



Friday 7th March 2025

# Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

## Federation News - Message from Mrs Rose

Dear Parents/Carers,

We had a truly wonderful week, filled with excitement and a love of reading as we celebrated World Book Day! It was delightful to hear the children enthusiastically discussing their costume ideas and favourite characters in the lead-up to Thursday.

Both assemblies were brimming with excitement, and it was heartwarming to see our values of teamwork and kindness on display as children praised one another during the year group parades. The infants proudly showcased their book settings in the hall, allowing all children to explore and appreciate their creativity. When asked, all of the children expressed how much they thoroughly enjoyed the classroom activities linked to their favourite books and characters.

Adding to the fun, staff also came in disguise as book characters, much to the delight of the children! It was wonderful to see the whole school community embracing the joy of reading together.

In addition, Year 5 and Year 6 participated in the National Literacy Trust's Footy & Booky Quiz, adding an extra layer of fun to the celebrations. Throughout the school, pupils also had the opportunity to listen to stories read by different adults—a magical experience for all. Keep an eye out for our World Book Day photos in the Newbury Weekly News!

A true love of reading was felt across both schools, and we are so proud of the enthusiasm and engagement from our pupils.

Looking ahead, next week we are excited to celebrate Science Week, culminating in National Math's Day on Friday. We can't wait for another fantastic week of learning and discovery!

**Click below for your newsletter**

**[Mrs Bland's News](#)**

**[Garland News](#)**

Burghfield Common Federation

## OUR VISION

*Community, Curiosity,  
Creativity and Challenge*

*Discovering every child's sparkle and shining a light on their brilliance...*



MRS BLAND'S INFANT  
AND GARLAND  
JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Newsletter



## Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News

Lots of exciting events happened this week, particularly as we embraced our love of books by celebrating World Book Day.

We were blown away by the children and staff's creativity shown during the annual World Book Day Parade, and the children were captivated by the story telling sessions that followed. Don't forget to look out for the school photo in the Newbury Weekly on Thursday 13th March.

As we enter Lent it is a time to focus on reflection, kindness and growth and these can be seen in our value of Respect and Good Manners - caring for one another and valuing difference. These values were again highlighted during our recent Ofsted Inspection. The Inspectors commented on how the children demonstrated maturity in discussing important topics such as diversity, respect, and inclusion. They went on to praise the pupils' behaviour, noting that they were "*remarkably courteous and follow instructions with thought and great consideration.*"

### Dates for your diary

- w/c 10/03/25 Cherry Class lunches
- 11/03/25 Beech Class visit - Rushall Farm
- w/c 17/03/25 Birch Class lunches
- w/c 24/03/25 Beech Class lunches
- 25/03/25 Parent Consultation Evening
- 27/03/25 Parent Consultation Evening

### Quote of the Week

*"The more that you read,  
the more things you will  
know. The more that you  
learn, the more places  
you'll go."  
-Dr Seuss*

# School Stars

Acorns - Miley  
Beech - Lucas  
Birch - Murphy  
Cherry - Rocco  
Hazel - Lacey  
Rowan - Nicolas

## Star of the Week

Acorns - Kairo  
Beech - Reggie  
Birch - Freyja  
Cherry - Austin  
Hazel - Hunter  
Rowan - Ava

## Friendship Star



Acorns - Joshua  
Beech - Noah  
Birch - Rory  
Cherry - Harry  
Hazel - Theo  
Rowan - Emma

