

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 8th September
Autumn Term 1 begins

Tuesday 12th September
Reception parent/child
lunch

Friday 15th September
Tempest School Photo

Tuesday 19th September
Meet the Teacher

Tuesday 26th September
Year 1 Educational Visit to
Milestones Museum

Thursday 28th September
Year 2 Educational Visit to
Oxford Castle

Thursday 5th October
Harvest Festival
(school children only)

Friday 13th October
Year 2 Falconry Visit
(in school)

Thursday 16th November
Year R to Year 2 Flu nasal
vaccination

Friday 20th October
End of Term 1 – collect at
3:25pm as normal

School News

What a wonderful start to the new Academic Year!

Welcome back to our existing children and families, we hope you all had a brilliant summer. Welcome also to our new children and families – it has been lovely seeing how well everyone has settled in already.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we would like to send a few reminders/notices:

- Our gates will be closing 5 minutes earlier at 8.55am in line with our new school timings. If you are running late, please bring your child to the office and confirm the reason for being late.
- The blue PE bags should be brought into school (Reception and KS1 only) on a Monday and remain in school for the week. Book bags should be brought in daily.
- Small named rucksacks may be used for outdoor learning clothes. These will be hung on the outdoor learning hooks in a separate area. We do not have room in the cloakrooms for rucksacks to be used for other equipment as they block access to children's PE Kit and cause trip hazards in the corridors.
ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING SHOULD BE NAMED.
- All medicine to be bought in via the school office. If your child has asthma/allergies and you have not yet bought in their inhaler/epi pen or medication, please do so as soon as possible and complete a new action plan for the year. All medicine should include the prescription label and be in the correct child's name and within date.
- If you would like us to make a note of anyone else that will regularly collect your child this year, please email the office and we will add a note to the system and let class know. Please can our existing parents re-send any details of those people that are regular collectors of their child so we can let their new teachers know. If your list changes for any reason, please do let us know as soon as possible.

Summer Reading Challenge

West Berkshire Libraries have been running their summer reading challenge again this year. The deadline to complete the challenge is Friday 15th September, so it is not too late to complete it! As reading is such an integral part of learning we like to reward those students that have taken part in the challenge by celebrating their success in a special assembly. Mrs Williams will be running the assembly on Wednesday 20th September so please make sure you send your child's certificate in by **Monday 18th September** so they can be included in the celebration assembly.

Kitchen news

On Wednesday afternoon some of the KS1 children picked the sweetcorn that had grown in the kitchen garden over the summer and brought it to the kitchen. On Thursday morning our chef went down to talk to the children that were in breakfast club about sweetcorn and how it is grown and showed them where it grew in the kitchen garden. The sweetcorn was then cooked and served with lunch on Thursday – you cannot get much fresher than that! Yum!

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

Little Acorns Class

At the start of the week on our inset days, the Little Acorns Team worked to get the nursery room and garden ready for the new term. We have some fantastic resources ready for the children for this Academic Year!

It has been lovely meeting our new children and families this week in our home visits and all the children enjoyed their stay and play sessions – well done! On Friday, some of our eldest Little Acorns also started back (if their sessions are normally on a Friday) and it was wonderful seeing how much they have developed and grown over the summer.

See you all next week.

Acorns Class

Acorns Nursery has had a bit of a facelift over the holidays and our toilet area has been refitted – they look very smart. We were excited to show the children when they attended for their stay and play sessions on Friday. Well done everyone – it was great to see you all in the nursery and we look forward to seeing you all again next week!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

It was great to meet all our new starters this week and welcome them into Reception. They did amazingly well, exploring inside and outside and making new friends.

Next week as they will stay all morning and for lunch, please can you ensure they come into school with a named sun hat and water bottle. They will also need named wellies, which we keep on racks outside the classrooms for them to use in the mud areas.

We will be doing P.E with Danny on Wednesday morning so they will also need their P.E. kit. This can be brought in on Monday and left all week on their pegs.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

The children have made a fantastic start to Year 1 and have dealt with the transition between Key Stages well! We have spent a lot of time learning where everything is and learning lots of new routines. We are very impressed.

In English we have been looking about the alphabet and learning to use our new wordbooks. In maths we have been counting out objects to 20 and writing down our numbers. You can support your child at home by practising saying, reading and writing the letters of the alphabet and numbers 1-20.

The children have also had PE with Danny and Music with Mrs Fox. They have coped extremely well in the heat. They have also made a start on our topic 'Toys' where we will be learning all about how and why toys have changed since the Victorian times.

Year 1 (both classes) have Outdoor Learning on Mondays. They will need their PE kit in school all week.

Ideally, children need to be heard to read at home, every day. This will help them to practise what we do in phonics and learn key sight words regularly. We would love to welcome in parents/grandparents to support us to hear our children read, so if you can spare an hour or two, we would be immensely grateful. It does not have to be each week, any time you can spare would be happily received. Please speak to us on the door if this is something you can help with.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

We have had such a lovely week welcoming the children back into year 2. They have settled so well and are already working so hard and making us very proud.

In maths, the children have been revisiting some of the learning they covered in year 1. They have practiced counting forwards and backwards, filling in missing numbers in a number track and made their own 100 square resources to help them throughout the year. They have also started to think about the value of each digit in a 2-digit number, understanding that there are tens and ones which combine to make the total. They used dienes blocks to represent these numbers. Ask your child how many tens there are in 34!

In English, we have started learning about castles. The children have really enjoyed learning about the different parts of the castle, including the keep, the arrow slits and the portcullis. Their favourite castle feature was the moat, they loved finding out that the toilets led straight out into the moat - they must have been very smelly! The children have now started to learn about some of the people that lived inside castles, including knights.

In the afternoons we have had some lovely discussion about rules and responsibilities in PSHE, talked about kindness in RE and flexed our balancing muscles in gymnastics. We certainly have crammed a lot in to the three days we've been back!



Welcome back to bumblebees this week. The children have settled back in really well and have enjoyed sharing their summer holiday news with each other. We've also talked about our new classes and teachers and what the best part of our day has been. We look forward to welcoming more bumblebees in the coming weeks and helping them settle in, with lots of fun things to play with and delicious dinners to enjoy.

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>