in the snow on Monday too!).

Here are all the Sir Linkalot words we have looked at this term: a, cat, I, the, to, do, go, no, so, to, he, me, we, was, are, said.

On Seesaw we have added the outdoor Advent Calendar we are using with the children in school if you wish to have a look at some of the activity ideas at home.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in English we have been learning The Rubbish Tip Alien poem. Ask your child if they can remember any of it. We have also finished off our writing about Neil Armstrong which the children really enjoyed. In Maths we have been looking at subtraction and taking away. We have used number lines to help the children work out the answers. You can give them a few sentences at home to see how they get on.

We have been busy practising for our Christmas play this week and thank you for all the parents that have returned the slips to say whether they can or cannot provide a costume. If you have not returned your slip, then please let us know if you cannot provide a costume so that we can provide one.

We have been enjoying using the IPADS to recreate famous artists work such as Matisse, Kandinsky and Suerat. In Outdoor Learning we have been trying to make stick stars and some alder candles. Year 1 children will be making decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church in Burghfield next weekend from 12pm-5pm if you wish to go and visit.

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in English we've been watching the first half of Raymond Briggs' The Snowman. The children have been busy writing some lovely descriptions, and thinking about all the fantastic vocabulary and techniques they can use to make their writing exciting and interesting to read. See if your child can give you an expanded noun phrase to describe The Snowman.

In maths, we've moved onto multiplication. The children started off by writing some repeated addition number sentences, and have now moved on to drawing arrays and writing multiplication number sentences. Well done to them all on such a great start! In history, we've used chrome books to research information about The Beatles. See if your child can tell you something they've learned about the Fab 4 this week. We've also begun to rehearse our Christmas play, 'The Hopeless Camel.' The children have been working hard to learn their lines and songs, and we're very excited that you'll all be able to watch it via Seesaw!

A big well done to all the children who unexpectedly ended up at home this week, but have been working just as hard as those at school. Thank you too to all the parents who supported their child's learning at home, we appreciate it lots!

We've continued to work our way through the Christmas Carroll bundle with Sir Linkalot, and the children are really working hard in their end of week spelling quiz. Well done to them all!

Wishing you all a great weekend, from the Year 2 Team.

### Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

The Festive Spirit has arrived in Bumblebees! This week the children have helped to decorate the room, and it looks amazing – well done Bumblebees and Breakfast Bees!

The children have enjoyed singing Christmas songs, reading Christmas stories and playing festive games.

**Friend**



**Star**



**Playtime**



## 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>