## Playtime Star

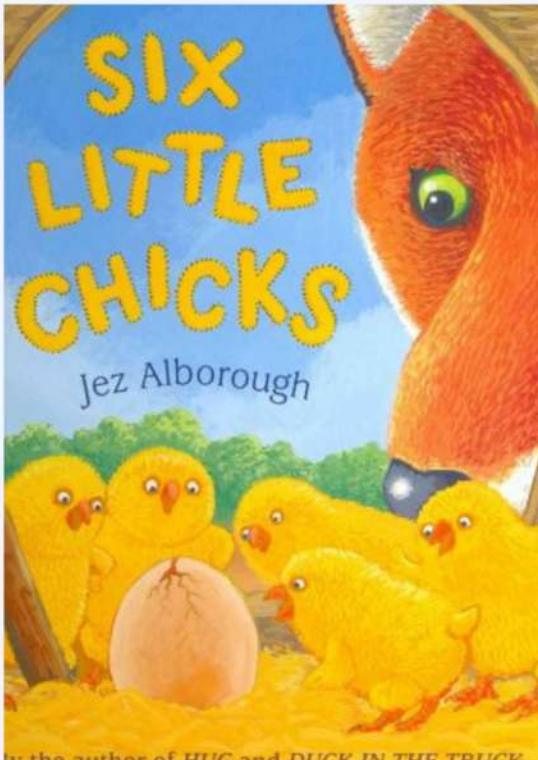
Rory  
Kaziah

## Reading Stars

## Little Acorns



Our topic for the term is 'Can We Explore It?'



What a super adventure for our Little Acorns this week. Our adventure started by reading *Six Little Chicks* by Jez Alborough, then continued as the children re-enacted the tale - they flapped their wings and waddled around, mimicking the chicks' adventures, expressing themselves through movement and dialogue, fostering their confidence and creativity in storytelling. We welcome the warmer weather and have enjoyed reading our books outside in the garden.

The children have all shown how flexible they are when we enjoyed a yoga session inspired by *Tiddler* by Julia Donaldson - ask them to show you some poses! The session not only promoted physical movement but also allowed the children an opportunity to explore storytelling through yoga.

Our adventures didn't stop there, our imagination was ignited when we made hot air balloons and all enjoyed our own great adventure. Where did your balloon take you?

# Acorns



This week we have been enjoying the sun coming out. The children have been helping to plant new seeds in the garden and we have planted carrots, potatoes and lettuce in our vegetable patch. The children know that the seeds will need sun and water to grow, so they have been remembering to water the seeds once a day. We talked about how giving them too much water is not healthy for the seeds.

Our book this week was the non-fiction text of *From Egg to a Chicken*. We talked about how this book will give us information about eggs and chickens and that we do not need to read the story from start to finish, we can use the contents page to find information. We learnt how a life cycle happens in all things that grow - from seeds, to chickens, to humans. We made our own life cycle pictures to show how the life cycle goes around in a circle and looked at Mrs Tanner's life cycle!!

We had lots of fun with pancakes on Monday and Tuesday; we read stories about pancakes, we pretended to make pancakes, and on Tuesday we tried our very own pancakes.



We all looked fantastic on World Book Day and the children enjoyed lots of book themed activities. We had Year 2 children come to visit us and read us stories. We also visited Year 1 and sat at their tables to listen to stories. In the afternoon the children made us very proud on the walk to the library where we listened to the librarian read a story and got to look at all the books in the library.

# Beech (Reception)



This week in Beech class we have continued our topic of things that grow by planting radishes and getting our raised beds ready. We have also begun to talk about farms, the animals that live there, and the vehicles that we might see next week when we visit Rushall Farm.

In Maths we have been thinking about time – how long it takes us to do certain things; which days of the week certain things happen on; sequencing events from our day.

On Thursday we all enjoyed talking about books, being book characters, drawing our characters, and visiting the library. Thank you to the parents who came with us.

# Birch and Cherry (Year 1)



This week the children have innovated their own stories based on the Indian fairy tale we learnt last week.

In Maths we have been continuing to work with numbers up to 50, finding them on a number line and making sensible estimates as to where numbers would go on blank number lines. They have also been practising counting in tens.

In Outdoor Learning this week we combined our skills as geographers and scientists, measuring the weather using thermometers and anemometers. As well as mapping, using observational drawing and photos, to see what animals are living in our school grounds.

In History we have been looking at videos from the International Space Station, seeing how astronauts do different tasks in space. Please see a link on seesaw for some of our favourite clips.

World Book Day was amazing, we loved reading our books to nursery children, created our own book covers, and enjoyed the whole school parade.



# Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)



It has been lovely to see the sunshine out this week and the children working hard.

World Book Day was a fabulous day full of reading fun! We loved seeing everyone's costumes and hearing all about their favourite books.

In English we began our descriptive narratives. WOW - the children blew us away with the adjectives, verbs, and adverbs that they were coming up with. It was so great to see everyone helping each other with their ideas and then transforming this into a lovely piece of writing. We have worked really hard on our editing skills this week and using our purple pen to make our work even better.

