

Dates for your diary

16th March

Reception visit to Rushall Farm

Alice in Wonderland Theatre Production (in school) – KS1

17th March

Red Nose Day Assembly led by Hazel Class – Hazel Class parents only

22nd March

Visiting author – book sale after school

23rd March

Nursery parents – Speech and Language workshop

24th March

Hazel Class Parents lunch

28th March

Parent Consultations 3.30pm-6pm

30th March

Parent Consultations 5.30pm-8pm

31st March

End of Spring Term 2
School/Nursery closes
1.45pm

17th April

Inset Day

18th April

Start of term 5

School News

This week has been interesting – or ‘curiouser and curiouser’ as Alice would say!

Classes have read different versions of the classic story by Lewis Carroll, ‘Alice in Wonderland’ and have taken part in different activities around the theme of the story. On Thursday, Key Stage 1 pupils were then treated to a theatre production of the story which was very well received! The children were then treated to a ‘behind the scenes’ workshop which was inspiring and added to the fun!

Reception had their visit to Rushall Farm and it didn’t rain - In fact it was lovely weather! The children learned lots of interesting facts about the animals and farming and did a lot of steps!

Hazel class finished off the week with an informative assembly for Red Nose Day. They worked very hard to learn all the information and we think Hazel Parents will agree that they did very well!

Socks/tights

If any of our lovely parents are having a clear out soon, please could we ask that you donate clean socks and tights to the school? With all the recent rain our supplies are running very low!

Next week

Next week, on Wednesday we have arranged for an author, Jane Hurdiss to visit the school to read her books to Acorns Nursery, Reception and KS1 classes. She will then have some books to sign and sell to the children at the end of the day if they would like a copy. She is selling them at a discounted price of either £5 for one book or two for £8. Do come along to the school hall and have a look.

On Thursday, we have the Calcot Hub returning for a Speech and Language Workshop for our nursery parents. The last workshop was really well received, so we are looking forward to another interesting session.

Head lice

Please can we ask you all to check your child’s hair over the weekend as we have had a few reported cases of head lice.

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 Class

This week in Little Acorns, we have been celebrating our Mummies! We have talked about what our Mummies do and why we love them. We have read a selection of books, all exploring how and why Mummies are important.

We have been busy learning about different life cycles. Outside in the tuff tray, the children have been investigating the life cycle of a frog and inside, we have been thinking about the life cycle of a plant. The children have enjoyed the opportunity to make some cress pots to grow their very own cress.

In maths, we have been thinking about comparing sizes such as big and small or tall and low. We have encouraged the children to begin to describe patterns they can see all around them, using language such as stripy or spotty, and bumpy.

The children have been very focused as they investigated the functions of our ICT toys, thinking about what happens when we press a button or turn a dial.

Well done Little Acorns.

Acorns Class

This week in Acorns we have been reading non-fiction books about dinosaurs and other animals that lay eggs. The children know that non-fiction books give us information and are set out differently to story books. We have learnt this week that animals that lay eggs are called 'OVIPOSAURS'. This includes reptiles-animals with scales and claws, fish- animals that live in the water, birds- animals with wings and feathers, insects- small animal with 6 legs and amphibians- animals that live on land and in the water! All other animals- mammals- have live babies. The children really enjoyed sorting the animals into different categories and could explain their reasons.

In maths this week, we have been using the Numicon to count carefully and recognise numbers to 10. The children could put the Numicon in number order by counting each piece.

In PE, the children have been working hard to improve their throwing and catching skills - remembering to make sure their partner is ready to catch the ball before throwing the ball to them.

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week, we have been learning to hear the syllables in longer words and have been recapping the trickier digraphs (sounds) in phase 3 and consolidating our tricky word knowledge.

In maths, we have been thinking about the properties of shapes (curved and straight edges, number of faces etc), for example which shapes are best for building, which shapes roll well and which don't.

In science, we have been learning the names of baby farm animals and saying and writing sentences about them. The children found it hard to use the correct names ie calf/foal. We watched a live science lesson online all about tractors and what they were made from and what they were used for.

Thank you to the parents who accompanied us on Thursday to the farm. We hope your children have shared some of their experiences of the day with you.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Year 1, we had our 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' in the hall. The children enjoyed a few sweet treats and drank squash poured from teapots. They also played some games, including 'Pin the grin on the Cheshire Cat'!

In English, they wrote a letter to recall their experience of the tea party and they were reminded to use the 'past tense'.

To wrap up their week of 'Alice in Wonderland' they were treated to a play performed by the visiting theatre group. What a great show it was!

In maths this week, the children have been engaged in lots of practical measuring tasks. They have measured the length and height of classroom items using cubes and paper clips (non-standard units of measurement) and then learnt how to measure with a ruler in centimetres. Why not see if your child can measure some items at home? Can they also use comparative language, e.g., longer than, shorter than, equal?

In science, as a follow-up activity to our trip to Marwell Zoo, the children learnt some extra facts about two of the animals: The Rothschild's Giraffe and the Amur Tiger. They worked in groups to write about these animal's special features and how their bodies enable them to survive in their habitat. Similarly in geography this week, the children learnt where these and some other animals live in the world. See if your child can name an animal from each of the continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica and Europe.

In history, we have focussed on David Attenborough's contributions to animal conservation and his campaigns against plastic pollution. The children started to design posters to encourage us to take steps to save our planet.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

In English, we have continued our learning about the book, Alice in Wonderland. One of our favourite parts of the story was when Alice ate the cake and it made her grow to an enormous size. We decided to make our own cakes and then write instructions on how to make them. It was great fun to put our maths knowledge on measuring in grams into practice and to talk about the effects that our cakes could have on someone. Someone even suggested that eating their cake would turn you into a dragon!

In maths, we have been measuring in grams and kilograms and discussing the similarities and differences between the two. Next, we moved on to measuring capacity and volume in millilitres and litres - which got a bit messy at times! We also completed some short assessments for spring term to show off everything we have been learning.

Our afternoons have been very DT focused. We have been designing and creating a very special product for a very special person - but we don't want to give too much away! We started off by learning about different moving mechanisms such as pop-ups and sliders and then incorporated these into our own designs before making them in small groups. We can't wait to show you what we have made.

Finally, on Thursday afternoon we got to watch a live performance of Alice in Wonderland by a travelling theatre group. It was amazing! We really enjoyed joining in with parts of the story and seeing it come to life after reading the book.

Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

This week in Bumblebees the children have been working hard to make a special picture for Mothering Sunday! The children enjoyed having the water colours this week and produced some lovely paintings. We had fun making models with the lego and some children had lots of fun dressing up and making their own stories.

Friend



Dinner Star



Playtime



Whole School Stars

Star of the Week



Louie - Acorns
Coral - Maple
Cassidy - Beech
Ellie - Birch
Nathaniel - Cherry
Jack - Hazel
Jan - Rowan

Friendship Star



Rory - Acorns
Rosella - Maple
Henry - Beech
Aisha - Birch
Teresamarie - Cherry
Ayesha - Hazel
Nazanin - Rowan

Playtime Star



Brook - Acorns
Ruby - Maple
Scarlett - Beech
Peter - Birch
Louie - Cherry
Clara - Hazel
Aoife - 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>