

Dates for your diary

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

Easter Assembly Y1 9:30am
(Y1 Parent's welcome)

31st March

End of Spring Term 2
School/Nursery closes
1.45pm

17th April

Inset Day

18th April

Start of term 5

25th April

Yr 1 visit to Oxford university
Museum of Natural History

5th May

Yr 2 visit to Thatcham
Discover Centre

9th May

Yr R bus 'journey' and
miniature railway

School News

This week we were treated to a visit from a local author Jane Hurdiss who went to each class to read her books and discuss story writing with the children. The children thoroughly enjoyed this visit and we hope that those of you that were able to buy the books had fun sharing them with your child.

Our Nursery parents were invited to an informative workshop on Speech and Language which was run by the Calcot Hub. This workshop was very well received and we would like to say thank you to those of you that were able to attend.

Hazel Class parents were invited in at the end of the week to share lunch with their child. We hope you enjoyed sharing this part of the day with them.

Book Donation

We had a visit from a previous school pupil this week, Julian. Julian attended Mrs Bland's long before Mrs Rose was the Headteacher and still lives locally. He works for the Police Service and they made a donation of new and nearly new books for us to use in school. We would like to extend our thanks to the Police Force as well as Julian for thinking of our school.

Head lice

A plea to all families to please check their children's hair again this weekend, we have had further reports of those pesky little visitors – head lice.

Chicken Pox

We just wanted to make you aware that chicken pox seems to be doing the rounds again. We have had a few cases in Acorns, and have recently had a few cases across school too.

Reminders

A few reminders this week. Please remember that parents Consultation Evening is for parents only. This is so you have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress without any interruptions and ask any questions you may have. If you have booked a slot to attend next week, then please make alternative childcare arrangements for your child/ren. If alternative arrangements cannot be made, parents will need to make alternative time slots, as children will not be supervised or be able to wait in the reception area. Thank you for your support.

Both school and Nursery will close at 1.45pm next Friday for the Easter Holidays and Bumblebees finishes at 4.15pm.

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

Spring has sprung this week in Little Acorns!

The children have been enjoying lots of Easter-themed activities, such as the Easter discovery tray, where the children have been able to explore the feel of different textured eggs, count how many eggs they can fit into their egg box and use their mathematical language skills to describe any patterns they can see. We have begun to read many Easter stories, but this week's favourite is Peppa Pig's Rainbow Easter.

We have been enjoying the Peppa Pig playhouse in the small world area and have seen some lovely independent sharing whilst using these toys.

The children have worked hard making controlled marks on the 'Bunny Hop' pencil control sheets, thinking about where and how we hold a pen. We have seen excellent progression in the children's concentration during these focused activities. Well done, everyone.

Thank you to everyone who could attend a Stay and Play session and the Speech and Language workshop. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning journals with you.

Acorns Class

This week in Acorns we enjoyed a visit from an author Jane Hurdiss who came and read us her books. The children loved this, especially meeting Gertrude the cow!

In maths this week, we have been trying hard to form our numbers, starting at the top of each number.

In Science, we decided to test how strong an egg is. We managed to balance a book and a log on an egg without it cracking. We then asked Brook to stand on 12 eggs!!! We were surprised to see that not all of the eggs broke!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have been reading the story, 'The Tiny Seed'. We read and discussed what happened to the seed in the different seasons and wrote instructions for planting a seed. We also planted out our own bean plants and planted new sunflower seeds.

In maths, we have been revising our number bonds to 5 and 10 (e.g. $4+1$, $5+0$, $3+2$ and $1+9$, $8+2$, $7+3$ etc), revising our understanding of one more and one less to 10 and creating more complex patterns.

In RE we have been learning about different celebrations and remembering the celebrations we have learnt about over the last few terms (Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter).

In PSHE, we have been learning about how to keep our bodies healthy: with lots of fruit and vegetables, water, exercise, sleep and fresh air.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Year 1, we have been busy practising for our Easter play. The children have been working very hard to learn their speaking parts and lyrics to the songs. We look forward to our performance next Friday.

In English, the children have been planning a piece of non-fiction writing about hedgehogs. They have started to write about what hedgehogs look like and where they live. See if your child can recall or research any further facts about hedgehogs to support the rest of their writing next week.

In maths, we have been revising our understanding of arithmetic and how to use different methods to solve additions and subtractions (within 20). They have been challenged to solve some missing number problems using counting objects or number lines: E.g. $4 + ? = 20$ and $13 = 5 + ?$. They have also learnt how to check their answers to subtractions by using the 'inverse operation' of addition. E.g. $18-17=1$ because $1+17=18$.

In outdoor learning this week the children were encouraged to think scientifically. They pretended to be birds hunting for caterpillars (represented by pipe cleaners!) and they thought carefully about which colours were easier to find. They learnt how 'camouflage' can help creatures to survive since it protects them from being eaten.

In phonics we have nearly finished learning all the phase 5 sounds required for the phonics screening test in June. This week we learnt the sounds: u-e (June), a-e (made), ir and ey. We shall be handing out some 'phonic packs' at parent's evenings next week to support the children's revision at home.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

Yet another busy week for year 2!

In English the children have been learning about the features of non-fiction texts. They have learned that non-fiction books usually include; a contents page, a glossary, headings and subheadings, facts, diagrams and captions. The children have explored pages of a non-fiction book about flowers and identified the features themselves. They have also planned and begun writing their own non-fiction text about a flower.

In maths, the children have been very busy completing end of term assessments to check their understanding of everything we have covered since Christmas. We have been so impressed with how the children have performed and how well they have retained their learning. We have spotted that addition and subtraction needs a little more focus so we will be planning more lessons on this next week. If you would like to do any additional practice at home, that would be great!

In science, the children learned about the different parts of a flower and why each part is so important. They labelled the different parts together on a picture and then had the chance to dissect a real flower to identify the parts in real life! The children loved taking the flower apart and labelling the different parts as a group.

We have been getting messy in art as we have been creating water colour paintings of flowers to link with our topic - the scented garden. The children looked so carefully at the flowers in front of them and included so much lovely detail in their work. We can't wait for you to see what they have achieved!

Finally a big well done to Rowan Class! Each class has been working towards achieving 5 stars for excellent behaviour and Rowan class have finally reached their target. They were able to choose their own reward and they chose to spend an afternoon at the park with their friends. The visit had to be postponed due to the rain, but we are looking forward to re-arranging a date soon.



This week in Bumblebees the children have been very busy with some Easter Crafting! We have played games, read stories and have especially enjoyed playing with the playdough.

A lovely week – thank you Bumblebees!

Friend



Dinner Star



Playtime



Whole School Stars

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>