

Dates for your diary

PTA Christmas Shhhop

8th & 9th December

Christmas Jars

Acorns to Year 2 please hand in your Christmas jars by Tuesday 13th December

PTA Christmas Events

14th & 16th December

Joint Carol Service with Garland Junior School

12th December 2.00pm

Christmas Sing Along Little Acorns

Monday 12th December 2.45pm-3.30pm

Thursday 15th December
11.00am-11.45am

Performance club show

12th December 4.00pm
Parents of performance club children only

Hexagon – Jack and the Beanstalk

13th December (whole school)

Tuesday 20th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Parties

End of Term 1.45pm finish

Thursday 5th January 2023

Start Spring Term (Term3)

School News

This week the children were very proud to perform 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel' for you all. The performances all went well and we are sure you agree they are all superstars! We are all extremely proud of their performances.

The children also took part in the PTA School Shhhop this week and had great fun choosing and wrapping presents for their loved ones.

Next week the children have lots more Christmas activities to look forward to! We start the week with our joint Carol service with Garland, then on Tuesday the whole school will be visiting the Hexagon, Reading to see Jack and the Beanstalk.



On Wednesday and Friday the children will also have their Christmas Days which are organized by the PTA in place of the Christmas Fayre to raise money for the school. You can purchase tickets from the school shop on Parentmail for either a Christmas Event ticket £5 or a ticket to see Father Christmas for £5, or both!

Job Opportunity

If you or someone you know is looking for a part time role, we are looking for a cleaner, it would be 2 1/2 hours each day after school, term time only, on a casual basis, to join our housekeeping team.

Please don't hesitate to contact Julie Dell (Operations Manager) if you would like any further information.

Other News

The Great Christmas Carnival

Come on in and get lost in a new Christmas wonderground!

The Great Christmas Carnival is a one-sleigh stop for all the family, with shows, rides, ice skating, bars, Christmas stalls and of course Father Christmas himself! From the producers of the acclaimed Edinburgh's Christmas, Christmas in Leicester Square and Christmas in Trafalgar Square, welcome to the greatest new destination for festive fun in the heart of Berkshire. Entry starts from £5 and includes free parking, a complimentary hot chocolate and the incredible Flying Father Christmas attraction. The Carnival is the perfect place to create joyful childhood memories and we can't wait to welcome you down for some after school fun!

Ho-ho-hope to see you there! 27 November - 2 January.

<https://we.tl/t-6zVkyoS2gQ>

<https://greatchristmascarnivalnewbury.com>

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 –

**Laura Hooke or
Charmaine Kelly**

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

The festive activities have begun this week in Little Acorns, to the delight of all the children. We had a range of Christmas-themed activities such as sorting Christmas pom-poms, practicing our pencil control whilst writing a letter to Father Christmas and posting them in our post box, playing with the small world Christmas village and reading a variety of Christmas stories. This week a favourite amongst the children was 'Pip and Posy - The Christmas tree'.

During carpet time, we talked about how to keep warm in the cold weather and encouraged the children 'have a go' at putting on their coats and hat themselves.

During outdoor play, we talked about what changes we could see to our garden now the winter months are here. The children enjoyed the messy play tray of dinosaurs in the snow. The children enjoyed making footprints and marks using the feet and tails of the dinosaurs!

Please remember to name all coats and hats!

Acorns

The children have all worked hard this week and have learnt some Christmas songs. We are very proud of all our Acorns for their beautiful performance as 'Twinkling Stars'.

In maths, we have been focussing on recognising numbers and counting baubles as we put them on the tree.

We had our last Outdoor Learning session this week and the children were very excited when we made our own popcorn!



Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week in Reception, we have been learning to read the sounds igh, oa and oo and the tricky words 'are' and 'her'.

In maths, we have been revising areas we have learnt this term, practising our subitising skills and ordering and comparing numbers. We have also begun to think about the seasons and how we change what we wear depending on the weather.

Most of our time this week has been dedicated to our rehearsals and performances of Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. The children have worked so hard, and we are really pleased with how they performed. Well done Reception!

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

We are so proud of Year 1 this week for their fantastic performance of their songs. Thank you for all the lovely costumes and we hope you enjoyed the show as much as we did!

In English, we have enjoyed using story sack props to learn and retell the story of 'Handa's Surprise'. There are lots of adjectives describing the fruit in the story, so we focussed on identifying adjectives and using them in our own writing. We learnt how to spell 'like' and 'because' to write about our favourite fruits. Can your child identify the adjectives in the following sentence?

I like strawberries because they are red, sweet and juicy.

In maths, we had a revision week to consolidate number recognition, counting, ordering and comparing. The children used their number knowledge to answer more and less questions and had a reminder of how to use the symbols:

> greater than, < less than, = equal to.

Our science investigation this week involved cuddly toys and watering cans! We had a selection of materials and tested how waterproof they were by holding them over the cuddly toy and pouring water to simulate rain. Some of the toys got very wet, but others remained dry. See if your child can remember the materials that were 'waterproof' and the ones that were 'absorbent'.

We have now finished learning the phase 3 phonemes. Our final sounds this week were: ear, air, ure, er. These are some of the hardest to remember how to read and write, so do please try and practise them at home. See if your child can read these words and can they spot the 'plural'?
spear, chairs, mixture, hammer.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

Year 2 have had yet another busy but exciting week. In English, we have started our new topic on the story 'The Snow Queen'. The children have completed some comprehension activities and showed us how well they have really understood this complicated story. Their predictions and discussions of the book were fantastic and they really impressed us with their ideas. They have also sequenced the story and been retelling the key events in their own words, why not ask your child to tell you the story of the Snow Queen?

In maths, we have completed end of term assessments to see how much learning the children have retained this term. We were blown away by their effort and they have shown us just how far their learning has come since they have been in Year 2. We have also continued our topic on shape by learning about the properties of 3D shapes. Ask your child - what is the difference between a face and an edge?

In DT, we have evaluated our final textile pieces. We considered what went well and what we would improve next time if we had the chance. We also considered how well our products fulfilled the design brief. We are very proud of what we have produced and can't wait to share them with you.

Finally, as you are probably aware, it has been performance week! It was wonderful to see so many of your smiling faces in the audience throughout the week. We are so proud of every single one of the children, they sang beautifully and spoke clearly, just like we practised. Thank you again for your help in practising lines at home and providing such wonderful costumes - the children looked fab!

Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

The children have enjoyed making some Christmas decorations to take home. They have also made some wonderful Christmas pictures!

Bumblebees Stars

Friend



Dinner Star



Playtime



Whole School Stars

Star of the Week

All of Acorns! - Acorns
Ruby - Maple
Mansor - Beech
Emilija - Birch
Olivia- Cherry
Emily - Hazel
Charlie - Rowan

Friendship Star

Rupert - Acorns
Alanis - Maple
Sophia - Beech
Dennis - Birch
Ted - Cherry
Holly - Hazel
Scarlett - Rowan

Playtime Star

Flavia - Acorns
Kaleb - Maple
Xavier - Beech
Ellie - Birch
Bradley - Cherry
Joshua - Hazel
Isaac - 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, 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 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>