In Maths we have been revising the topics we have covered so far in Year 2. We have been really impressed with what the children can remember, and it has been interesting to see them approach problems in different ways. Our main focus has been on finding missing parts of a number sentence (both addition and subtraction) as well as recapping the comparison symbols.

In Music we had fun learning all about armadillos and baboons. Why don't you ask your child to sing you the song? We enjoyed using the instruments to play along to the reggae style beat.

In RE we were introduced to our new religion of Christianity, and we are learning and recapping all about The Easter Story. We even created our own story maps for it!



# World Book Day at Mrs Bland's





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# Burghfield Common Federation

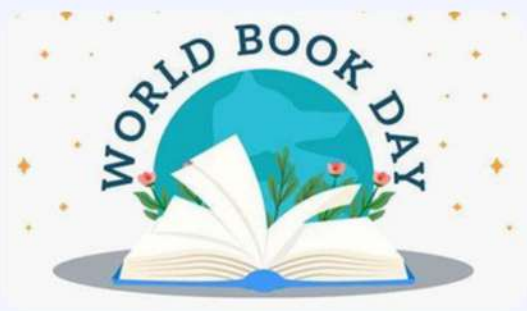
Newsletter



## Garland Junior School News

We have all enjoyed dressing up and joining the fun this week, but did you know that World Book Day is actually a charity event held annually in the United Kingdom and Ireland on the first Thursday in March? On World Book Day, every child in full-time education in the UK and Ireland is provided with a voucher to be spent on books; the event was first celebrated in the United Kingdom in 1998.

The original World Book Day is a global event which takes place on 23rd April but the date was changed to the beginning of March in the UK to avoid St George's Day and the Easter school holidays.



### Dates for your diary

- 12/03/25 MyBank Workshops
- 19/03/25 MyBank Workshops
- 25/03/25 Parent Consultation Evening
- 27/03/25 Parent Consultation Evening
- 27/03/25 Choir performing at The Hexagon

### Quote of the Week

*"A book is a dream that you hold in your hand."*

# School Awards

## Values Certificate

Alexandra L  
Joshua M  
Olivia K  
Hanna R  
Grace D  
Evelyn B  
Sam O  
Alice L

## Reading Stars

Cathy P  
Isabella P  
Charlotte B  
Bluebell C  
Bella-Rose H  
Tailan E  
Josh M  
Archie M

## WOW Award

Youssef S  
Charlie D  
Jan R  
Scarlett H  
Samuel D  
Lydia P

## Top Doodlers - 5B

Viennamarie B  
Daniel M  
Charlie W  
Noah H  
Rose C  
Katerina H



Last week Garland school choir attended their final rehearsal for the 2025 Junior Music Festival.

The choir have been learning 16 songs, all linked to this year's theme: *A Night at the Movies*.

There are now only 3 weeks until our concert at The Hexagon, and choir members are busy memorising the words.

Tickets are still available from The Hexagon Box Office, if you'd like to come along. Please note, our concert is on Thursday 27th March at 7pm. We'd love to see lots of familiar faces in the audience!



## Franklin and Grey-Thompson (Year 3)

On Monday we started writing our persuasive letters to Plop; it was lovely to see the exciting vocabulary the children were using, and their perseverance when writing a long piece.

In Maths the children have been consolidating their knowledge of fractions and have been practising counting forwards and backwards in fractions.

In History we learnt about the Celtic warrior Boudica, and even designed our own Celtic shields in Art. We were also lucky enough to handle real Roman artefacts from Reading Museum.

In PE, the children demonstrated brilliant teamwork in both netball and gymnastics.

Thursday was World Book Day and the children enjoyed parading their costumes around in assembly. We also took part in a BBC Live lesson with schools from across the country, teaching children to ignite their imagination.

However, the highlight of the week has been watching our cress seeds grow. The children planted them in science last Friday and have been monitoring them ever since. It has been a valuable learning experience, investigating what plants need to grow and thrive.



## Edwards and Hussain (Year 4)

This week in Year 4 has been packed with excitement and creativity! The children have thoroughly enjoyed writing the start of a journalistic report about the first Viking raid in Britain, putting their History knowledge to good use.

In Maths, they've been busy converting mixed and improper fractions, showing off their skills brilliantly.

Science has been equally captivating as they've begun to understand the process of evaporation, and even set up an experiment to observe water evaporating—how cool is that?

