

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th January

Start of Spring Term 1

Wednesday 31st January

The Lion King – Whole School
Enrichment Visit to Lyceum
Theatre

Friday 2nd February

PTA second hand uniform sale
after school

Tuesday 6th February

Year R-Year 2 Valentine's Disco

Friday 9th February

Reception Chinese New Year
Assembly

Cherry Class Cake sale – KS1
playground after school

End of Spring Term 1 (3.25pm)

Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February

Half Term

Monday 19th February

Spring Term 2

School News

As you will have seen from the letter from the Chair of Governors today, I am pleased to confirm that after a formal application process, led by the Governing Board and Local Authority, I have been appointed as Executive Headteacher of Burghfield Common Federation. I am delighted to be taking on this role to lead the children throughout their Primary education. The Governing Board still have some work to do before the post takes effect and you will receive further communication about this soon.

Mrs Rose

The children have coped very well with the cold this week, and we have made sure that they have been wrapped up warm when they go outside. Please do send hats, gloves and scarves in with your children every day (and make sure they are named).

School Milk

If you would like your child to have milk at snack time each morning, please purchase for the remainder of the term via ParentPay in ParentMail.

If your child is either under 5 or is eligible for Pupil Premium the milk will be free of charge.

Cost £10.75 (until the end of the Spring Term - 27.03.24)

Adult Social Care- Reading Borough Council

Do you have a few hours free per week and would like to work in a paid role as a PA? (Personal Care Assistant)

People who need social care support can source this either through agency carers or through PAs. Reading Borough Council is trying to increase the use of PAs in Reading as this is a really personalised and flexible way of receiving support.

A PA is employed by an individual employer to assist them with their care and support needs; PAs support people with a specific need to live independently and lead their best possible life. It is not a care role in the traditional sense; the role is hugely varied and can include support with:

- preparing meals
- going shopping
- going out and about
- household chores such as washing, cooking and cleaning
- dressing and personal hygiene
- medical appointments and administration of medication.

Experience in care is not essential as training will be given. Online learning and classroom training are available.

The pay starts at £12 per hour (£15.24 for self-employed PAs) depending on the role.

Does the Personal Care Assistant role interest you? If you'd like to find out more, please email Reading Borough Council's friendly PA Team:
pa.register@reading.gov.uk

You could also look at Personal Assistants - Reading Borough Council

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

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 reading and retelling the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They have enjoyed using the soft bricks to build houses in the role play and even put hard hats on to protect their heads, just like real builders!

The children have continued to work on our song, 'It's raining, it's pouring' and are getting very good at it! Keep practising!

Please can you remember to name all your child's belongings? This will help us return them to the right child and promotes the independence to recognise their names.

Acorns Class

This week in Acorns we have been enjoying exploring the effects of the cold weather. The children searched the garden for ice and frost and we put the ice in the sun to see what would happen. The children predicted what would happen to the ice.

"It will go away."

"It will be water."

They all enjoyed seeing the puddles of water left in the garden.

In maths we have been learning numbers to 10. We have been trying to identify the numbers out of sequence and then worked on putting them back in order.

In English we have been learning how to draw a story map of 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children used the pictures in the story map to be able to retell the story independently.

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

In phonics this week, we have recapped the sounds 'th', ng' 'ai' and 'ee'. We have been spotting them in stories, practising making them with magnetic letters and writing them.

In maths, we have been looking at shapes with four sides. We have been describing the properties of shape and looking for shapes in the environment. We have also been using shapes to make pictures

In literacy, we have learnt the story of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We drew and labelled the characters, designed a setting and wrote sentences about different parts of the story.

Linked to our story we have been learning about bridges, how and why they are built. We have designed and tested our own bridges to see if they can carry a small toy car across or hold a goat on top.

We are learning how different cultures celebrate their new year. This week we have learned about the Persian festival of Nowruz. In outdoor learning we have begun to see signs of Spring and started learning how to tie knots.

Finally thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts, they were very much appreciated.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

For English this week we have continued reading the story 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', but this week we have started innovating the story and making it our own. We have continued to use our story map and adapted it to make it into a new fairytale.

This week in Maths, we have been learning about number. We have practised correctly forming our numbers at the start of each lesson, we have been writing our numbers as words, ordering numbers, as well as understanding the place value of numbers. Try showing your grown-ups how to write the numbers as words.

In science this week, we have continued to monitor the weather and we have been enjoying filling in our weather charts. To further our studies into nature we have begun to observe trees and identify evergreen trees, as well as doing an interesting pinecone investigation.

A little reminder that we need both indoor and outdoor kit every week please, including shorts for indoors, jogging bottoms and jacket for outdoors. If children could practise getting changed at home independently, that would be amazing, as it's taking us a long time to get ready for P.E. As well as keeping your belongings in your bag to avoid them going missing. Try setting a timer and see if you can beat your previous time.

With the weather continuing to be cold and wet, we also need named waterproofs and wellies in school too please.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

Another great, windy and cold week of spring term completed in Year 2! It's been nice to fully settle back into our routines and learning.

In Maths this week, we have continued our topic of shape and have been working on some new vocabulary - horizontal, vertical and symmetry. We have been learning how to find and draw lines of symmetry on shapes as well as completing a drawing of a symmetrical shape.

In English, we have been innovating our character descriptions on George to be about James from one of our Roald Dahl books 'James and the Giant Peach'. We are doing this to build up our skills to be able to write our own character description very soon! A SPaG focus we have started is compound sentences and we have had some fun learning the FANBOYS acronym to help us remember the 7 coordinating conjunctions. Ask your child if they can remember what any of the letters stand for!

Please can we remind you that Year 2 need their PE kits in on Mondays and these should be left in school for our PE/Yoga/Gym sessions throughout the week. It is really important that children have shorts to wear for Gymnastics but also have warm kits such as tracksuit tops and trousers for outdoor PE. Outdoor learning is another subject (On Thursdays) where children need to bring in wellies and appropriate warm clothing, please, thank you.



Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees



We've had fun playing with our new toys this week. We talked about what our favourite subjects have been this week and the children were great at remembering what they have learnt in History, Maths, English and DT.

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-blands-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.

