

## Dates for your diary



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
**PTA Christmas Day**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Nursery Nativity performance  
(adults only)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Performance (adults  
only)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
PTA Christmas Shhhop 1

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
PTA Christmas Shhhop 2

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Joint Carol Service with Garland  
Junior School (Children only)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Jumper Day and  
Class Parties

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
End of Autumn Term 2 - school  
closes as **1:45pm**  
Bumblebees finish **4.30pm**

It's Christmaaaaaaas!!!



Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
Start of Spring Term 1

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
The Lion King – Whole School  
Enrichment Visit to Lyceum  
Theatre

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
Reception Chinese New Year  
Assembly

End of Spring Term 1 (3.25pm)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Friday  
16<sup>th</sup> February  
Half Term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
Spring Term 2

## School News

This week our senses have been treated to all things Christmas in school!

The sounds of Christmas have been ringing out across the school, as the children have been busy practising their singing ready for their Nativity and the Babushka performances next week.

The Christmas decorations around school look wonderful and are proving a real hit with the children and visitors to the school.

A real 8-foot Christmas tree has become the focal point in the School Hall and has put the finishing touch to our decorations by adding one of the scents of Christmas into the mix. We would like to say a big "Thank you" to the Smith family (Teddy and Freddie's parents) for generously donating and delivering the tree!

Continuing with the Christmas theme, the PTA held their Christmas Day on Friday. All the children had a fantastic time, and we would like to thank our wonderful PTA for all of the effort and hard work they put in to raising vital funds for the school. You are all marvellous!

Both our nurseries have made Christmas decorations for the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church. Please do pop along this weekend to have a look at the decorations they have made!

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 12 - 4pm**

Christmas Tree Festival in Church – Come and see the wonderful array of our Communities Christmas Trees.

Garland Junior School sing at 1pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments available and stalls to buy from.

## Reminders

No mobile phones are allowed on site and this also applies to the Christmas performances. We will record them and make them available for anyone that is unable to attend. If you are expecting any URGENT calls, then please do give the school number as a point of contact 0118 9832332. If you do bring your mobile phone on the day, we will provide a secure place for them until you leave.

## Vacancies

If you, or anyone you know, has a Level 3 Childcare qualification and would like to be considered for a part time, temporary role in January, then we would love to hear from you! Please call us to discuss on 0118 9832332.

## Doodle Calendar



[Doodlelearning/calender](https://www.doodlelearning.com/calender)

We're excited to announce the return of the Winter Calendar in DoodleMaths, a seasonal challenge where children can earn virtual rewards by Doodling daily!

## **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](mailto:mrsblandspta@gmail.com)

**or catch someone on the playground –**

**Laura Hooke**

**Katie Thrussell**

**Maria Kennedy**

**Natasha Robinson**

Mrs Bland's PTA recently held their AGM meeting which reflects on the previous years' spending.

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact our Facebook page or any of our members if this is something you are interested in.

## **Little Acorns Class**



This week in Little Acorns, the children have been going into the school hall to practise all the songs for our nursery nativity production which will take place on Monday 11th of December at 9.30am.

Please could we have the costumes of white tops and white leggings brought in ready for the day - thank you!

The children have been developing their counting skills and have been enjoying playing in our Santa's grotto and having a go at writing letters to Santa which they can post in our special post box.

The children have also been busy making Christmas cards and calendars to bring home at the end of the term.

Outside in the garden, the children have really enjoyed playing in the Christmas cabin, with the artic animals.

We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas production!

## **Acorns Class**



This week in Acorns, we have been learning Nativity story. The children have enjoyed learning how Christians celebrate Christmas and have linked parts of the story to their own play that is next week!

In the role play area, the children have been busy wrapping and delivering presents in Santa's workshop. They have helped each other dress up and have been taking turns to be Father Christmas.

In maths, the children have been weighing items on the scales. We have used the words lighter and heavier to describe the items. The children have also put cubes in the scales, they knew to put more cubes in one side to make it heavier.

In outdoor learning, the children were very excited to have a fire. This time we made our own popcorn on the fire and enjoyed listening to the noises as it popped. "It is loud!" "It is like fireworks!"

We have also been busy making decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival. We have entered our tree with the theme 'Feast and Festivals' and the tree will be on display in St. Marys Church this weekend from midday. Please go and visit and vote for Mrs Blands!

## Maple and Beech News (Reception)



In phonics this week, we revised sounds from Phase 3 that we have found trickier – th, ng, ai, and ee. We have also been focusing on our Phase 3 tricky words. On Seesaw, there is a game to play with the Phase 3 tricky words to help the children to recognise them.

In maths, we have been focusing on consolidating our skills of recognising one more and one less with numbers to 10, recognising and ordering the numerals and rapid recall of number pairs to make up numbers to 10.

In literacy, we have been using Christmas as a writing stimulus, making Christmas (or birthday) lists.

We have been practising the dances for our performance this week and are really looking forward to you coming to watch them next week.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)



In maths this week, we have been revising what we have learnt so far this year and have been impressed with what the children have retained! Next week we are working on 2D and 3D shapes so it would be valuable if you could practise naming the following shapes and seeing if you can try to spot any of these at home (2D - square, rectangle, triangle, circle, 3D- cube, cuboid, pyramid, sphere, cone.)

In English, we have been writing the story of Babushka and are getting really excited about our performances next week! We have been also working hard on practising our singing too!

In art, we have been recapping pointillism and making some beautiful pictures which we will share with you at the end of the year. We've also been making party hats and Christmas cards. There has been a lot of sparkle everywhere!



## Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)



Another busy, fun filled week has taken place in Year 2.

In Maths this week, we have been working on topic consolidation. We have been looking at a range of topics that we have completed in Year 2 so far and answering different questions around them. This has allowed us teachers to get a good understanding of what topics we might want to re-visit. Year 2 have really impressed us with everything they can remember from the last two half terms!

In English, we have been working on some key skills, in particular our comprehension skills. This means we have been polishing up our comprehension skills by reading small pieces of text and answering questions about it to make sure we understand what we are reading. Our pieces of text have been around space and dinosaurs which meant we all found it really interesting to read!

With the end of half term quickly approaching, we have been making some special crafts in both DT and Art in the afternoons.

In DT this week the children have all made a pop-up Christmas or New Year card. These look amazing and the children can't wait to show you them. So, watch out for card deliveries coming soon! In addition to this, lots of us have been working with Mrs Marshall to finish off some sewing of decorations.

Art this week has been all about making and decorating our very own dinner table hats! These will be used for when we eat our Christmas dinner together as a whole school. Year 2 have been so creative with their painting.



### Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees



Our snowman is looking amazing, and all the children have done a great job painting it. Well done to Azreya, Flavia and Anya whose 'Babushka' snowman designs were chosen to use.

We've also been busy making paper chains and salt dough decorations.

### Bumblebees Stars

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-blinds-infant-and-nursery-school>

Mrs Bland's PTA recently held their AGM meeting which reflects on the previous years' spending. Below shows the different fund raising events and where the money raised was spent. As always it shows how every donation is put towards the education of the children at Mrs Blands and how worthwhile it is to be a member of the PTA. Please contact our Facebook page or any of our members if this is something you are interested in.

