

Dates for your diary

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day
(Please see previous letter regarding dress up)

Friday 15th March

Red Nose Day assembly
(led by Hazel Class)
Replace one item of school uniform with something red.

Tuesday 19th March

YR visit to Rushall Farm

Friday 22nd March

Birch Class Parent Lunch

Monday 25th March

Parent Consultations 3.30pm-6.00pm (we will let you know when these can be booked next week)

Tuesday 26th March

Parent Consultations 5.30pm-8.00pm (we will let you know when these can be booked next week)

Tuesday 26th March

Y1 Educational visit to Marwell Zoo

Wednesday 27th March

Y1 Easter Assembly

Wednesday 27th March

End of Spring Term 2 1.45pm

School News

We have had a great week in school in spite of the wet weather, thank you all for braving the rain and for bringing the children to school on time!

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

Calling all parents....

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day at Mrs Bland's next week! To help us to make this an extra special day for the children, we would like to invite parents in to read a book, or read 1:1 with the children. It is a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in your child's school day and share some special moments with them.

If you would like to come in to read to/with the children, please do contact the school office. We look forward to hearing from lots of you!

Special World Book Day Menu

Our catering team have put together a special menu for the day, and this is attached at the end of the newsletter for you to view and can be ordered via school grid as normal.

Eco Champions

The Eco champions have been working on an Environmental review of our school for the last few months. We have found that our school scored highly - 8/10 for healthy living and waste. We have written an action plan to help us improve 3 other areas; litter, school grounds and biodiversity. Please find our Action Plan attached.

Green Fingers?

As we are now in the full throes of Spring we wondered if any of our wonderful parents would be able to offer us a little bit of time during the school day? We have a flower bed that requires a little bit of TLC. Some sapplings need removing and the flower bed needs a general turn over ready for planting. If you would be interested in supporting us with this we would be most grateful, please contact the school office to discuss.

PTA Update

The PTA do a wonderful job in raising money for the school. We thought it would be helpful to you to know how their fundraising transfers to you directly as parents. There is a breakdown of the money raised last Academic Year on the back page for your reference but we also wanted to remind you that the PTA paid the coach costs for the Lion King as well as the nursery visit to the Hexagon to see Sleeping Beauty this Academic Year. This equates to a direct saving to you per child of £15.50 for The Lion King and £12.50 for Sleeping Beauty. Thank you to everyone that supports our PTA and their fund raising efforts!

Message from West Berkshire Early Years Team

You may have noticed the recent BBC news coverage about the increase in measles outbreaks <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cqee2qz4vk1t>. Measles is a highly infectious disease and can be very serious.

We are advising parents and carers to check their child(ren) are up-to-date with their MMR vaccine by checking his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your GP to check their immunisation history.

Children should receive their first dose of the MMR vaccine when they are one years old and the second at three years and four months old.

If your child(ren) have not had the MMR vaccine or they have not had both doses you can get a vaccine by making an appointment with your GP.

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

Katie Thrussell

Maria Kennedy

Natasha Robinson

Mrs Bland's PTA recently held their AGM meeting which reflects on the previous years' spending.

We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact our Facebook page or any of our members if this is something you are interested in.

Little Acorns Class

This week we have been reading the story 'Farmer Duck' and have been continuing to practise our new rhyme of the term 'Mary had a little lamb' and 'Old Macdonald.'

We have also been learning about where our food comes from and learning the noises that the animals make.

In our craft area we have been making chickens to go on our lovely display board.

Outside in the garden the children have really enjoyed playing with the muddy animals in the mud sensory tray.

Please can you ensure that your child brings in a full change of clothes, including socks, in their bags - thank you!

Acorns Class

Thank you to those of you who shared baby photos via Seesaw. We have enjoyed looking at the photos and trying to guess who the baby is.

This week we have been looking at a non-fiction book, 'From egg to a chicken.' We talked about how non-fiction books give us information. We looked at the contents page and how to look at the page numbers and find the right page and enjoyed looking at the different stages of the life cycle of a chicken.

In maths we were looking at patterns. We learnt that a pattern is something that repeats 'again and again'. We used unifix and compare bears to continue a pattern and to also make our own patterns.

