

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th September
Meet the Teacher

Friday 22nd September
PTA YR new parent's
coffee morning 9.00am-
10.00am (School Hall)

Tuesday 26th September
Year 1 Educational Visit to
Milestones Museum

Thursday 28th September
Year 2 Educational Visit to
Oxford Castle

Thursday 5th October
Harvest Festival
(school children only)

Friday 13th October
Year 2 Falconry Visit
(in school)

Thursday 16th November
Year R to Year 2 Flu nasal
vaccination

Friday 20th October
End of Term 1 – collect at
3:25pm as normal

School News

It has certainly started to feel a bit more like Autumn this week!

As the weather starts to get colder, please remember your child will need named tracksuit bottoms and a PE tracksuit top/sweatshirt for their PE sessions with Danny. Please also ensure your child comes into school with a waterproof coat even if it is sunny in the morning, as the weather can be so changeable!

Meet the Teacher

This week we welcomed parents in for our meet the teacher evening. It was a chance for parent to see where their child spends their day and to get to know their class teacher and to give an insight into the curriculum. For those of you that were unable to attend, the slides and presentations from the evening are available on the website:

<https://www.mrsblandsinfants.co.uk/page/?title=2023+Meet+the+Teacher+Presentations&pid=60>

Celebrating – Reading

Reading plays such an integral part in the development of children in education. It can benefit them socially and cognitively, as well as support their wellbeing and mental health. In Wednesday's assembly we celebrated those children that were able to take part in the West Berkshire Library Summer Reading Challenge. Well done to all of you that showed your certificates in assembly, and to those that weren't able to take part this year, why not give it a try next Summer?

Online Safety Update

WhatsApp is the most widely used messaging platform on the planet, with over two billion users (forecast to become three billion by 2025), across more than 180 countries. The majority of those people (70%) open the app at least once a day – but what exactly are they seeing? Contact from strangers, fake news and convincing scams are all among the service's well-documented hazards.

According to Ofcom, WhatsApp is used by more than half of 3- to 17-year-olds in the UK (including one in three from the 8–11 bracket), despite its 16+ age restriction. If your child hops onto WhatsApp to stay in touch with friends or family, please view the attached information leaflet to ensure they are doing so safely.

Guide Dogs – volunteers required

Can you spare a few hours helping Guide Dogs on Saturday 30th September?

We need adults to Volunteer as Car Parking Marshall's at our Family Fun Day. You will be needed 2-5pm to help people park safely and in the right place so that the event runs smoothly.

The event itself is 12-4pm and you are most welcome to enjoy the event beforehand. There are Volunteer slots 11-2pm if that suits anyone better.

If you can help, please email Hannah.Padgham@guidedogs.org.uk or call 0118 354 0465

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 –

**Laura Hooke or
Charmaine Kelly**

Little Acorns Class

This week in little acorns the children are starting to settle in well and are enjoying making new friends with each other.

We have been reading the story “Guess How much I Love You” and have been continuing to learn our new routines and expectations and how we all belong together in our nursery by sharing and being kind to one another.

At the craft table the children have enjoyed making their own personalised initial letter of their name to go on our display in the nursery they are very proud to see their own work on the board.

We have introduced our rhyming spoons this week on the carpet and have been singing and learning lots of new nursery rhymes and continuing to practise the 'wiggle', 'hello song', 'goodbye' and 'open shut them' song which the children are loving and enjoying the actions to the song.

Outside in the garden the children are enjoying exploring the new mud kitchen area mixing lots of water and mud using all the sticks and natural materials we have collected from the garden. They have also loved using the paint brushes with water to make makes on the big white board.

Acorns Class

This week in Acorns, the children have enjoyed painting their own portraits. We have been looking in mirrors to find out what colour eyes and hair we have.

In maths, we have been learning about numbers 1 and 2 and showing different ways of making the number-subitise. We learnt that the number doesn't change if we move the objects.

We have been talking about our families and who lives in our house. The children are very good at listening to each other and waiting for their turn.

In Outdoor learning, we remembered our 'sticky toes' and the rules of the fire circle. The children enjoyed exploring the outdoor area and some children found some interesting bugs!

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

Well done again, another first – the children have completed their first full week in school.

We started our phonics programme this week. So far, we have learnt the sounds s, a, t and p and introduced the children to the tricky words 'I' and 'the'.

In English this week, we have been thinking about ourselves, and talking about what we like and what we are good at. We have considered how we are all different and yet similar in some ways. We have also started handwriting, focusing on how to sit correctly at the table and how to hold the pencil correctly.

In maths, we have been focusing on the skill of subitising. This is the skill of being able to see a small amount without having to count each individual item, an important early maths skill. We have been subitising with all different materials, seeing groups and recognising if we can see groups of 1, 2 or 3.

In science we have been learning about different parts of our body. We have been role-playing being at the doctors. In R.E, we have thought about what makes a good friend.

Please can you make sure your child comes to school with a book bag rather than a rucksack so we can put their art and books in. The cloakrooms are not big enough for rucksacks, once the children all have PE bags and coats hanging up.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

In English this week we have been reading the story, 'Where's My Teddy' by Jez Alborough. We learnt about a story map and created our own versions of the story. We have practised sentences orally and are writing our stories, trying hard to remember to use finger spaces, a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop.

In maths, we have been writing numbers as words and also comparing groups using the terms 'more,' 'less' and 'the same.' We have a subscription to a maths learning platform called Doodle Maths. We have stuck your child's login in the front of their reading book so they can access this at home too. If children are using tablets or other devices at home, you can set them up so they have to play some educational games first before playing other games.

In History, we have been comparing versions of the same type of toy from the past and present. We looked at a modern doll and compared it to a doll from the past. If there are any grandparents or great grandparents who would be willing to come in and talk to the children about the toys you used to play with as a child, we'd be very grateful! Come and catch us on the door after school if you are able to do this.

It has been another action-packed week in year 2!

In English, we have continued to learn about castles and the people who live and work inside them. We have worked together to write our first extended piece of writing - a fact file all about castles. The children were amazing at organising their ideas into paragraphs and writing in full sentences, including some fantastic vocabulary.

In maths, we have finished our unit on number and place value. We have worked on odd and even numbers, counted in 2s and 10s and finished off the week with a short assessment to see how much the children had retained. We were so impressed with their efforts throughout this whole unit.

In the afternoons we have packed a lot in - art, yoga, science, music and so much more! In art, we have been inspired by Paul Klee's work 'Castle and Sun'. We created our own abstract works of art using colour and shape. Our work is now proudly displayed in our classrooms but images will be added to Seesaw shortly so that we can share our work with you!

In science, we have been thinking about the suitability of different materials for different jobs. We talked about a range of objects and thought about which materials would or wouldn't be suitable for that particular job. Ask your child if they can explain to you why glass would not be a suitable material to make a jumper out of!

Next week we will be taking the children to visit Oxford Castle! We are so excited for all of our learning to be brought to life. We are still short one parent helper so if you are able to offer your support on the day, we would really appreciate it - please speak to Miss Henly or Miss Kendall.



Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees



This week we have welcomed more new friends to Bumblebees. The children have done very well learning the routine and are all great at helping to tidy up! Lots of new friendships are forming which is wonderful to see, and it's lovely to see some of the older children looking after and helping the younger ones. Well done all!

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>