

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 19th May
Full Governing Board Meeting

Friday 28th May 2021
Last day of Term

Monday 7th June 2021
Summer Term 2 Starts
PTA Spellathon

Friday 9th July 2021
3.15pm Mrs Bland's PTA
Summer Fayre

Friday 16th July 2021
School finishes for Summer

School News

Coronavirus – road map out of lockdown – Step 3

I'm sure you are all looking forward to Monday, when indoor and outdoor rules change. We have been advised by Public Health to continue to be cautious and expect a spike in positive Covid cases as a result of the changes, especially with the new variant. To continue to keep the school community healthy, we will continue with our current risk assessment and would ask that you can support us in the continuation of facemasks when dropping off and collecting children from school. Together, we have all worked so hard to keep classes and the school open that it would be a shame for this to happen at this late stage.

A letter has also gone home today from West Berkshire Council asking **all parents/carers of school aged children to take lateral flow tests twice weekly (3-4 days apart)**. The letter details how to collect the tests. The good news is, the new tests only swab from the nose, and not the throat, so it should be easier to test.

Move Up Day - Friday 25th June

Children in Year 2 will be attending Garland (or their new school) for the day. For those children moving up to Y3 at Garland Juniors, please drop off and collect directly to Garland School. Those children moving on to other schools have made arrangements for a visit day.

Reception and Year 1 children should be dropped off at their normal drop off points and go to their current classroom, where their teachers will register them and take them to visit their new classroom. Pick up from current points.

We will also be welcoming our new children who will be starting Reception in September during the same week.

PTA Summer Fair – 9th July 3.15pm-5.00pm

Thank you for all the bottle donations and rainbow tombola received so far!

We will be holding our Summer Fayre, all being well, outside in the playground. Due to Covid restrictions, fund raising by the PTA has been significantly reduced over the last 18 months, so do note the date in your diary. We will be collecting bottles for the bottle tombola and items for the rainbow tombola, so please do start putting things aside for us.

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 –

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

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

An exciting week in Little Acorns with lots of challenges. This week we were painting with different objects, such as toothbrushes and forks. The children enjoyed seeing how their paintings turned out using these items. In maths, we challenged the children to copy or make their own colour pattern using cubes. We counted how many cubes were used and what colours the children had chosen. Outside we practised our throwing and catching skills using large balls. We continued to develop our balancing skills using the balance beam to travel safely across, which most children can now do independently. The children were thrilled when we discovered a snail in our garden. We all gathered to identify the minibeast by using our flash cards and magnifying glasses. Some children waited quietly until the snail popped out of his shell to say hello! Our song of the week was the Caterpillar song-maybe you could ask them to show you.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

With our topic for this half term exploring 'Why do spiders catch flies?' we have been thinking this week about where we can find spiders and found that they like being in dark places, and the shed and outside sandpit were good places! We have enjoyed checking to see if any minibeasts have arrived in our bug hotel. We have enjoyed the 'Bug Parade' story and have sorted all kinds of insects by size. We have had fun learning the Incy Wincy spider rhyme - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-incy-wincy-spider/zr4yt39>

Next week we will be learning more about insects through the 'Bugliest Bug' book, and minibeasts information books, and exploring the sizes and shapes of mini beasts. In phonics we will be reading rhyming stories and matching pictures of objects that rhyme (words that 'sound the same'). In maths, we will be thinking about positional language by putting insects over/under/next to/in front/behind etc parts of our bug hotels.

Please could you check that your child's water bottle is named as we currently have a lot of similar water bottles and don't want them to get mixed up and for children to drink from the wrong bottle! Remember we have Outdoor Learning every Wednesday and your child can wear their own warm clothes - old clothes are better as we often get muddy! Thank you.

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

In Maths we have been comparing amounts saying who has more, or fewer. Then we started to combine 2 amounts using dots on dice. Later in the week we talked about number bonds to 10, using numicon, tens frames and objects to show how 2 numbers add together to make 10. Some of us have then tried to record these in a number sentence.

In English we have looked at the story Little Red Riding Hood, we have been practising saying sentences about the story – “**The wolf is hiding in the bed.**” - making sure we include **who**, **what they are doing**, **where** they are. We have also followed instructions to make Grandma's cookies for Design Technology and then wrote labels and captions for our pictures. We hope you enjoyed the cookies, the children really enjoyed measuring, mixing, rolling and cutting them out.

In science we have been looking for different insects in our environment and have sorted them into 2 groups. Some children also used Purple Mash to make a chart of which insects we found using the new I pads! Other children have practised logging into Purple Mash and using paint to make pictures as well as writing their names. Other exciting news is that the chicks have hatched in the blackbird nest that we have under Maple's shelter, so we have been very quietly observing the parents flying backwards and forwards with worms and if we are very quiet we can hear them cheeping!

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In English this week we have been continuing to learn about Mary Anning's life and achievements, and moving onto reading the story of 'Stone Girl Bone Girl' which is based upon her life. We have linked this to History, discussing what historical sources are available to give us information about Mary Anning, as there are no photographs or video clips of her. Ask your child why that is!

In maths we have been learning how to double, and also how to divide by sharing equally into groups. The children have enjoyed using practical equipment, such as cubes and counters, to find out the answers.

In DT we have begun to make our felt dinosaur puppets by carefully cutting out the outline. This was not easy! Some of us have begun to sew around the edge using a running stitch, as it is too difficult to do as a whole class! This will continue over the next few weeks and we are looking forward to seeing the end results!

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week, Year 2 have been writing their own stories about minibeasts- we have designed and described our main characters, created our own storyboards and even thought carefully about how problems in stories can be solved! Ask us what happens in our stories!

In maths, we have been working hard on subtraction using practical resources to support us. We have used numicon, tens frames, dienes, number lines, 100 squares and even cubes to help us with more challenging subtraction questions. We have used these methods to help us with problem solving too!

We have continued to hunt for minibeasts in our Outdoor Learning sessions, this week focusing on snails. Rowan class managed to find a total of 9 snails across the school of varying sizes and even watched some snail races! It was very exciting despite the slow speed!

In Science, the children have been continuing to think about the different habitats animal choose and how they can support these microhabitats too. We have begun to think about the different animals that may be available to eat and will look at food chains in more detail next week! We have also been thinking about how to keep ourselves healthy, we talked about how often we should be washing and the different parts of our body that we need to keep clean! We have also thought of the key skills to keep ourselves safe online – ask us if we can tell you the important things to remember!

Star of the Week



Friendship Star



Playtime Star



Perfect Presentation



Covid News

We cases are reducing, new strains of the disease continue to remain highly infectious, 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>