



Friday 15th November 2024

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Federation News- Message from Mrs Rose

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week began with solemn acts of Remembrance across both schools, where all children observed the two-minute silence to honour those who have given their lives in service. It was a meaningful moment for everyone involved.

As the week drew to a close, our focus turned to Children in Need. A huge thank you for your generous donations—we will be tallying up the contributions and look forward to sharing our grand total with you soon!

Safeguarding Update:

As part of our commitment to keeping the school community safe, we regularly practice fire and lockdown drills. A fire bell is sounded weekly at a set time in both schools, and we hold a fire drill each half term to ensure everyone can evacuate swiftly and safely in an emergency. Similarly, lockdown drills are practiced every half term to ensure everyone knows how to remain safe inside the building if necessary.

While these are standard procedures in all schools, we sometimes have unscheduled opportunities to practice—like when Yorkshire puddings cause too much smoke in the kitchen, someone burns the toast, or, in one memorable instance in 2019, a wolf escaped from the local sanctuary!

Thank you for your continued support in helping us prioritise safety and well-being.

Click below for your newsletter

[Mrs Bland's News](#)

[Garland News](#)

Burghfield Common Federation

OUR VISION

*Community, Curiosity,
Creativity and Challenge*

Discovering every child's sparkle and shining a light on their brilliance...



MRS BLAND'S INFANT
AND GARLAND
JUNIOR SCHOOL



Friday 15th November 2024

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News

This week started with Rowan class leading the Remembrance Service to the whole school and Rowan parents. The children did themselves proud and it was really special to see all the class wreaths that were displayed. On Wednesday, we practised our lockdown procedure and are very impressed at how the children responded to this procedure, well done all!

Yesterday, Beech Class had a visit from the Newbury Weekly News for the new starters' annual photo, look out for the photograph in the coming weeks.

The excitement was almost palpable as Pip and Posy returned to Mrs Blands this week. They have enjoyed their little holiday with Mrs Tanner at Costa Del Burghfield Common. For those not familiar with Pip and Posy, they are two beautiful rabbits that are cared for by our Nursery children, teaching the children lifelong skills like responsibility, compassion and kindness to list a few of the benefits. Throughout the year they are often then visited by other year groups in the school.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made our Children in Need day a great success, the School Council started the day with an assembly which taught us all about Children in Need and why it is such a worthy cause. The children then enjoyed taking part in the fun activities which had been planned by the School Council. As ever, the pre-loved stall was very popular, we will let you know how much we raised next week.



Dates for your diary

- 15/11/24 Children in Need
- 20/11/24 Consultation Evening
- 21/11/24 Consultation Evening
- 29/11/24 Garland Open Morning for Year 2 parents
-Please contact Garland office for an appointment
- 29/11/24 Non-uniform day
- Christmas Shhhop collection
- 03/12/24 Garland Open Morning for Year 2 parents
-Please contact Garland office for an appointment
- 06/12/24 PTA Christmas Fayre at Garland

Quote of the Week

“Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.”

School Stars

Acorns - Miley
Beech - Jenson
Birch - Freyja
Cherry - Reuben
Hazel - Cassidy
Rowan - Anya

Star of the Week

Acorns - Ajith
Beech - Kaylin
Birch - Maren
Cherry - Mimi
Hazel - Theo
Rowan - Kaziah

Friendship Star



Emma S
Aisha A

Reading Stars

Acorns - Rosie F
Beech - Jovan
Birch - Amir
Cherry - Gage
Hazel - Lezaal
Rowan - Autumn

Playtime Star

Little Acorns



Our topic this term is “Why can’t I eat chocolate for breakfast?”, and this week in Little Acorns we have been reading the story *Chocolate Mousse for a Greedy Goose* and practising our rhyme of the term “Polly Put the Kettle On”.

We have also been looking at developing our number recognition and pencil control.

At the craft table this week the children have been busy making poppies and decorating Pudsey ears ready for Children in Need day on Friday. We have also been really busy making cupcakes ready to sell on Friday in the main hall for Children in Need. Don’t forget your spots on Friday!

Outside in the garden, the children have enjoyed riding the bikes and scooters and developing their scissor skills by cutting snips in leaves.

Please can we remind all parents to have a full change of clothes in bags for their child ... including socks!



Acorns



This week in Acorns the children made us very proud during the Remembrance assembly. We sat quietly as Rowan class taught us about why we celebrate 11th November. We then sat in silence for 2 minutes along with the whole school!!! Acorns were amazing.

In class we have been learning all about nocturnal animals. In our role play area we have a selection of these animals, and torches to explore how they live in the dark. The children have enjoyed pretending to be different animals and wearing masks.

