

## Dates for your diary

### Friday 22nd March

Birch Class Parent Lunch

### Monday 25th March

Parent Consultations 3.30pm-  
6.00pm

### Tuesday 26th March

Parent Consultations 5.30pm-  
8.00pm

### Tuesday 26th March

Y1 Educational visit to Marwell  
Zoo

### Wednesday 27th March

Y1 Easter Assembly

### Wednesday 27th March

End of Spring Term 2 **1.45pm**

### Monday 15th April

Start of Summer Term 1

### Tuesday 16th April

Year 1 visit to OMNH

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Cherry Class Parent Lunch

### Friday 3rd May

Rowan Class Parent Lunch

### Tuesday 7th May

Year 2 visit to Thatcham  
Discovery Centre

### Friday 10th May

Hazel Class Parent Lunch

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Year 2 to perform a country  
dance at the Burghfield May  
Fair

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Year R bus and train journey

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Beech Class Parent Lunch

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

Beech Class Parent Lunch

End of Summer Term 1 –  
3:25pm (school) 3:30pm  
(nursery)

## School News

This week at Mrs Bland's we have been very busy preparing for Easter! The Year 1 Easter Assembly is coming along nicely and the children have all worked so hard. We look forward to inviting Year 1 parents in next week to share it.

Year R had an exciting start to the week on Tuesday when they went to Rushall Farm for the day. The children all came back with smiles on their faces despite the rain. Thank you to our wonderful parent/carer helpers, we couldn't do it without you!

Another "thank you" to Mrs Harris who comes into school weekly to help to keep our garden areas tidy. The difference hasn't gone unnoticed and we are very grateful!

A reminder that school closes at 1:45pm next Wednesday and Bumblebees for those already booked, will be running until 4:15pm.

## Nursery funding update

We wanted to make everyone in school aware of the new funding changes that are coming into place from the start of the Summer term. There will be further changes rolled out in September 2025 for our children aged 2 upwards.

- Currently, eligible working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds can access [30 hours of childcare](#) support.
- From **April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours [childcare](#) support.
- From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents with a child from 9-months-old.
- From **September 2025**, support will reach 30 hours for eligible working parents with a child from 9-months-old up to school age.

Needless to say our nurseries (age 2-4) are filling up very quickly! If you would like a place for September 2024 or even September 2025, then you can download a copy of our application from from the school website, or pop into the office for a hard copy.

## **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 we have been reading Easter stories; 'Spots Easter story' and 'Peppa's Easter story' and have been talking about all the different things that happen at Easter time.

We have been continuing to practise our new rhyme of the term 'Mary had a little lamb' and practising number rhymes and have been learning some new Easter songs 'I am a spring chicken'.

The children have also been enjoying exploring in the Easter sensory trays.

In our craft area we have been busy making our Easter cards and Easter crafts.

Outside in the garden, the children have really enjoyed exploring and looking out for any new signs of spring.

## **Acorns Class**

This week the children have been busy learning all about Easter and why we celebrate Easter. The children helped make an Easter garden and have planted cress seeds in it which they will watch grow.

During outdoor learning we have been planting lots of vegetables. We know that the seeds will need water and sun to help them grow. The children are very good at helping to water the vegetable patch!

In maths we have been using scales to weigh different items. We use the mathematical language of 'heavier' and 'lighter' when weighing.

During science we did an experiment to see what material would protect an egg. We put eggs in bags and filled them with different materials. We then went outside to drop the bags and observed what would happen. The children thought the bag with the cotton wool in would keep the egg safe, but the bag with the paper in would not. We all enjoyed watching the eggs drop to the ground to find out what would happen!



## Maple and Beech News (Reception)

In phonics we have been reading 2 syllable words such as rooftop, jacket and chicken, as well as revising all phase 2 and 3 tricky words and sounds.

In Literacy we have finished our non-fiction books about the farm adding title pages, blurbs and a contents page.

In maths we have been exploring 3D shapes, describing them using the vocabulary, 'curved surface' or 'flat faces' and practising naming them; cube, cuboid, cylinder, pyramid, sphere. Can you find some examples of these at home and see you if can say the correct name?

The children were all superbly behaved at the farm, despite the drizzly weather and the mud! They saw cows, sheep and chickens. They also went on a tractor trailer ride, compared old and new tractors, made butter and had a go at grinding wheat into flour. Thank you to all the parent helpers!

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week have we been preparing for our Easter Assembly on Wednesday. We can't wait to show you what we have been working hard on for the last few weeks. Please continue to practise your lines at home, especially saying them loudly and clearly.

The children have been enjoying visiting the library each with Mrs Marshall to return their own book and choose a new book of interest, as well as hear a story. Please can you bring your book every Wednesday to swap it for a new one. If you are unsure which book you have borrowed then please feel free to ask us and we can check on the system for you.

In D.T we have continued making our cars from recycled cardboard boxes and bottles. We added wheels and decoration this week. Finally, we gave them a test drive with a toy animal to make sure they worked. The children have worked very hard on their vehicle creations - well done!

## Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

The last full week of this half term is complete! The children in Year 2 are continuing to work hard as always and are making their teachers proud!

In English we have been drafting our fact files and have created our own plants to write about. It has been amazing to see the incredible imagination of all the children coming up with their own plants with all sorts of different properties. Drafting our fact files has also enabled us to recap on all the features we need to include in our writing and it has been a great opportunity for us to edit our own work - which is an important Year 2 skill!

In Maths this week we have focussed on division. We have learnt two types of division - grouping and sharing. We have had some great practical lessons where we have been finding lots of different objects around the classroom and outside to help support our grouping or sharing division problems.

In Geography this whole half term, we have been learning about a village called Kampong Ayer. We have been working on comparing the village to our village of Burghfield. We have learnt a range of differences and similarities, and this week's focus was all about transport. The children loved completing a survey on each other about how we travel to school and we then compared our results to that of people in Kampong Ayer. Our most popular modes of transport were walking and by car in Burghfield - in comparison to by boat and walking in Kampong Ayer.

Reminder that all children need to have the correct PE kits and outdoor learning gear in school throughout the week please as Year 2 have PE on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. It's a lot easier to bring in on a Monday and keep it in all week in case of any unforeseen changes to the timetable. Thank you!



We've been colouring Easter pictures and starting to make our Easter nests to take home next week. Reception shared their news about their farm trip with everyone.

**Friend**



**Dinner Star**



**Playtime**



# Whole School Stars

## Star of the Week



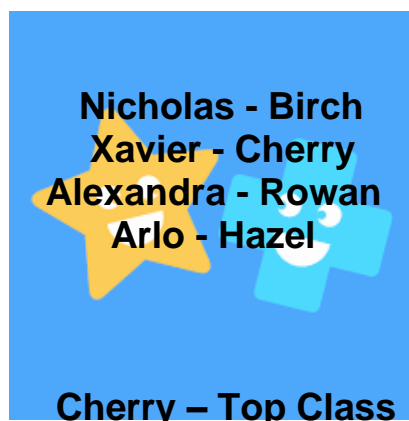
## Friendship Star



## Playtime Star



## Top Maths Doodlers



## 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.

