



Friday 14th March 2025

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Federation News - Message from Mrs Rose

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, along with assemblies about British Science Week and International Maths day, we have talked about our value of Kindness.

We thought about what it looks like when we carry out acts of kindness and how it makes us feel when we are shown kind acts. KS2 have been given tokens to award to children showing kind acts.

We are committed to fostering a culture of kindness in both schools. We want every child to understand that kindness is a choice—one that they have the power to make in their daily interactions. Choosing kindness not only benefits those around them but also enhances their own well-being, and contributes to a positive school environment. When children practice kindness, they help create a more supportive and inclusive community, both within the school and beyond.

“It takes courage to be kind.” Maya Angelou

Next week, we will be wearing an item of red clothing with our school uniform to celebrate Red Nose Day in exchange for a donation to the charity.

We would like to remind parents that the car parks at both schools are for staff use ONLY. The exception to this is parents who have a Blue Badge. If you have a Blue Badge and would like to access the school car parks, please let the relevant office know so we can arrange for the gate to be opened for you.

Many thanks for your understanding.

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



Friday 14th March 2025

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News

We were thrilled to celebrate British Science Week this week, which links with our school value of perseverance - learning with confidence and without fear of failure.

During our science lessons we actively encourage pupils to ask questions and think critically, and this can sometimes lead to unexpected results.

It is important to remember that every great discovery is built on the lessons we learn from our mistakes.

We believe that Science can also foster curiosity and creativity.

Everyone has been captivated with our assemblies dedicated to British Science Week, particularly Wednesday's assembly, which was led by our Eco Council, thank you Eco Team!



Thank you, Reggie, for showing us the football trophy that you won.

Dates for your diary

- 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

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!"

School Stars

Acorns - Rosie N
Beech - Lilly
Birch - Zenaya
Cherry - Gage
Hazel - EJ
Rowan - Azreya

Star of the Week

Acorns - Gianna
Beech - Jimmy
Birch - Seren
Cherry - Maria
Hazel - Angel
Rowan - James

Friendship Star



Acorns - Caleb M
Beech - Skyla
Birch - Marley D
Cherry - Lucas D
Hazel - Sophie
Rowan - Alanis

Playtime Star

Ruby
Zachary

Reading Stars

Little Acorns



Our topic for the term is 'Can We Explore It?', and we have been continuing to learn our rhyme of the term which is *Five Little Monkeys*.

This week in Little Acorns we have been reading different non-fiction books about all the different environments where we can explore, e.g. the ocean, jungle, desert, and space.

During our carpet times we have been talking about these different places, which is our favourite place to go and explore, what they would look like, and the different things that we could find when exploring.

The children have loved using the doctor's kits and pretending to be doctors and nurses to look after their babies and each other in the doctor's role play area.

At the craft table this week the children have been enjoying decorating their own hot air balloons and have each described where they would love to go and explore. These will be displayed on our topic board this term.

In the outside area the children have loved having the bikes and scooters out, and have really enjoyed riding them around the garden. They have also loved building with the large construction bricks in the construction area.

Acorns



This week in Acorns we have been learning the story of *Rosie's Walk*. We learnt what a mill was and how the mill changes the grains to flour. We recreated the story in our small world tray and we sequenced the story using picture cards and retelling the story ourselves.

In Science we made our own bread using a bread mix and water. It was lovely for the children to see the ingredients change as we mixed, and then watch the dough rise as the bread was proving. The nursery had a lovely smell while the bread was baking. We enjoyed tasting our bread with some jam or butter as an extra treat!

In Outdoor Learning we have planted carrots, lettuce, and potatoes. We also planted some herbs to create a sensory area near our mud kitchen, and for us to use in our mud pies.

In more Science, this week we observed our eggs in different drinks. We discovered that the milk and water kept the egg shell clean but the tea and coffee made the egg shell brown. This highlighted the importance of brushing our teeth twice a day.

We are very excited to be looking after caterpillars this term. We have been sent five tiny caterpillars and we will be keeping a close eye on them to watch their life cycle as it happens... keep an eye on Seesaw!



Outdoor Learning



Tiny caterpillars

Beech (Reception)



This week Beech class visited Rushall farm. We learned about the importance of bees for pollination, how the food chain works (with a game where we were blue tits trying to avoid sparrow hawks), we searched the woods for different colours, enjoyed feeding the chickens, and a very bumpy tractor ride!

Back at school we have been using junk materials to try to make our own farm vehicles, learning how to attach the wheels using tape, glue, and string.

We have been using our observational skills to draw tulips and sunflowers. We have been using our Maths skills to see how tall our bean plants have grown.

