

## Dates for your diary

**17<sup>th</sup> April**  
Inset Day

**18<sup>th</sup> April**  
Start of term 5

**25<sup>th</sup> April**  
Y1 visit to Oxford university  
Museum of Natural History

**4<sup>th</sup> May**  
Y2 visit to Thatcham  
Discovery Centre

**11<sup>th</sup> May**  
YR bus 'journey' and  
miniature railway

**12<sup>th</sup> May**  
Maple Class Parent/Child  
Lunch 11.45am-12.45pm

**26<sup>th</sup> May**  
End of Summer Term 1

**5<sup>th</sup> June**  
Start of Summer Term 2 &  
Science Week

**9<sup>th</sup> June**  
Governor Visit Day

**16<sup>th</sup> June**  
YR visit to Mudeford Beach

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Y2 Educational Visit to  
Bristol

**23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
Armed Forces Celebration  
Day

## School News

Welcome back everyone. We hope you all had a nice break over Easter and got to enjoy a little bit of sunshine!



We would like to wish all our Muslim children and their families a happy Eid Murabak. We hope you all enjoy celebrating.

This term we have moved to in house catering and the feedback we have had from the children during breakfast, lunch and dinner has been really positive. We have also had lots of comments from parents about children coming home saying how 'delicious' lunch was. More children have been receiving lunchtime stickers for eating more of their lunch and more children have tried the new foods on offer. Our kitchen staff remain the same with the addition of a school chef, Jean-Philippe Vidal.

There is lots to look forward to during the Summer Term, please see the date section for more information.

### An introduction from Jean-Philippe

*"From a very young age, I realised how much I enjoy cooking. After school, I went on to attend a specialist catering college in the South of France where I learnt to become a Chef and learnt classical French cuisine. From there, I have worked in a number of restaurants and hotels in France, before a new job opportunity brought me to England back in 1999. I've never looked back!  
I have been working in the School Catering industry for four years now and I am passionate about using fresh ingredients, cooking from scratch and helping children to explore more flavours and dishes.  
In my spare time I enjoy reading, walking with my two children and of course cooking."*

### Government Alert

Please be aware that on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, the Government will be issuing a mobile phone emergency alert check. This means any mobiles which are on will be activated and sound an alarm.

Anyone experiencing domestic abuse who has a hidden phone for safety emergency reasons may be affected and perpetrators could be alerted to the presence of the secret phone if they are near the victim/secret phone when the alert goes off.

If anyone has a secret mobile phone hidden from an abusive partner, they need to be advised to switch it off or put in airplane mode otherwise every compatible mobile phone or tablet in range of a mast will receive the alert. Your mobile phone or tablet does not have to be connected to mobile data or Wi-Fi to get alerts.

The alert will say: "This is a test of Emergency Alerts, a new UK government service that will warn you if there's a life-threatening emergency nearby. In an actual emergency, follow the instructions in the alert to keep yourself and others safe. Visit [gov.uk/alerts](https://www.gov.uk/alerts) for more information. This is a test. You do not need to take any action."

You can opt out of emergency alerts, but the government advises you should keep them switched on for your own safety.

#### To opt out:

Search your settings for 'emergency alerts'.

Turn off 'severe alerts' and 'extreme alerts'.

If you still get alerts, contact your device manufacturer for help.

More information can be found on the government website: [About Emergency Alerts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/about-emergency-alerts)

## **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 –**

**Laura Hooke or  
Charmaine Kelly**

## **Little Acorns Class**

This week in Little Acorns we have been reading the story 'There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly'. The children loved listening to the story, role playing feeding the toy 'old lady' with the animals, re-telling the story using puppets, and talking about different sizes of the animals (ordering them from smallest to biggest).

We have been singing lots of nursery rhymes and focused on 'Incy Wincy Spider'. The children have practised counting 1-10 using their counting fingers to count how many toy spiders they could find in the water-tray and using different shaped pasta and paint to make marks on paper to make 'spider webs'.

There have been lots of minibeasts inside and outside the Little Acorns nursery this week and the children have participated in lots of minibeast hunts to find them. They have been identifying and naming them as well as being inspired to create their own beautiful artwork featuring minibeasts.

The children have benefited from daily yoga sessions with Mrs Sharratt to exercise bodies and minds which improves learning. The children have been taking it in turns to use the yoga dice, chosen different yoga cards and selected various yoga positions to try themselves in child-led independent play as well.

## **Acorns Class**

Welcome back to nursery. This term we welcome a few new friends, both children and adults. Mrs Sheehan will be working with us in the mornings and Miss Porter will be working with us in the afternoon. You will meet them on the doors in the coming weeks.

