

## Dates for your diary

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Rowan Class Parent Lunch

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Year 2 visit to Thatcham  
Discovery Centre

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Hazel Class Parent Lunch

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Year 2 to perform a country  
dance at the Burghfield  
May Fayre 12<sup>th</sup> May

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Year R bus and train  
journey

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Maple Class Parent Lunch

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

PTA Crazy hair day! – in  
exchange for a Father's  
day gift for the Father's Day  
Shhhop

Beech Class Parent Lunch

End of Summer Term 1 –  
3:25pm (school) 3:30pm  
(nursery)

## School News

We have had a wonderful week at Mrs Bland's!

The Willink art department have very kindly fired Year 1's clay dinosaurs and they are on display outside the Year 1 classrooms. They look fantastic! Thank you to The Willink for helping us with this project.

At the end of the week it was the turn of Rowan Class parents to be invited in for lunch. We hope you all had a great time! Hazel Class parents, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the end of next week.

### A Message from The Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that the process of federating Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery School and Garland Junior School is now complete. As you may remember from the federation proposal, the schools are collectively known as 'The Burghfield Common Federation' but continue to retain their individual names and character. The leadership model proposed at the start of the process has been established, with Mrs Rose appointed as the Executive Headteacher for the federation and working alongside a single federation governing board.

This marks an exciting time for the schools, as we begin to implement the fantastic opportunities that working closely in a federation creates. The governors would like to thank the wonderful staff at both schools, and also all of you, for your patience and support during the 16 month process. We are conscious there has been a period of change, and although change can be unsettling, we are confident that the long-term benefits to the children will justify the transition.

In addition, I was saddened to learn of Mrs Menhenitt's decision to withdraw from the Head of School role at Garland, and of her resignation. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mrs Menhenitt for her significant contributions during this period and her service to the school community over the years. The governing board will be working closely with Mrs Rose to recruit a new Head of School for September.

Mr Chris Rowlands  
Chair of Governors

## **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**

**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 in Little Acorns we have been reading the story of 'The Hare and the Tortoise' and have been practising the song, 'Down in the Jungle'. The children love making the different animal noises and have been talking about fast and slow animals.

In our craft area we have been junk modelling, using lots of different materials to stick or glue our models together. We are also making collages of animals that go slow and animals that go fast for our display board.

The children have loved our jungle role play this week. It has lots of different jungle animals in there and the children have binoculars to try and spot where the animals are hiding.

Outside in the garden, the children have continued to enjoy playing with the different sports equipment and practising our skills such as kicking, throwing, catching and balancing. They have also been using the different natural materials from the garden to try and make a pattern (e.g. stick, stone, stick, stone).

## **Acorns Class**

This week in Acorns the children have been looking at non-fiction books. We have learnt that non-fiction books give us information and that the picture on the front tells us what the book is about. We looked at a book about minibeasts and found out lots of interesting facts.

In maths this week we have been learning what is one more and one less than a given number. The children had to roll a dice and then count out cubes to match the number. They then had to add or take away 1 and then recount the cubes.

In PE this week we tried learning a dance using the Interactive Whiteboard. The children were very enthusiastic and all tried very hard.

Our caterpillars are now fully grown and are starting to get ready to make their cocoons. They do this by hanging from the lid and making a 'j' shape with the body. We think they will be in their cocoons before we come back from our weekend. Keep an eye on Seesaw to see their progress!

## Maple and Beech News (Reception)

In phonics we are still focusing on reading and writing sentences, using our growing bank of tricky words. We are trying to hold longer sentences in our heads and then write them with a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.

In Literacy we have read 'The Great Explorer' and used it to help us write simple sentences about different forms of transport. We also used it as an introduction to Arctic animals.

In Maths we are still using stories with the language first, then and now... but this time to help us with subtraction sentences.

In RE we are using different stories to learn about moral messages. This week we read the story 'Bilal and the Butterfly'. We used this to talk about how we are all created equally.

In art we used the story 'Journey' to inspire us to draw bicycles and paint them with watercolours.

## Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

What a fantastic week in Year 1! We have learnt so much...

In English we have read the story, 'Stone Girl Bone Girl' about Mary Anning. We learnt how she discovered fossils many years ago by the coast. We have used the story to inspire our own writing and have produced some amazing work. In English we have also been focusing on adding more detail to our sentences to make them more interesting by adding 'and'.

In maths we have been looking at place value of numbers up to 50. The children have been working hard using the Dienes to show what value a number has. We have been partitioning as well as making a group of 10.

In Design Technology we have been exploring different foods with root vegetables. This week we tried coleslaw, beetroot and potato salad. All of the children tried a little bit and some children found a new food they really liked! Next week we will be putting our chef's hats on and we will be making some salads.

The weather is finally improving and we are starting to have some dryer days and less rain. Please can you make sure you have the right clothes for outdoor learning including a long sleeve top and bottoms, as well as trainers you don't mind your child getting dirty. Thank you.

## Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)

In Year 2 this week we became our own authors! We all wrote amazing narratives about an animal - ask your child what their narrative was about. Year 2 really did wow their teachers with their writing as our unit on narratives comes to an end. They became real authors by adding in such amazing writing tools such as descriptive language, varied sentence openers, conjunctions and we even spotted some similes! WOW, WOW, WOW!

In Maths this week, we have been looking at mass and capacity. We have been applying our knowledge of the four operations to help us solve some problem questions regarding grams and kilograms. This has been really tricky because it involves a lot of steps and problem solving but everyone has persevered so well.

In Science and Outdoor Learning, we have continued our topic 'Wriggle and Crawl' and have been looking at different animal habitats. After exploring our pond area, we drew a map of a pond habitat and noted down all the different types of animals/plants that you can find there. In our wild area we spotted features of different habitats such as dry and damp areas and light and dark areas.

And of course, this will lead us perfectly into our trip next week... we can't wait! Let's hope the weather is kind to us all! (Just in case it does rain - don't forget those wellies on Tuesday!)

Have a lovely bank holiday everyone!



**Breakfast Bees and Bumblebees**



Another busy week this week! The children have made lots of lovely Hama bead creations. Another group also enjoyed a yoga session with Mrs Sharratt. We are hoping for some better weather next week so we can get outside now the evenings are lighter!

**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>

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.

