

### Dates for your diary

#### Consultation Evenings via 'Teams'

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
3.30-6.00pm**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
5.30-8.00pm**

#### **31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

Little Acorns class closed due  
to Staff Training  
Acorns class morning session  
closed due to staff Training

#### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

End of Term &  
Crazy Hair Day  
For £2.00 donation to the PTA

#### **1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

#### **School finishes at 1.15pm**

Maple Class  
Birch Class  
Rowan Class

#### **School finishes at 1.25pm**

Beech Class  
Cherry Class  
Hazel Class

#### **School Finishes at 1.30pm**

Acorns Class

#### **Bumblebee's finish at 4pm**

### School News



Well done everyone, the school raised £306.95 towards Comic relief!

### Crazy Hair Day

Next Thursday, the PTA are fundraising and would like you to have a 'Crazy Hair Day'. See attached flyer for more details.

### Labelling Items

As a school we endeavour to keep individual belongings with the correct child, however we do find it difficult to do this when items are not labelled with your child's name. Please can you help us to reunite children with their belongings by naming all items that you send into school, including coats and shoes.

### Remote Learning

Remote learning will still be taking place for pupils who are isolating due to a family member having Covid or a school bubble isolating due to a case in school. Please advise the school office if your family bubble is isolating at

[remotelearning@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:remotelearning@mrsblands.w-berks.sch.uk)

## **PTA News**

To see what you may have missed out on please visit the PTA on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MrsBlandsPTA>

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**Crazy Hair Day – Make the most of your longer lockdown hair for a £2 donation**

**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**

Spring has sprung in Little Acorns this week and the children have been enjoying the activities set out, such as the plant potting station in the tuff tray. The children have loved scooping up the soil ready to fill their plant pots – then finding a flower of their choosing to finish their creation.

Outside the children loved exploring at the water table making 'flower soup'. Thanks to our beautiful Cherry tree in the garden, we are able to watch the effect spring has on our nursery environment. The children really enjoyed finding bits of blossom that had fallen off the tree in the breeze, they were able to touch and smell the blossom before adding it to the water or 'flower soup'.

Our stories this week have been focused on Easter. The children showed excellent listening skills as Peppa and her friends hunted for their chocolate eggs!

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

Well done to all the children in Nursery who have been playing so well with their old friends and making new friends! This week we have continued to enjoy playing and talking about how we feel about being back in school during circle time. In our 'Are Eggs Alive?' topic we have enjoyed the 'Rosie's Walk' story and enjoyed predicting what would happen next to the fox!

Next week we will be thinking about what we have learned about eggs and also exploring how we celebrate Easter. In phonics we will be blending these sounds together to read words. We will also plan to enjoy some Easter crafts!

Remember that Acorns will only run from 12.30pm on Wednesday, due to staff training, and children need to have had lunch at home beforehand. Please can you make sure all their uniform, coats and water bottles are named as it makes it much easier to find missing items! Thank you.

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

This week, the children have enjoyed learning about plants and growing by exploring what has helped their sunflowers grow and researching what plants need to help them grow healthily. Some of the beans we put into bags have started to sprout roots too. This week we read the story of, 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This has provided many opportunities for the children to discuss the different characters and events. The children have enjoyed acting out the story and creating their own versions of the story within the small world area. We have also discussed how the different characters in the story may be feeling and whether Jack made the right decision. The children have enjoyed using the story as inspiration to build giant beanstalks and create their own castles in the sky using a variety of materials.

In maths, the children have been exploring the numbers 9 and 10. We have been finding ways to represent, order and sort these numbers.

Can you see if you can notice the numbers 9, 10 around your house? Can you find sets of objects?

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

This week has been especially exciting because we have made soup in DT! We learnt how to peel and chop carefully in small groups and worked as a class to prepare all of the vegetables. It was then cooked and we tasted it- delicious!

In English this week we have been reading and writing the story of 'Cinnamon' by Neil Gaiman, a beautiful story set in India about a girl and a fierce tiger! In maths we have worked on capacity and have enjoyed using the jugs in the water tray to fill containers in different ways. We have continued to develop our mapping skills by learning the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world, which is something we will be practising next half term too. In Science we completed an investigation where we had to find different butterflies. Half were brightly coloured and the others were camouflaged, by being painted in different shades of green. Of course we found the camouflaged ones difficult to find because they blended in with their surroundings more. Can you think of any other animals which have camouflage to hide them? We've also been making our own animal music in the style of Camille Saint-Saens, working in a group and playing at different times to imitate an animal's movements.

## Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week in English we've been reading the detail in the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We started the week by acting out some of the story in groups, and have been imagining what we might find in the giant's castle if we were Jack! We've also been focusing on choosing great vocabulary to describe the different characters and settings in the book.

In maths we've been reinforcing our knowledge of addition and subtraction. We've been thinking about what strategies and techniques we can use to help us do different calculations quickly, without the need for manual counting. The children have used resources to help them practice lots of different strategies, including doubling and using their knowledge of number bonds. Some children have also challenged themselves by using the column method to calculate answers using 2 and 3 digit numbers.

We've continued linking our learning to this term's topic, 'The Scented Garden', and have had lots of fun during outdoor learning identifying plants and flowers and thinking about how to improve our outdoor areas. In science, we're continuing with our experiment of planting seeds in different environments to investigate where plants grow best. In art, we looked at the work of Anne Pratt, a botanical illustrator. Ask your child if they can remember what the word 'botanical means'?!

We've also continued to assess the children this week in maths and reading, to give us a better idea of what we need to focus on now we're all back to school. We're looking forward to speaking to many of you during next week's parent consultations, so if you have any questions or worries please feel free to discuss them with us during your meeting.

### Star of the Week



### Friendship Star



### Playtime Star



### Perfect Presentation



## 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>