We are also very lucky to have had a present left from the Easter bunny. Two baby rabbits appeared over half term for the nursery to look after. The rabbits will live on the patio and the children will be taught how to care and look after them. We were all very excited!

This term in nursery our topic is 'Why Do Spiders Eat Flies?' We will be looking at minibeasts and how to identify them.

We have read the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' We used the story to learn the days of the week and sang a song to help us remember each day.

In maths, we counted bugs and remembered to move each bug as we counted it, so we don't get confused.

In literacy, we wrote our names on caterpillars to put on our display.

In science this week, we carried out an experiment to find out how we can help the spider stay at the top of his drainpipe. We used different materials at the top of the pipe to see if the spider could stay there. See the experiment on seesaw.

## Maple and Beech News (Reception)

This week we have started learning about our new topic, “Journeys and Quests” with the story of the Bear Hunt. We’ve been joining in retelling the story, using sound effects and actions. We have acted out the story outside, creating our own Bear Hunt trail around the garden. We have role-played being the bear in the cave and recreated the story using small world characters. We have drawn our own story maps for the hunt.

In maths we have been learning about numbers between 10 and 20 and how these are made up of a full ten and some more. We have used Numicon, counters and cubes to represent these numbers in different ways.

In science we’ve been looking at the habitats of different UK animals and where you might find them if you were on a bear hunt. We have been programming Beebots to move around a bear hunt map in computing. In RE this term, we are looking at stories with morals. This week we read the story of the ‘Boy Who Cried Wolf’.

To be explorers we are making our own binoculars with toilet rolls. This has proved very popular, if you have any spare toilet roll tubes at home, we would appreciate some donations.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

Welcome back, we hope you all had a lovely break. This week the children have been writing recounts of their Easter holidays, remembering to use the past tense, and trying to include some exclamation marks.

In maths, they have been learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and complete missing number tracks using these sequences. Perhaps you child could help sort out the washing and count pairs of socks at home!

In PSHE, we have been talking about different family structures and children have drawn the people in their own families. We talked about the fact that it doesn’t matter who in our families is looking after us if we are loved and well cared for.

In science, we have introduced the terms: ‘Herbivore’, ‘Carnivore’ and ‘Omnivore’ to describe what animals eat. The children completed a Venn diagram to sort the animals into these categories.

Timetable changes and reminders: **Cherry Class – outdoor learning now on Wednesday – same as Birch Class.** Please ensure your child has long trousers / leggings to protect from ticks in the long grass and a long sleeved cardigan / jumper. Also, wet weather gear depending on the weather.

**Birch and Cherry Class** – Danny P.E. on Tuesday mornings – Please ensure your child has socks in their P.E. bag (especially for those that wear tights with their uniforms). We’re also finding an increasing number of children without suitable P.E. shoes (pumps or trainers).

## Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

What a wonderful first week back we have had in year 2!

Our new topic this term is 'Wriggle and Crawl' and we have kicked off our topic in English with an exciting story called 'Walter the Worm'. The children have enjoyed listening to and discussing the story, before comparing it to lots of other stories featuring minibeasts. They have also begun to think about what characters and settings they might like to include in their own minibeast stories next week. We are looking forward to reading lots of exciting stories about ladybirds, spiders and dragonflies!

In maths, we have been recapping written methods for addition and subtraction. The children have learned how to use the expanded column method for addition and the partitioning method for subtraction. These are both tricky methods, so any additional practice you can do at home would be amazing. Just let us know if you need an example of how each method should be presented.

Our new topic in science is 'living things and their habitats'. In our first lesson, we have begun to learn about the 7 life processes that show that something is a 'living thing' - movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion and nutrition. The children talked about how these processes look different in animals, humans and plants but that they all do them in some way or another. They were also able to identify whether something was living, dead or had never been alive.

Finally, in outdoor learning we have continued our learning about minibeasts and habitats by exploring a specific habitat within our school – the pond! The children thoroughly enjoyed pond dipping and exploring the different creatures they could find living in and around our pond. Ask them to tell you about the minibeasts they discovered!

A letter has been sent home this week about our upcoming trip to Thatcham Discovery Centre. If you are able to support us with this trip, please speak to your child's class teacher, we are very grateful for the support.

Have a lovely weekend!



Welcome back to Bumblebees. We welcome new children this term and they have settled in well. The children have enjoyed being able to go outside. They stay on half of the playground and know not to come to the bee bunting. When you enter, please feel free to move the bunting to come through, rather than step over/ go under. The bunting is a visual reminder to the children – but an adult is always present in the playground.

The children have been enjoying the meals provided and our older children have been very helpful with our new younger children.

**Friend**



**Dinner Star**



**Playtime**



# Whole School Stars

## 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, 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>