Our Music sessions have seen us develop our knowledge of percussion instruments in the orchestra.

Dressing up as characters from the books of Dick King-Smith, Dav Pilkey, and Adam Blade brought a delightful touch of fun to our week during World Book Day!

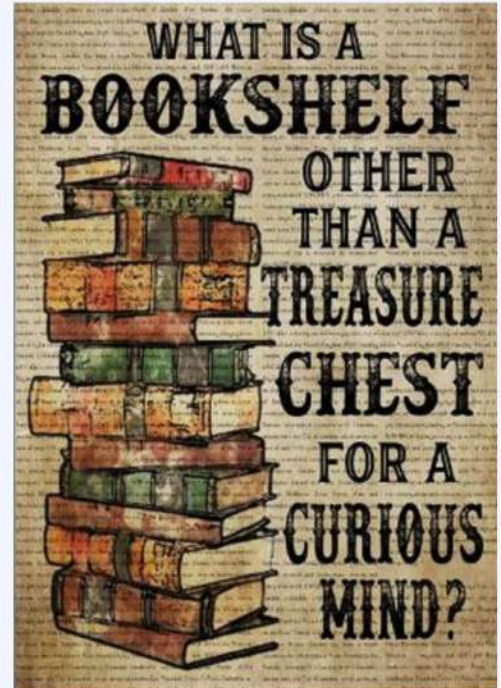


# Brunel and Zephaniah (Year 5)

Year 5 was transformed into a world of adventure, mischief, and, well... dragons! Characters leapt straight from the pages and into our corridors—Toothless, Greg, Rodrick, and Hiccup all made an appearance. We're happy to report that all dragons are now (mostly) house-trained and Rodrick from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* was in school, but he refused to confirm whether he actually read the book he came from. Suspicious...

Meanwhile, in English, our budding authors have been hard at work planning their own gripping stories based on *Street Child*. They've been mastering the art of 'SHOW don't TELL', bringing their characters and settings to life with vivid descriptions. The excitement is building as they get ready to put pen to paper next week—stay tuned for some incredible storytelling!

A huge well done to everyone who dressed up and got involved in World Book Day. We can officially confirm that books are, in fact, better than treasure (though we're still waiting for a dragon's opinion on this).



# Parks and Wiltshire (Year 6)

Year 6 staff would like to say a massive well done to each and every Year 6 pupil this week!!

The children have smashed the practice SATs and shown real perseverance all the way, completing SPaG, Reading, Arithmetic, and Reasoning papers!

In Science, we have been looking at how animals adapt to their environment – the leaf tailed gecko is the master of disguise and can even minimise its shadow to avoid predators! See if you can spot it on the photo below!

For World Book Day, we had a whole host of characters arrive at school! We explored different kinds of reading through 'Reading Bingo', as well as using our Computing time to create quizzes based on our morning online session.



# World Book Day at Garland



**Have a lovely, relaxing weekend, from us all at the Burghfield Common Federation!**

# Dates for your Diary

New dates added in light blue.

<b>March</b>	Monday 10th - Friday 14th	Lunchtime	Cherry Class - Share lunch with your child
	Tuesday 11th	All Day	Beech Class - Visit to Rushall Farm
	Wednesday 12th	All Day	MyBnk Financial Workshops - Years 5 and 6
	Monday 17th - Friday 21st	Lunchtime	Birch Class - Share lunch with your child
	Wednesday 19th	All Day	MyBnk Financial Workshops - Years 5 and 6
	Monday 24th - Friday 28th	Lunchtime	Beech Class - Share lunch with your child
	Tuesday 25th	3:30 - 6:00pm	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 27th	3:30 - 6:00pm	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 27th	From 12:00	Garland Choir performing at The Hexagon
	Friday 28th	9:30am	Hazel Class - Class Assembly
<b>April</b>	Tuesday 1st	9:30am	Year 1 Easter Assembly - all Year 1 parents welcome
	Thursday 3rd	All Day	Year 5 - Ancient Egyptian Day
	Friday 4th	All Day	Crazy Hair Day - details to follow!
<b>7th - 21st April - EASTER HOLIDAY</b>			
<b>April</b>	Tuesday 22nd		Children return to school
	Wednesday 23rd	All Day	Year 4 - Ufton Court Viking Day