The children have been sorting all animals into groups - day time animals (diurnal) and night time animals (nocturnal). The children have also been learning to take turns and share as they do this, waiting for their friend without rushing each other and having thinking time.

In Maths we have been looking at number representation. We have been finding a number and then counting out the correct amounts of objects for that number-remembering to do slow, careful counting.

In Outdoor Learning we have been weeding and clearing our borders around nursery ready to plant our bulbs soon.

You will hopefully have received information about our upcoming panto visit, if you have any questions please ask and we will endeavour to find out the answers.

On a Christmas theme (!!!) we will be starting our Christmas nativity next week as Christmas is just around the corner. We will be retelling the story of the nativity and why we celebrate Christmas. If you are unsure of your child being part of the nativity based on religious grounds, please speak to Mrs Tanner. We can then show you the script and songs choices to see how we can include your child.



Beech (Reception)



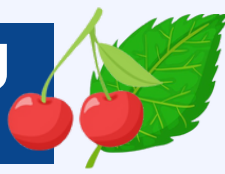
This week in Beech class we have been learning about another celebration – the festival of Diwali. We have been reading and acting out the story of Rama and Sita, making Diya lamps from clay, and making lots of colourful Rangoli patterns using different media.

In Phonics we have learned the sounds z, zz, qu, ch and sh and the tricky words 'we', 'me', 'be', and 'my'. We have been using our sounds to write simple labels and captions.

In Maths we have been exploring all the different ways we can make numbers to 5, and consolidating our understanding of how smaller numbers can go together to make larger numbers.

In Outdoor Learning we have been making dens. Last week we were introduced to the mallets, pegs, tarpaulins and ropes, and this week we developed this further, seeing if we could make waterproof shelters for our teddies.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)



This week in phonics we have learnt *ir* (bird) *ey* (donkey) and recapped all the different digraphs learnt so far in phase 5.

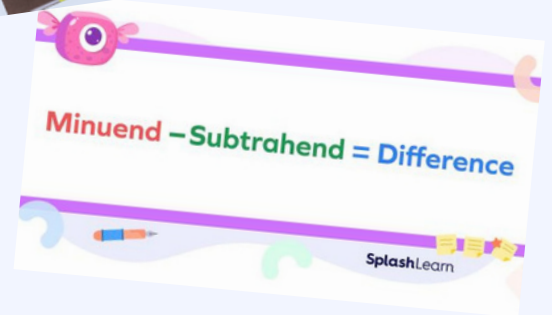
In English we have written our new stories based on *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Cherry class have had 3 aliens and Birch class have had 3 foxes. We can see an improvement in stamina and focus since they started in Year 1, and forward to showing you all their lovely writing in parents evening next week.

In Maths we have started looking at subtraction. We have used crossing off strategies and counting back on a number line, as well as using our part whole models to help write factor families, for example $2+3=5$, $3+2=5$ then $5-2=3$, $5-3=2$.

We learnt some specific mathematical vocabulary for subtraction... **minuend** (the starting number/ whole) **subtrahend** (the number you are taking away) and the **difference** (what is left).

In science we collected data using tally charts to find out the most common type of material used for the chairs in school.

In Geography we plotted pictures on a route/ map. As well as starting to learn lots of our Christmas songs.



Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)



Rowan class started the week well with their Remembrance day assembly. The children were so fantastic learning and performing their lines, and we were so proud of how they performed the poem 'In Flanders Field'. Thank you to everyone who came to the assembly, the children loved seeing you there to support them!

In Maths this week we have been looking at adding to the next 10. We started by using a number line and number bonds to ten to help us add one-digit numbers. Towards the end of the week this moved onto adding over the next ten. During our fluency practise we have focused on doubles. This is a great introduction to the two times table that we will be doing at a later date.

In English we have continued to study *The Snow Queen*. We have become experts at breaking the story down into the 5 key parts - opening, build up, problem, solution, and ending. Once we were confident with the original story, we began to think about how we could make changes to the story to make it our own (this is called innovation). We introduced our own characters, varied the problem and thought carefully to make sure our solution followed on nicely. We can't wait to start writing our stories up next week!

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



It might seem early, but in DT we have started thinking about Christmas! Our project last term was to design a fabric decoration to hang on a tree. We designed and labelled our decorations and thought about the materials and equipment that we would need to make them. We have then started sewing them together and it has been great to see the children practising their fine motor skills.

In PSHE we have been learning about different emotions. We know that all emotions are ok and valid. We also know that our emotions don't last forever. We talked about different ways that emotions can be displayed and how to read someone else's emotions.



— Friday 15th November 2024 —

Burghfield Common Federation

School Newsletter



Garland Junior School News

In assembly this week, we thought about 'Differences'.

We started by listening to 'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman, and talking about the quote shown below.

