

### Dates for your diary

**Monday 31st January**  
Chinese New Year Week

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February**  
Reception Chinese New  
Year Assembly

**Friday 18th February**  
End of Spring Term 1

**Monday 28th February**  
Spring Term 2 Begins

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
Book week

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**  
Y2 visit from Quirks Animal  
Roadshow

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
Wear your scarf to school  
day

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
World Book Day

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**  
Yr R visit to Rushall Farm

### School News



I would like to start this week's newsletter with another thank you! Please accept our sincere apologies for any disruption caused by the power outage that affected some parts of the school this week. Thank you all for your support. Your children are amazing, they take everything in their stride, and I feel they enjoyed a slight change to the normal routine!



We have a few exciting weeks coming up. Next week we have lots of activities planned to celebrate Chinese New Year. Reception will be leading a Chinese New Year assembly at 9.30am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February. The assembly will be recorded and put on seesaw by the end of the day on Friday for Reception parents to view.

The following week is Children's Mental Health Week and we will be joining in with a new initiative to help raise awareness of the importance of Mental Health in Children.



The last few years during the pandemic have been difficult for us all and has affected the mental health of many adults and children. However, children may not display their issues/symptoms in the same way as adults. During Mental Health in Children week there will be lots of fun activities for children to enjoy which may help with any problems they are facing and to ensure they are aware of the importance of empathy. On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February children are invited to wear a scarf to school to raise awareness.



Please can we remind parents that welly boots should be brought into school on your child's outdoor learning days to ensure we keep our classrooms mud free!

## **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 the children showed off their fantastic listening skills as we read the story of 'Rainbow Rob.' Some children throughout the week displayed their growing literacy skills and began to independently look at the story - knowing to handle books with care, knowing which way up to hold the book and that we read words on the page from left to right.

During our daily rhyme time we sang the song, 'Head shoulders, knees and toes' and enjoyed pointing to the different body parts. Many children can find these body parts independently now which shows a brilliant understanding of language and of their bodies.

Our weekly yoga sessions are helping to develop the children's core strength, we have been practising balancing on 1 foot at a time, holding this for a few seconds, whilst holding out our arms for balance. We have been stretching up to the sky and then bending at the waist to tickle our toes! We have seen a big improvement in the 'bridge pose' in some children which is fantastic. Yoga is very good at helping the children develop their gross motor skills for activities such as running, jumping, climbing and bending safely.

We have lots of friends in Little Acorns now so please can we ask your child's belongings are named as this helps staff to ensure all items are sent home correctly.

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

Well done to Acorns for being so keen to learn about the emergency services this week! We have enjoyed learning about firefighters, police and paramedics through stories and books, and thinking about how they help us and how we can stay safe. We have loved role playing being police officers with lots of 'emergencies' and finger prints being taken in the classroom!

In maths, we have been practising understanding and using positional words such as under/over/in front/behind etc.

We have enjoyed making emergency service vehicles from reclaimed materials. In outdoor learning, we enjoyed parachute games.

Next week we will be learning about Chinese New Year, so if you have any items at home related to it that you could send in (or upload photos to Seesaw) that would be amazing!

## Maple and Beech class (Reception)

In Reception this week we have been learning the story of 'The Gingerbread Man.' We have sequenced the pictures from the story and have written speech bubbles for the characters. We also linked this to our computing and animated pictures of ourselves in character.

In maths we have been learning about measures. We have used balance scales to work out if objects are light or heavy; we have used water and cups to learn about capacity and we have worked out how much different containers will hold.

We have been exploring how the gingerbread man could have safely crossed the river by making our own boats and testing them. We have also explored which objects float and sink. In RE we have continued to learn about how different cultures celebrate their New Year. This week we were learning about Persian New Year during outdoor learning. We made a pretend fire to jump over to welcome in the Spring! We have also continued working on our knot tying skills in outdoor learning. Some of us have managed to make our own fishing rods and log dogs using our overhand knots. Untying the knots has proved a trickier skill to master, we're still working on that.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Year 1 our English work has been based on the story of 'The Three Little Pigs.' In a similar style to our Goldilocks story, we used a story map and actions to help us retell the story and remember the key vocabulary. We then used this base story but adapted it to write our own versions with different characters e.g. three chickens and a fox. The children were all very enthusiastic to share their ideas and draw their own story maps.

In maths, we have continued to focus on learning the sequence of numbers using our own hundred squares. The children enjoyed identifying various two digit numbers through a game of bingo and they played some more and less games on the Ipads. We have noticed that whilst most of the children are confident counting forwards, they find counting backwards more of a challenge (particularly when crossing a ten e.g. going back from 50 to 49). See if you can do some counting backwards from 100 at home.

As part of our geography lesson this week, we revised the use of prepositions to describe where things are in relation to others in the classroom e.g. The computer screen is 'next to' the desk, the alphabet strip is 'above' the screen. We then used the language of closest and furthest (from Year 1) on a distance map of our school grounds. I'm sure some of your children have told you about the 'sliders' and 'levers' we made to make moving pictures in D.T. since many of them decided to make more in their independent learning this week!

To help your children practise reading and spelling common words, please look at the High Frequency Words that have been posted on Seesaw. Thank you for your continued support.

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

Year 2 have had another fantastic week of learning.

In maths we have finished our unit on statistics - the children learned how to create tally charts, pictograms and block graphs. We have loved seeing that some of the children have continued this learning at home by collecting data about the toys they have! We have now started our new unit on 2D and 3D shapes, please ask your child to tell you the difference between them.

In English, the children have been writing diary entries based on George's Marvellous Medicine. We learnt about the key features of diaries, such as writing in the past tense, using adjectives to describe feelings and writing in the first person. When reading with your child, see if they can spot any of these features in their reading books! We then imagined what it must have been like to be George when Grandma was being so mean and wrote diary entries from his point of view. As usual the children have really impressed us with their vocabulary choices and exciting sentences.

In the afternoons we been busy with PSHE; learning about pollution and how we can look after the planet, computing; learning how to take photos in portrait and landscape mode and PE; developing our basketball skills with Danny.

Finally, a plea! Over the next couple of weeks we will be starting our art topic, learning about Kurt Schwitters who worked with 'found objects.' If you have any newspapers, magazines or 'interesting rubbish' that we might be able to incorporate into our art work, please send it in with your child.

Have a wonderful weekend!

### Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

This week in Bumblebees the children have been very creative using the paint pallets. They have painted some lovely pictures to bring home. We have also enjoyed building the marble run and seeing if our marble can go all the way down.

The children have been very busy making pictures with different shapes and putting them in a frame.

We are trying very hard to remember our manners at dinner time and to try all the things on our plate!

Friend



Dinner



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, 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!



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