

## Newsletter 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### Dates for your diary

**15th-19th February**  
Half term break

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**  
9.00am New school term starts

Proposed end to Lockdown  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Latest guidance is that schools will be closed until at least March 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will be send out a Parentmail as soon as we have details of full opening.

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

Some ideas for managing stress.

	WHAT YOUR CHILD CAN DO:
OUT OF CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Calm breathing exercises</li><li>• Use visualisation mediation techniques</li></ul>
SCARED OF LOSING CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Body tightening exercises (progressive muscle relaxation)</li><li>• Sigh to become fully present in the moment</li><li>• Practice music therapy</li></ul>
NERVOUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change location / surroundings</li><li>• Use a stress ball / fidget toy</li><li>• Give themselves a 10-second hug to boost their mood</li></ul>
UNSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colour, draw, write, craft, etc.</li><li>• Practice positive self-talk / words of affirmation</li><li>• Exercise</li><li>• Go outside</li></ul>
CALM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Play</li><li>• Hydrate with water</li></ul>

### School News

This half term has certainly been a very strange one...thank you to you all for supporting the school during such difficult times. Have a good break over half term and keep safe!

We have been extremely lucky and been given £1500 funding from two local charities (Bland's Trusts and The Burghfield Charities) which we will using towards new IT equipment. Some of this has been loaned out to help families access remote learning.

### Virtual Pancake Party

St Mary's Church is holding an Virtual Pancake Party for Shrove Tuesday at 5pm. Make you own pancakes, concoct your favourite filling and then join us on Zoom to eat together and celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Please sign up to attend on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-pancake-party-for-shrove-tuesday-tickets-136724934961>

### Half Term Activities

The Corn Exchange are really excited to be launching a special half term Wake Up Shake Up! We'll be running early morning classes online for under 6's and their families.

Join our Early Years and Education Coordinator to start the day with creative play in these 30 minute sessions! Check out the links below for more information and to book:

Monday

Wake Up Shake Up: Dance

<https://cornexchangenew.com/event/wake-up-shake-up-dance>

Tuesday

Wake Up Shake Up: Sing

<https://cornexchangenew.com/event/wake-up-shake-up-sing>

Wednesday

Wake Up Shake Up: Act

<https://cornexchangenew.com/event/wake-up-shake-up-act>

Thursday

Wake Up Shake Up: Make

<https://cornexchangenew.com/event/wake-up-shake-up-make>

## **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 –**

**Loic Manneville, Claire Oakes, Ben Ash, Laura Hooke**

## **Little Acorns Pre-Nursery**

Well done Little Acorns, we have made it to the last week of term. A very big well done to all of you.

This week we have enjoyed learning about the celebration of Chinese New Year. We read the story of Peppa Pig's Chinese New Year, discovering how and why it is celebrated. We also watched a clip from CBeebies and saw some wonderful parades and dancing.

We got creative and made our own Chinese Lanterns, working on our pencil control and scissor work.

This week we also talked about the different types of weather and you helped me decide which weather symbol needed to be displayed on my weather board.

We enjoyed a sing a long together with the nursery rhyme basket too.

Thank you for sending in your photos and videos of you enjoying the Seesaw activities at home.

## **Acorn (Nursery am and pm)**

Well done to all the Acorns children both in school and at home for being so enthusiastic and for trying so hard with all their learning this half term!

This week we have been learning about and exploring how Chinese New Year is celebrated through the eyes of children. We have made Chinese lanterns and dragon models, re-enacted the story of the 12 animals having a race to decide who the New Year would be named after, and had a Chinese restaurant in our role play area! We have also had fun exploring all the ice, freezing toy animals and natural objects in ice, finding out about how the ice melts, and making a small world ice skating rink.

Next half term we will be exploring about the theme 'Are Eggs Alive?'

## **Maple and Beech News (Reception)**

This week in Maths we have learnt about 2D and 3D shapes. The children have started to use the properties to describe shapes they have found in their environment, using words like straight, curved, sides, edges and corners.

In Literacy the children have been creating their own monsters using different media, thinking about where they might live, what they might eat and who could defeat them.

In topic we have tried to identify natural and man-made objects in the world around us, talked about safe and unsafe strangers linked to stories and continued to practise our football skills.

We would like to say how proud we are of all the children this term and how they have coped and adapted to remote learning and those that have come into school adapting to the changes in place. We wish you a restful half term and look forward to our new topic 'Things that Grow'.

## **Birch and Cherry (Year 1)**

This week we have been busy writing our stories based on the book, 'Handa's Surprise'. We concentrated on using adjectives for description and tried hard to remember to use full stops and capital letters in the correct places. In maths we have been learning about ordinal numbers.

Despite the cold this week, we have seen some spring flowers beginning to grow at school, and we have looked carefully at the different parts of daffodils. We have been careful not to step on the crocuses which have started to grow in the middle of our outside area! We have made a map of the street, remembering to draw it from an aerial view, and have also continued to practise our football skills.

all about 'Animals' next half term.

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## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in writing, the children have been doing work based around the Chinese story 'The Magic Paintbrush'. They have answered comprehension questions about it, trying hard to write in full sentences, and acted it out. The children have then drawn and labelled their own story maps, then written their own lovely versions of the story, using descriptive language. Some children have also challenged themselves by changing one small detail in the story. It's also been great hearing some of the children reading their stories on Teams this week.

In maths, Year 2 have been learning how to divide by sharing and grouping, both practically and by recording as pictures and division sentences. They have also recapped work on odd and even numbers, and learnt how to divide numbers by 2, 5 and 10.

In history, the children have been recapping what they've learnt about the three nurses, Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell, and compared them, looking for similarities and differences. As Chinese New Year starts this week, they have enjoyed learning some facts about China and Chinese New Year too, as well as creating a messy art display and singing along with Mr Corker on his guitar.

We're very proud of how hard all the children have worked this term, and hope you have an enjoyable half-term break!

### School Star



### Seesaw Star



### Berkshire Maestros Half Term Music Courses

This February half term, we will be running a series of courses for only **£10!** Some of these require an instrument and a bit of musical experience (perfect for those doing In2Music, Play On or have just started lessons), some are for more advanced students, and some are for complete beginners, no experience or instrument needed! Click on the link below to find out more:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/bmaestros/february-half-term-music.html>

## 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, 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 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>