The children gave different suggestions including:

- some people have different coloured hair, eyes etc,
- some reflected back on Black History Month,
- some children said we are good at different things, which lead to a discussion about neurodiversity and us not always being able to see what makes people different.

We then spoke about the challenges that people with physical restrictions, or those in a wheelchair, might face and how little things we do could be helpful. The children felt that keeping corridors and walkways clear, and holding doors open for others would be helpful, but we decided that asking if people need help, rather than just assuming that they do, was possibly the most important thing.

It doesn't matter what colour skin, eyes, or hair we have, how able we are mentally or physically, what hobbies or interests we have, we are all important and it is those differences which make us special.



Everyone is
DIFFERENT
Everyone
BELONGS



Dates for your diary

- 15/11/24 Children in Need
- 18/11/24 Year 5 Visit
- Winchester Science Museum
- 20/11/24 Consultation Evening
- 21/11/24 Consultation Evening
- 25/11/24 School Nurses Visit Year 6
- 26/11/24 Choir Rehearsal at Aldermaston
- 27/11/24 Year 3 Visit
- Ufton Court
- 29/11/24 Open Morning for Year 2 Parents
- 29/11/24 Non-uniform day
- Christmas Shhhop collection

School Awards

Values Certificate

Nate S
Sheerie C
Bradley
Ellie W
Alex M
Ruby D
Scarlett H
Bluebell C

Emmanuella A
Darcey S
Beni S
Rose C
Emily G
Sam O
Owen W

Reading Stars

Kelyn H
Iyla L
Amelie C
Josh W
Thomas S-C
Oscar M
Theo P

WOW Award

Dougie T
Annie H
Bradden H
Isla M
Samuel D
Zak S
Bella M
Carter I
Zara M

Top Doodlers - 5Z

Mikey H
Charlie D
Jan R
Bluebell C
Fraser S
Ralph M
AJ P
Annabelle S



This week our Green Fingred Gardening Group have been preparing the vegetable patch for the winter, and planting up some flower pots.

We covered the vegetable beds with a layer of carboard to reduce weeds and then covered it with soil improver given to us by Veolia. Veolia are the company that West Berkshire use for food waste collection. All the food that goes into our compost caddies is turned into soil improver and then shared for free twice a year to West Berkshire residents.

We also finished planting up the flower pots in the playground. We are looking forward to watching them burst into flower in the spring time.

Quote of the Week

"If you don't have failure, you don't know why things are succeeding"

Franklin and Grey-Thompson (Year 3)

We have had another exciting week in Year 3.

In Maths we are finishing our topic on addition and subtraction, focusing on mastery skills and word problems. The children have been practicing hard, and it is wonderful to see their determination on some tricky questions.

In English we have focused on writing speech for the characters in Stone Age Boy. We had some lovely discussions about how to bring a character's voice to life and imagining the conversations they might've had in the Stone Age.

During History we took a closer look at Stonehenge and learnt about the mysteries of how the heavy stones got there.

In Art we explored a new medium of charcoal to replicate ancient cave drawings.

On Friday we went on a material hunt around the school, exploring different types of rocks, and looking closely at their properties.

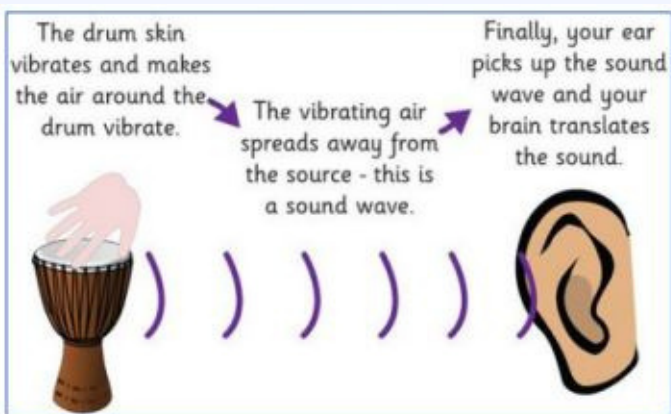
We have started a new PE topic of Dance and explored creating different movements with body part to 8-count beats.

And finally in Music the children have started rehearsing the songs for our Christmas play which is all about the history of the famous song 'Silent Night'!



Edwards and Hussain (Year 4)

What a bustling week it has been for Year 4!



In English, we've delved into the art of diary entries, learning how to express our thoughts and feelings in writing.

Over in Maths, we've begun to tackle the 6- and 9-times tables, making great strides as we explore these essential skills.

In Science, we have started to understand that sounds are made when something vibrates.

As Christmas approaches, we've also started practising our songs for the festive play. It's sounding fantastic, and we can't wait to begin rehearsing our lines!

We've been busy as well with our biscuit project, discussing how we might change the recipe and even brainstorming ideas for our packaging design.