We have also been learning about the celebration of Easter, tasting yummy hot cross buns.

Birch and Cherry

(Year 1)



This week the children have completed quizzes in Reading and Maths. We were very proud of how they applied their learning and showed great resilience when completing them; these will help us know what they have remembered and what we need to learn next. You may have heard the children humming some of the new Easter songs that we are learning for our Easter play - we are impressed how quickly they have learnt these. We have also started to practise lines and where we need to be in the hall.

In Outdoor Learning we made habitats for small world animals, did some pond dipping, and worked as team to move new logs into the log circle.

In Art the children have been exploring the work of Albrecht Durer, and have sketched and painted hares using watercolours to pick out different textures.



Hazel and Rowan

(Year 2)

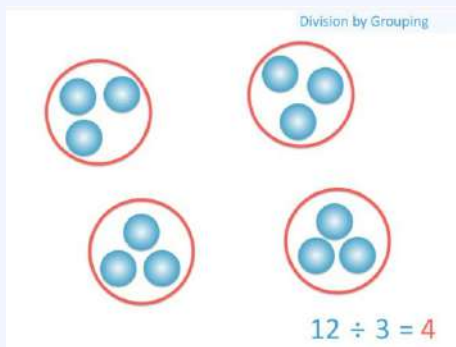
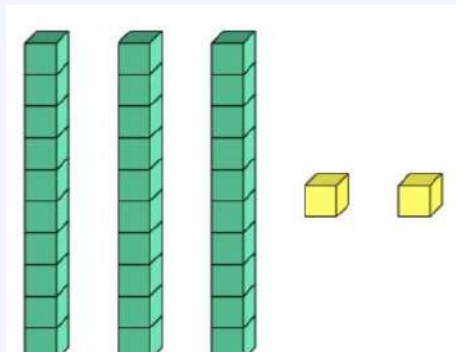


In English this week we have been focusing on our comprehension skills. We have been remembering those key steps to help us answer a question based on a text. We have been reading the questions before we read the text so that we know what to look out for, circling the key words in the questions to help us scan the text quicker and, of course, we have been practicing reading like smooth snakes instead of robots! I wonder if you could ask your child a question about their book next time you read with them?

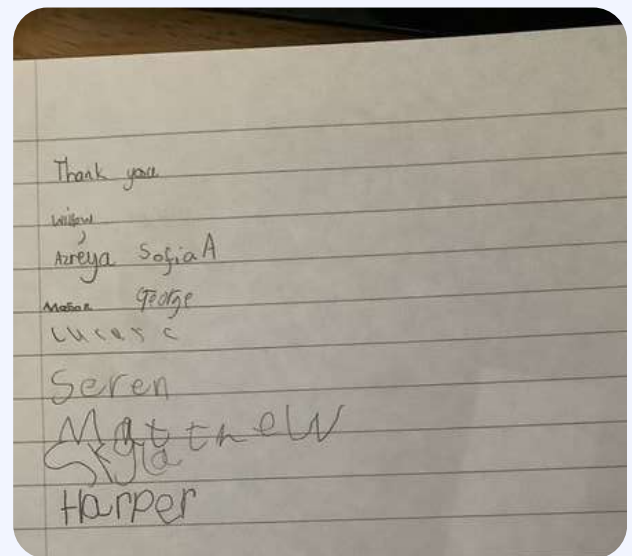
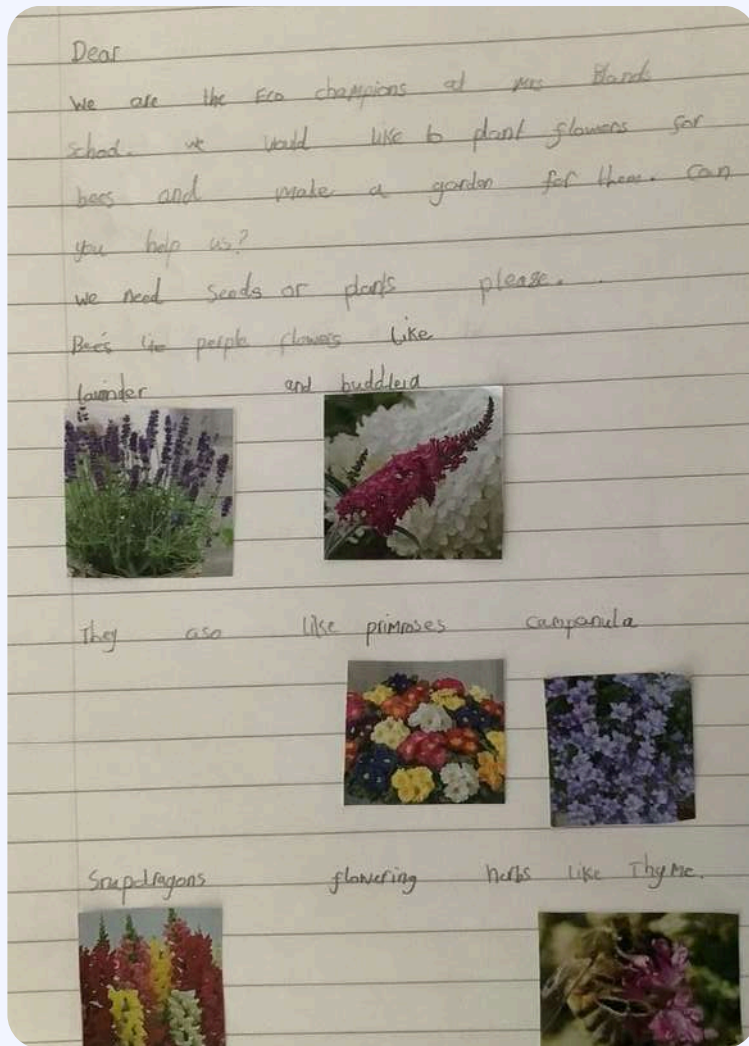
In Maths we have been revising topics from throughout the year so far, and looking at the most efficient ways of answering different types of questions. We have looked at addition and subtraction and practiced drawing our dienes. We have also revised multiplication and division by grouping. The children have worked so hard on this, and we are so proud of them remembering all the different methods to help them answer both word and number problems!