In outdoor learning we have been busy making an evolving teepee in our garden. The children helped move the logs and place the flower pots in a circle. They then filled the pots with mud and placed canes inside. We are going to plant beans to grow throughout the summer to give us a shady place to read and enjoy books.

Don't forget to get your costumes ready for World Book Day. Our author is JEZ ALBOROUGH. His books are all about animals... from dogs to giraffes!! Please do not spend lots of money... a set of bear ears or a fluffy tail can be very effective.

Maple and Beech News (Reception)

In phonics this week we have learnt the sounds 'air', 'ear', 'ure' and 'er' and recapped all our phase 3 tricky words e.g. she, was, using them to make sentences.

In literacy we have been learning about non-fiction texts. We have read non-fiction texts related to vehicles, particularly farm vehicles and we have started to make our own non-fiction books about the farm.

In maths we have been learning about representing 9 and 10. We worked out all the pairs of smaller numbers that can make 9 and 10 using dice, dominoes, counters on 10 frames. This is a really important early maths skill. We have used the language 'more than' and 'fewer than' to compare amounts.

In geography we used the photos we took last week to plot them on a map of the school.

In science we have looked at baby farm animals and looked at the correct names for them.

In RE we have begun learning about the Easter story and the symbols of Easter and tasted hot cross buns as part of this. In art we have been inspired by Van Gogh's sunflowers to do observational drawings of sunflowers. We have also been using collage to make flower pictures.

Next week we will begin making models of farm vehicles using junk materials. For this we need lots of small cardboard boxes and tubes, and plastic or metal bottle lids so please can you save any from your recycling and bring them in. Also, any donations of masking tape would be welcomed as we tend to get through a lot during this project!

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

This week we have continued to explore our 'Animals Around the World' topic. We have sketching hares with Mrs Buchan in Art and, labelling animals features in Science and in have designed a car for an animal in Design Technology.

We have continued exploring the Cinnamon story and have now planned our own story in the style of Cinnamon. We have seen some fantastic writing and we have been really focusing on our handwriting and presentation. Our grammar focus this week has been looking at past and present tense.

In maths we have been looking at adding numbers. We have explored lots of different ways to do this, using our number bonds to help us, counting on using a number line and using practical objects to help us work out the answer. Can you do some addition problems at home by adding two groups of toys or counting bowls of sweets?

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

Another hard-working week from Year 2!

In English we have been writing all about our dream worlds that we designed last week and it's included lots of descriptive words and adverbs! The children have been working really hard on their amazing adjectives and adverbs this week in their writing and we've been focussing on up-levelling sentences to make them sound more exciting. We have also worked on some editing of our own work where we have been looking for those writing non-negotiables and quick fixing/editing our work with purple pens - ask your child if they can remember our Year 2 writing non-negotiables!

In Maths this week we have been introduced to our new topic of multiplication. In order to ease ourselves into this we have been looking at repeated addition first as the addition sign is something we are very familiar with already in Year 2. Year 2 have really impressed their teachers with their repeated addition work and with how focused everyone has been in our maths lessons - the hard work is really paying off for this tricky topic! The children have loved working with lots of resources to support their learning this week. Things such as dines, counters and multilink are great for helping us make groups of things!

In RE this week, we have learnt more about the Christian Easter Story and some children remembered loads from our previous lesson about Good Friday and Easter Sunday - so well done! We looked into what different things represent at Easter and our focus this week was on The Easter Egg and Hot Cross Buns - we even labelled a hot cross bun and have spoken about how each part represents something in The Easter Story.

Just a heads up that Year 2 now have Outdoor Learning on a Friday so can we please ask that every child ensures they have wellies in school because it doesn't look like the weather is clearing up anytime soon and we don't want to ruin any school shoes. Thank you for your support!



Another busy week in bumblebees. We have been making crafts for Mothers Day and thinking about Easter, as well as usual games and fun.

Bumblebees Stars

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-blinds-infant-and-nursery-school>

Mrs Bland's PTA recently held their AGM meeting which reflects on the previous years' spending. Below shows the different fund raising events and where the money raised was spent. As always it shows how every donation is put towards the education of the children at Mrs Blands and how worthwhile it is to be a member of the PTA. Please contact our Facebook page or any of our members if this is something you are interested in.

