

Newsletter

27th November 2020

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Bonnet Parade
Class Christmas Lunch and
parties

Friday 18th December

School finishes:

Maple, Birch, Rowan - 1.20pm - 1.30pm

Beech, Cherry, Hazel - 1.30pm -1.40pm

Nursery 1.30pm

Monday 4th January 2021
8.50am School Re-opens

Tuesday 12th January 2021
Chinese New Year Assembly

Thursday 14th January 2021
6.00pm Finance Governing
Body

Friday 15th January 2021
Year 2 SATs Parents Meeting

Friday 12th February 2021
3.30pm School Finishes



School News

Christmas is now only 27 days away...

We have sent out a separate letter covering Christmas plans in school and have had to adapt how we normally celebrate the build up to Christmas, including our usual nativity production, due to Covid.

Several parents have contacted me to say they would like to help others who may be finding Christmas a financial struggle this year. For some families being furloughed or being made redundant, due to Covid, have placed financial pressures on families where incomes have always been secure.

If you would like to donate to a community led initiative which gives presents and Christmas food hampers to local families, please do email the office and we can put you in touch with the organisers.

For those of you who may be struggling this Christmas, please do speak to either myself or Mrs Hodson and we can discreetly and confidentially arrange for you to receive a hamper and a gift for your children.



PTA Raffle

We're having a raffle!

Mrs Blands Christmas Fayre is typically our largest fundraiser of the year. Whilst we obviously can't hold the event in person we're holding a virtual raffle for parents of Mrs Blands.

You'll now see an option in your parent mail shop for raffle tickets! £5 gets you 5 tickets.

Go to Payments -> Shop -> Mrs Blands PTA's Virtual Raffle
Purchasing is now open, closing 6pm Friday 4th December, with winners drawn on Sunday 6th December.

Further details in the attached documents, and on the PTA Facebook page.

Children in Need

We are so pleased to announce that we raised £203.11.
What a fantastic effort by everyone.

Information for Parents

Parents can enjoy a free 1 month Kids Pass
through: <https://www.kidspass.co.uk/redeem-code/PARENT30>

Berkshire Maestros have some courses running, please see the attached leaflet

West Berkshire Council are looking for Foster Carers, please see the attached leaflet.

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

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 –

Loic Manneville, Claire Oakes, Ben Ash, Laura Hooke

This week in Little Acorns we have been enjoying weighing different items around our room- using scales. We have been learning if objects are 'heavy or light'- we have also been using maths words to decide if objects are big or small. We have been practicing following instructions such as 'please can I have one more?' Why not see if your little one can follow that instruction this week?

Outside we have been learning how to take turns and share with our friends. We have had the hammering station in the tuff tray and lots of focused hammering has been taking place!

As the weather turns cold we do advise that your child has a warm coat and hat as we still venture into the garden each day. Thank you.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

This week we have enjoyed re-enacting the Gruffalo story in PE, and making log pile houses for the snake (from the Gruffalo story) during Outdoor learning.

This week we have enjoyed the 'Gruffalo' story, and made story maps and created our own Gruffalos and owls! We have been learning lots in our small colour groups for phonics and maths.

Next week we will continue to learn from the 'Gruffalo's Child' story. We have been practising hearing the 1st sound of a word with 'I Spy' type games, and learning about the s/a/t/p/i/n/m/d/g/o letter sounds - see if your child can sing along to these phonics songs at home <https://vimeo.com/76605648> and play these phonics games, listening out for different animal sounds

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1/welcome-to-the-zoo>

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week in Reception, we have continued reading the Nativity story, the children have been using small world people to retell what happened. We have enjoyed learning the words and actions to 'Away in a manger'. The children sound lovely when they sing together. We also had a special assembly all about Advent and learnt the meaning of the Christingle. Every child made their own Christingle and the children could confidently explain the different symbols. It has been lovely to hear the children discussing a range of festivals this half term and exploring the similarities and differences. We have learned about Eid, Chanukah and Advent, as well as remembering facts from Diwali and Bonfire Night.

In outdoor learning this week we continued to practise our skipping, hammered nails into wood and were amazed when a 'special' pine cone turned the flame in our fire blue!

In PE, the children were learning to play team games in the hall with Danny as it was too wet outside this week. We are also continuing to enjoy exploring a range of different dances during indoor PE. Please make sure all children have socks and plimsolls in their PE kits every week.

Over the next few weeks, all children will be writing a letter which we will be posting to Santa. We would be very grateful if you could provide a stamped envelope so the children can write their home address on it (with help of course!) so Santa can write a reply to your child. This will help ensure your child receives their letter from Santa before Christmas day.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

Just in time for the wet weather Year 1 have been investigating which materials make a good waterproof in science. They have been honing their skills in maths by using a number line to help with their addition. And exploring who 'Beegu' is, looking at her character and how she is feeling.

Please can you ensure that your child has PE shorts and tracksuit and spare socks, as the children are doing outdoor PE when the weather permits?

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week, Year 2 have been learning to use different conjunctions in their work in order to write more extended sentences. They have also thoroughly enjoyed learning about John Lennon, answered comprehension questions about his life, and worked hard on writing their own biographies about him. Most of the children have been trying really hard to use resources to help improve their spellings, and there has been a great improvement in their handwriting.

In maths, both classes have started learning about repeated addition, how to represent this in different ways, and the difference between equal and unequal. They have also learnt how repeated addition and multiplication are linked. Some of the children are already developing a sound knowledge of the multiplication facts for the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables (as well as some of the other times tables), and have been applying these to solve problems.

Some of the other things that the children have learnt about are what the flags of the UK are, how to conduct a fair test in Science, and are trying hard to learn to play a simple tune on the glockenspiel.

The children are really enjoying the musical theme in outdoor learning, and are still tapping rhythms on everything, using pairs of sticks found outside, making stick xylophones and performing on their 'drum-kits' using found materials like logs and sticks.

Bumblebees News

This week in Bumblebees reception children have been starting to make Christmas decorations ready for the tree to be put up.

Bumblebees Year 1 children have enjoyed painting their own pictures with paint pallets. They have also been thinking of Christmas by making decorations to decorate the room.

Bumblebees Year 2 children have been trying very hard to complete some logic based challenges! The games are quite tricky but Year 2 showed their persistence to work the puzzles out. Year 2 also started making Christmas decorations.

Star of the Week



Friendship Star



Playtime Star



Covid News

We are seeing an increase in positive cases nationally, so to continue to keep the school community safe could all parents, who are not exempt, please wear masks whilst dropping off and collecting your children at school.

If you or your child are showing Coronavirus symptoms and have a Covid test, the whole family bubble must isolate until the test result is received back. Please do not come into school if you or your children are showing any of the symptoms.

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, thetrainline 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 Blands is now registered with Amazon's 'smile' charity programme!

If you select Mrs Bland's as your selected charity, 0.5% of eligible spend will go straight back to the PTA.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1050019-0>