

Dates for your diary

Friday 3rd December

Non school uniform day in return for Christmas Shhhhop



Friday 3rd December

Year 2 SATS Information
9.10am Via Zoom
(details to follow)

Friday 3rd December

Deadline for Beauty and the Beast lunch orders

Monday 6th December

Christmas performance
costume deadline

Friday 8th – 10th December

Christmas Performance. This will be recorded for parents to view.

Tuesday 14th December

Theatre visit, 'Beauty and the Beast' at The Hexagon (whole school excluding Nursery)

Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Jumpers,
Christmas Lunch and Class Parties

Friday 17th December

End of term Whole School
closes at 1.45pm

Wednesday 5th January

Start of Term 3

School News



This week the children have been busy getting ready for our Christmas Production which will be recorded for you all to see. Mrs Sutherland is particularly enjoying hearing some Christmas songs coming from the hall! Letters will be coming home shortly to confirm the part your child will play and any costume requirements. Costumes are due in by December 6th.

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas and the idea of 'giving' we wanted to share with you the details of the charities that we have collected for this term. We have received the grand total from the Poppy Appeal collection. We raised £134.55 in total – well done and thank you for your generosity. We also received a certificate from the West Berkshire Food Bank to confirm that Mrs Bland's collected 194.9 kg of food. This equates to feeding 3 meals a day to 20 people for a week. An amazing effort and something to be proud of.

It has certainly started to get much colder! Please can we ask you to all ensure that your child has a hat and gloves and a warm coat as we do try to go out for fresh air as much as possible.

Once again, we have had some reports of those pesky visitors – head lice. We would like to ask you all to check and treat your child's hair over the weekend so we can try and prevent the spread any further. Thank you in advance.

PTA News

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

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

PTA AGM Dates - TBC

Get in Touch via –

mrsblandspta@gmail.com

or catch someone on the playground –

**Ben Ash, Laura Hooke,
Sian Killen, Charmaine
Kelly**

**Please see the
flyers attached
for the PTA
events for
Christmas this
year!**

Little Acorns Pre-Nursery

The children have been exploring weighing natural items in the maths area using weighing scales. We have been extending our mathematical understanding of things that are heavy and light.

This week saw the children independently threading using different shaped wooden blocks, drawing patterns, numbers and shapes in coloured sand and rolling out dinosaur patterns in the playdough.

In the creative corner we encouraged the children to investigate what happens when we mix different paint colours together.

Outside, the staff have been delighted to see the children bravely using different pieces of equipment independently, showing their growing control of their gross motor skills - from climbing the slide, to jumping and landing with both feet (knees bent) and steering bikes and cars to avoid obstacles in their way. This is brilliant Little Acorns - keep up the good work!

Please continue to bring your children dressed for the colder weather as we will continue to play inside and outdoors despite the drop in temperature. We do ask children to bring welly boots as footwear for outside as it may turn muddy.

Acorn (Nursery am and pm)

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 groups for phonics and maths.

This week we have enjoyed re-enacting the Gruffalo story in PE and making homes for the Gruffalo during outdoor learning.

Next week we will continue to learn from the 'Gruffalo's Child' story.

We have been practising careful counting in maths and hearing the 1st sound of a word in phonics with 'I Spy' type games, and learning about the s/a/t/p/i/n 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 class (Reception)

This week we have combined our RE and literacy teaching, reading books and finding out about 2 festivals of light – Hanukkah and Eid. We then had a year group quiz to see which facts we could remember.

In Maths we have been learning more about shapes with a focus on rectangles and squares. We have sorted these in our independent learning and have spotted them in shape pictures and around the classroom.

We also started to use the language of time by sorting activities into daytime and night time and using the words first, next and last to sequence pictures of everyday activities such as brushing their teeth and making a sandwich.

In other areas we made a Christingle for Advent and have been using Purple Mash to decorate stars and direct Santa to collect presents. You can access these activities using your child's Purple Mash login, if you need their code again please speak to your class teacher.

In outdoor learning we experimented making different sounds using sticks on metal, wood and plastic and made a band. We also noticed that all of the leaves have come off the Ash tree (Beech class tree) and most of the leaves have come off the Maple tree.

Our Sir Linkalot word this week was 'said.'

Finally we have started to practise our Christmas song, which we have uploaded to seesaw so you can continue to practise at home. Letters about costumes will be coming home.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week in Year 1, we have been learning all about Neil Armstrong. We have learnt his story and made a story map. Then we have started to learn and write about his life which the children have enjoyed.

In Maths we have been combining groups by adding them together and using a number line to work out the answers. We have also been practising one more and one less than a given number - please practise this at home as well.

For outdoor learning in the next few weeks, we would like the children to collect some small thin sticks in order to make some Christmas stars.



We have continued to make our moon buggies in DT which the children have loved doing.

This week you will find some words in your children's reading books to practise at home for our Christmas performance. Please help your child learn their lines. Thank you.

Hazel and Rowan News (Year 2)

This week, Year 2 have continued work on biographies, and have read, answered comprehension questions about and written their own version of a biography of John Lennon. Do quiz your child about him to see if they can impress you with some facts about his life!

In maths, the children have continued learning to calculate using money, including adding two items together to find the total, and how to use subtraction to work out the change from different amounts such as 20p, 50p and £1. They have then used all that they have learnt about money to solve a variety of problems, trying hard to ensure that they show all their workings out.

In ICT, they have particularly enjoyed learning how to use the new Chrome books, as well as how to find and use a music program.

In Geography both classes have made good attempts to draw, label the countries and add the flags to their own sketches of the British Isles.

Year 2 have also been excited to begin learning their songs and words for their part in the school Christmas production.

Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees

This week in Bumblebees the children have been making their Christmas Cakes. They enjoyed mixing and stirring and the room smelt lovely!

All the children have been trying so hard playing games, turn taking and keeping our room tidy. It was very difficult to choose our first stars of Bumblebees but this week they are:

Friend



Saffron Y2

Star



Aoife Y1

Playtime



Jessie Y2



Star of the Week



Friendship Star



Playtime Star



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 Bland's is now registered with Amazon's 'smile' charity programme.

If you choose 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>