

Dates for your diary

Thursday 12th May

Year R Bus Journey to
Prospect Park and
miniature railway

Thursday 12th May

Year 2 educational visit to
Thatcham Discovery
Centre

Tuesday 17th May

Full Governing Board
Meeting

Thursday 19th May

Outdoor Classroom Day

Thursday 26th May

End of Summer Term 1
(normal school finish times)

Friday 27th May - 3rd June

May Half Term

Monday 6th June

Start of Summer Term 2

School News

Thank you to all of you that were able to donate bottles for our Tombola as well as those of you that could visit the stall at the May Fayre on Sunday. We also extend our gratitude to the PTA, staff and the other volunteers who helped us out (some of you at very short notice!). Thanks to all of you, the PTA raised just shy of £1000 which is an amazing amount!!

Well done to the staff and pupils in Year 2 for their wonderful country dancing and Maypole performances at the Burghfield May Fayre on Sunday.

A **big** thank you to Mr Goswell who manoeuvred the maypole to The Hatch and back to school again!

Educational Visits

This week both Reception and Year 2 were out on Educational Visits. Year 2 enjoyed learning about insects and mini-beasts at the Thatcham Discovery Centre and enjoyed some pond dipping as well as many other exciting activities. Reception went on a journey by bus to Prospect Park to visit the miniature railway and have a picnic. What an adventure they had!

Coming up

Next week on Thursday 19th May, the whole school will partake in Outdoor Classroom Day. The children will be outside for as much of the day as possible and we will also be having a picnic lunch. Please ensure that you check School Grid to order a picnic bag for the day or send your child in with their own picnic (No nuts, glass bottles or fizzy drinks please).

Reminders

Unless children have been prescribed sunglasses by an optician, they should not be wearing them in school. They can easily be lost or broken, and are a health and safety risk, when children are running around at playtime.

A polite request to all parents to not let their children climb on any of the school equipment or furnishings before or after school. Many thanks.

PTA News

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

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

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

This week in Little Acorns the children have been brave and enjoyed the challenge of completing the obstacle course outside. We have learnt to wait for our turn and talked about how to travel safely across the equipment.

Also outside this week, the children enjoyed working in small groups in the nature garden. A big thank you to all our lovely parents who donated plants, seeds and soil. The children have enjoyed potting seeds, weeding the flower beds and getting the area ready for planting next week. We have continued to practise our fine motor skills and the children have made excellent progress using our safety scissors, some were able to independently make snips along the dotted line on the paper!

The children have demonstrated excellent focus this week whilst practising their mark-making skills. We have been thinking about how and where we hold the pen.

During our daily carpet time, we have been chatting about big nursery, the children have learnt how to sit with their legs crossed and how we can use our looking eyes, listening ears and quiet lips. Maybe this weekend you could ask your child to show you how well they can sit and listen now.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week in Acorns the children have been reading the story 'Superworm'. We have made our own minibeasts from clay and have painted them ready to display!

The children have also been looking at pictures of minibeasts in detail and trying to paint some of our own.

In maths, we have been talking about length and measuring. We have used language of long, short, longer and shorter.

In Science this week we were experimenting with materials to find the strongest material that would make a good snail home.

We have been trying very hard this week to look after all the spiders we find in our nursery garden. The children are very careful when trying to pick them up and are very good bug detectives using magnifying glasses to find them!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

In Reception this week we have continued learning about journeys. This week we read books about Antarctic exploration and Antarctic animals. We imagined being Ernest Shackleton on his dangerous adventure to get to the South Pole. We role-played exploring in our classrooms, with our backpacks and binoculars searching for animals that live in cold climates. We wrote sentences and labels for pictures from the Antarctic.

In maths we have been exploring the properties of shapes. We made tangram pictures and challenged ourselves to find the right shapes to fit.

Our bus trip yesterday was a great success and the weather was on our side! We really enjoyed going on the bus and getting to sit on the miniature trains. The children behaved really well and were a credit to Mrs. Bland's School. Thank you so much to our parent helpers who made it possible.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Year One, we have been continuing to learn about the life of Mary Anning - the pioneering fossil collector and Paleontologist. We recited sentences about her life and then used word mats and sound mats to write independently. See if your child can remember any of the key events in her life.

In Geography, we learnt that the world and continents looked different in the age of the dinosaurs. They were grouped together as a supercontinent called Pangea. We then learnt whereabouts in the world some of the dinosaur fossils were found.

In maths, we have been learning to divide / share numbers into equal groups. We have enjoyed working in pairs and showing this practically with counters.

The children really enjoyed our D.T. lesson this week, where we were testing the best way to join two pieces of fabric. The children explored using glue, masking tape, safety pins and sewing. They will be using their sewing skills next week when they start to make dinosaur hand puppets. So far, they have designed their puppets and created a list of materials they will need to make them.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

What a fantastic week year 2 have had!

This week we were lucky enough to spend a day at Thatcham Discovery Centre, enhancing our science knowledge. The children engaged in activities such as pond dipping and mini-beast hunting! We were so impressed with the amazing behaviour of the children – and how brave they were in the face of all those creepy crawlies!

The children have also been busy in maths reflecting on the learning they have found tricky this year and revising some of those areas. Some children spent time practising addition and subtraction, some recapped money and some pushed themselves to apply their learning to complex word problems. Each and every child has worked extremely hard and we are so proud of their efforts.

Finally, a big thank you to those children who performed at the May Fayre last Sunday. It was fantastic to see so many of you there, we are very grateful for the support. The children danced beautifully!

Overall, a very proud week for the year 2 teachers 😊

Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

The children have been enjoying drawing this week. We have 'How to draw...' books and the children have tried very hard to follow each step and have made some amazing pictures! The children are very good at looking after each other and our resources. We have been talking about putting things away in the right boxes and helping the adults in the room.

Bumblebees Stars

Friend



Holly Yr 2

Dinner Star



Chloe Yr 1

Playtime



Clara Yr 1

Whole School Stars

Star of the Week



Alanis - Acorns
Mikey - Beech
Daniel - Maple
Martim - Birch
Bethany - Cherry
Ralph - Hazel
Edward - Rowan

Friendship Star



Mia - Acorns
Alyzae - Beech
Zahra - Maple
Bluebell - Birch
Annie - Cherry
Bella-Rose - Hazel
Samuel - Rowan

Playtime Star



Ruby - Acorns
Dennis - Beech
Olivia - Maple
Scarlett - Birch
Rudi - Cherry
Niamh - Hazel
Henrieta - Rowan

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 Blands is now registered with Amazon's 'smile' charity programme!

If you select 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>