In RE this week, we have continued with the Easter Story, but we have delved deeper into looking at representation around Easter. We looked at the Easter Egg being a symbol of the resurrection, and how an egg represents new life. We also looked at hot cross buns and how every part of the bun has a different representation from the Easter Story.

Exciting library news for Year 2! The children are now borrowing books from our Year 2 library. Please can you ensure that they are returned to school every Friday - regardless of whether the book is finished - so that it can be scanned for re-loan. This will help to keep track of the books each week.



Eco Champions



Eco Champions have sent this letter to local garden centres asking for seeds and plants to help us create a wild flower area to encourage bees and butterflies as part of our eco code.



At Mrs Bland's Infants and Nursery school we save nature and our world by...



Putting Rubbish in the bin.
"Reduce, Reuse and Recycle"
Saving energy - Turning off lights
Planting and taking care of flowers so we can save the bees.



Eco code

Would you have seeds or plants that you'd like to donate, too?

Donations can be left at the school office, or your child can pass them to the Eco Champion in their class.

Many thanks.



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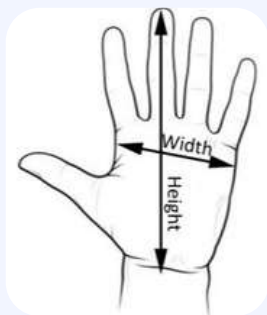
Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Garland Junior School News

This week we have been enjoying British Science Week which is an annual celebration that inspires creativity and curiosity in students. This year, the theme is "Change and Adapt", encouraging everyone to explore how living beings, and the environment, evolve and respond to new challenges.



All our children have been busy investigating hand size. They've worked collaboratively to collect and present data, which Year 6 have interpreted and will showcase in an assembly next week. Additionally, we have launched an exciting Science competition - check your Parent Mail for more details on how to get involved!

On Friday, we celebrated the International Day of Mathematics. In class, the children had a go at some Maths activities in different areas of the curriculum, such as PE, Art and English.

To help us mark the day, we also invited the children to 'accessorise' with a Maths theme. Staff and pupils who wished to, added some numbers or shapes to their uniform or added a hair accessory which added a bit of fun to the day.



Dates for your diary

- 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

“Every success story is a tale of constant adaption, revision and change.”

School Awards

Values Certificate

*Dennis T
Eli K
Ruby D-D
Annie H
Ava U
Leo C
Henry P
Alfie H*

Reading Stars

*Olivia L
Joshua M
Jan R
Isaac R
Chloe A
Joey S
Ava M
Era S*

WOW Award

*Sheerie C
Tristan D
Dougie T
Maisie F
Isla M
Bradley H
Ellie M
Layla C*

Top Doodlers - 5Z

*Madison H
Isabella P
Alex M
Bluebell C
Ava U
Tailan E
Maisie B
Jason F*

Red Nose Day

Just a reminder that next Friday (21st March) is Red Nose Day.

This year to raise money, we would like your child to wear a RED item of clothing, accessory, or even a red nose!

To participate, we are asking you to make a minimum £1 donation to Comic Relief which will need to be brought in to your child's teacher on the Friday.