Lastly, we've dived into our History lessons, learning more about the Anglo-Saxons and investigating the 'push' and 'pull' factors that led them to Britain.

We have also had a fantastic time learning new football skills with Danny. The children really enjoyed improving their techniques and working as a team!

Brunel and Zephaniah (Year 5)

In Shared Reading this week, we have been with Isabella as her life has been thrown into turmoil, and she has begun her quest to find her friend. The children have been excellent at making links between what they have read in the different chapters, really drawing out those connections.

In writing, we have been exploring the techniques that a writer would use when they are trying to persuade.

This week has seen the beginning of our fractions unit in Maths, where we have looked at equivalent fractions, and have begun converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions.

Our most exciting afternoon this week has definitely been Monday, when we were lucky enough to have a visit from the Fire and Rescue Service. They shared with us how to identify fire hazards in our homes, as well as what we might need to do in an emergency.

We then had the chance to explore the fire engine itself; we absolutely loved it!



Parks and Wiltshire (Year 6)

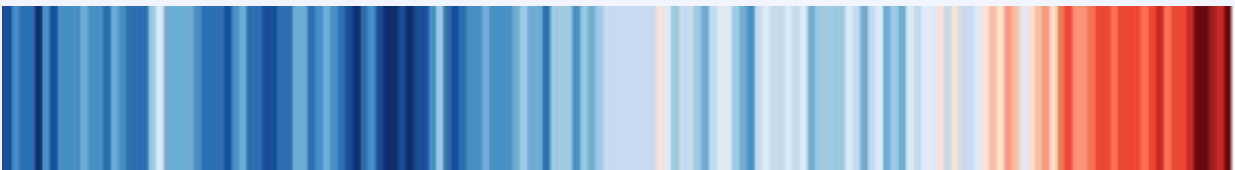
Another busy week in Year 6, beginning with a moving assembly, where we shared our knowledge of WW1 and our visit to the War Memorial at St Mary's.

Maths has seen the continuation of fractions, looking at adding, subtracting and multiplying fraction pairs and mixed numbers.

We also had interesting discussions around what a good mathematician might look like: Do they all wear glasses? This brought up some wonderful ideas about the core values of a mathematician: perseverance, determination, willingness to ask for help; trying again when they're not quite right.

In English, we have been researching how horses were used in the first World War, and looking at what makes a Year 6 piece of writing, preparing for our non-chronological independent write next week.

In Geography, we identified what this was... it can be found on buses in Reading!



We then looked at the effects of climate change and discussed what we could do as individuals to slow it down and look after our environment.

**Have a lovely weekend, from us all at the
Burghfield Common Federation!**

Dates for your Diary

New dates shown in blue

November	Monday 18th	09:00am-3:30pm	Year 5 Educational Visit - Winchester Science Museum
	Wednesday 20th	3:30-6:00pm	Consultation Evening
	Thursday 21st	3:30-6:00pm	Consultation Evening
	Monday 25th		Year 6 Height and Weight measurement
	Tuesday 26th	AM	Garland Choir Rehearsal at Aldermaston
	Wednesday 27th	All Day	Year 3 Educational Visit to Ufton Court
	Tuesday 29th	09:00/11:00am	Garland Open Morning for Year 2 parents - Please contact Garland office for an appointment
	Tuesday 29th	All Day	Non-Uniform Day - Christmas Shhhop collection
December	Tuesday 3rd	09:00/11:00am	Garland Open Morning for Year 2 parents - Please contact Garland office for an appointment
	Friday 6th	AM/PM	Year 6 - Level 1 Bikeability training
	Friday 6th	4:00pm - 7:00pm	PTA Christmas Fayre at Garland
	Monday 9th	PM	Year 5 Virtual Museum Visit - Victorian Christmas
	Saturday 7th	12-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church - Garland Choir singing at 2pm
	Tuesday 10th		Visit to MERL (by invitation)
	Friday 13th	All Day	Mrs Bland's PTA Christmas day
	Tuesday 17th		EYFS Panto - <i>Cinderella</i> at The Hexagon
	Wednesday 11th		Garland Christmas Shhhop
	Thursday 12th	All Day	Mrs Bland's Christmas Shhhop
	Wednesday 18th	AM	Mrs Bland's Christmas Shhhop
	Wednesday 18th	Afternoon	Federation Carol Service at St Oswald's (children only)
	Thursday 19th		Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
	Friday 20th		End of term - break up at: 1:45pm – Mrs Bland's 2:00pm - Garland NO Bumblebees or Fun Zone at either school.
Monday 23rd December 2024 - Friday 3rd January 2025: Christmas Holiday			
January 2025	Monday 6th		School re-opens for pupils