Eco Council

Well done to our newly elected Eco Council.

Our councillors are:

Callie, Kelyn, Tristan and Immy
Hanna, Bethany, Dougie and Elliott
Joey, Alejandro, Isabelle and Esme F
Alice, Jason, Owen and Jack.

Food Bank Donations

The donations from our permanent collection point, which were picked up by the Food Bank last Friday, have been weighed and came to 13.4kgs. This is the equivalent of another 28 meals for local residents who are currently having a very difficult time. The Food Bank would like to thank you so much for your support.

Please remember the collection point is in the reception area at Garland, accepting donations all year round.

Franklin and Grey-Thompson (Year 3)

In Year 3 this week we have been learning all about owls and falcons, ready to write our fact files on Monday.

In Maths we started our new topic of mass and capacity, and the children have enjoyed weighing their belongings to work out the mass in grams and kilograms.

During Tuesday PE we looked at using Gymnastics apparatus, and on Thursday the children learned some basketball skills with coach Danny.

Our History and Art this term are all about our topic of the Romans, and in Art we made our own Celtic swords ready to battle at the end of term.

In RE the children have been learning about the topic question 'What makes Good Friday good?', and we looked at the Easter story.

As this week is National Science Week, the children all took part in a whole school experiment to see if older children have larger hands.



Friday was International Maths Day, so the children were exploring this year's theme – Maths Through Art. We looked at *Elma the Elephant* and worked out her fractions of colours, explored how we can represent numbers through shape and colour, and ended the day with a scavenger hunt around the entire school.

Edwards and Hussain (Year 4)



This week in Year 4 has been packed with excitement and creativity! We have been celebrating International Science Week with a whole school investigation 'Do Older Children Have Larger Hands?' We recorded our results in a bar chart and are looking forward to seeing if our predictions were correct!

We also celebrated International Day of Mathematics on Friday this week. We have enjoyed many activities using Maths through art, movement, stories and open-ended investigations. We have used our knowledge of number, multiplication, fractions and shape!

We have been writing our own journalistic reports in English, using all of our knowledge about the Viking invasion of Lindisfarne Priory. We have recounted the event and practised using direct speech for quotes from the Vikings themselves.

In Design and Technology, we have used our success criteria and created our final design for our coin purses that we will be making this term.



Brunel and Zephaniah (Year 5)

This past week has been both engaging and enlightening for our students. In our reading sessions, the children have become deeply engrossed in *Zlata's Diary*, a poignant account that brings to light the harrowing impact of war on Zlata, her family, and her friends in Sarajevo. The emotional weight of her experiences has spurred insightful discussions among the pupils, fostering empathy and understanding.

In writing, we have commenced crafting our own narratives inspired by *Street Child*. The students are reflecting on the challenging journey faced by Jim's sisters after being separated from him, allowing them to explore themes of resilience and hope.

Maths has seen an expansion of our understanding of fractions and decimals. Pupils have learnt how to represent fractions as decimal numbers. Additionally, they thoroughly enjoyed our second financial workshop with Suzy from MyBnk, where they explored effective budgeting strategies for their needs versus their wants.

As part of the whole school Science Week, students collaborated on an investigation into hand sizes, focusing on data representation. They also continued their unit on materials, specifically studying the effects of oxidation on apples.

In gymnastics, the children showcased their impressive skills in inverted movements, culminating in the creation of intricate sequences. We concluded the week by celebrating the International Day of Mathematics, where pupils enthusiastically tackled a range of cross-curricular maths activities.

It has been a truly enriching week for our students.



We used water, vinegar and lemon juice to see if these made any difference to oxidation

Parks and Wiltshire (Year 6)

Another week has whizzed by with both a Science and Maths Day!

At the beginning of the week in Science, Year 6 were intrigued to find out how the Peppered Moth had enabled scientists to observe natural selection and evolution. During The Industrial Revolution, trees became covered in soot, meaning that the darker species now had better survival rates than their lighter counterparts!



We have had our second session with MyBNK this week, looking at the different necessary costs that they will face as adults. They were surprised by quite how high the cost of living really is! Children took part in an engaging activity, organising different expenses into 'needs' and 'wants'.

We are budding authors in English, creating tension in pieces detailing Theseus' journey through the labyrinth, while searching for the Minotaur. We have been thrilled to see such varied descriptive writing, with children working hard to expand their vocabulary.

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

Dates for your Diary

New dates added in light blue.

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| March | 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 |
| April | 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! |
| 7th - 21st April - EASTER HOLIDAY | | | |
| April | Tuesday 22nd | | Children return to school |
| | Wednesday 23rd | All Day | Year 4 - Ufton Court Viking Day |