



Friday 31st January 2025

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Federation News- Message from Mrs Rose

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another extremely busy week, with Ofsted visiting the Infant and Nursery school on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you to all the parents who provided such positive feedback about the school.

The inspectors were highly impressed, and the fact that 94% of parents confirmed their child has never been bullied is the highest percentage they had ever seen!

We are very pleased with how the inspection went, and the children showcased their learning brilliantly, as they always do. We hope to share the official report with you in about a month's time.

Meanwhile, it was the Juniors' turn to visit the Cambridge Theatre on Wednesday to watch Matilda. The feedback from children, parents, and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, with everyone expressing how much they enjoyed the experience. KS2 students have been busy writing about their visit, capturing their excitement and reflections.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Rose

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 31st January 2025

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News

We hope this newsletter finds you well.

It has been a very busy week here at Mrs Bland's, not least with the Ofsted inspection that took place on Tuesday and Wednesday. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, staff, governors, and parents for their support during the inspection. We certainly displayed the federation values of Perseverance, Kindness, Respect & Good Manners, and Teamwork throughout the inspection.

We are so proud of our Reception class for putting on a well versed and educational assembly for us all on Friday "新年快乐" (Happy New Year in Mandarin).

We have had several reports of Chickenpox this week, and believe keeping you informed is essential to help prevent further spread. Chickenpox is a highly contagious viral infection so please keep a close eye on your child over the coming days and if symptoms arise stay home to prevent the spread. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to maintain a healthy environment for our school community.

Staying Connected - did you know we have a Facebook page? Please like us to follow us on social media and keep up to date with the latest news and events.



Dates for your diary

- 11/02/25 PTA Valentine Disco
- 06/03/25 World Book Day

Quote of the Week

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

School Stars

Acorns - Tabby
Beech - Louis
Birch - Maren
Cherry - Gabriel
Hazel - Xavier
Rowan - Freddie

Star of the Week

Acorns - Caleb M
Beech - Emily
Birch - Adam
Cherry - Flavia
Hazel - Willow
Rowan - Rosella

Playtime Star

Acorns - Tilly
Beech - Poppy
Birch - Penny
Cherry - Rocco
Hazel - Hannah
Rowan - Scarlett

Friendship Star



You are all stars!

Reading Stars

Little Acorns



Our topic for the term is "Where Does Snow Go?"

This week we have been reading the story *My First Chinese New Year* and *The Great Race*. We have also been continuing to learn our rhyme of the term *It's Raining, Its Pouring*.

The children have loved learning all about Chinese New Year and all that is celebrated. They have really enjoyed learning about all the different animals that took part in the race, and in our Chinese restaurant in the role play area they have loved pretending to eat noodles with chop sticks. We have also tried and tasted some Chinese food during our snack times.

At the craft table this week the children have been busy making Chinese Lanterns and Snakes, as it's the year of the snake.

In the outside garden are the children have been having lots of fun trying to throw the balls though the big hoops and exploring our dinosaur world.



Acorns



This week in Acorns we have been celebrating Chinese New Year. We started by looking at our map of the world and found where China is, and talked about how we would get there. We then read *The Great Race* which tells the story of how the Chinese Zodiac names were chosen.

In Maths we have been learning about ordinal numbers...1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. We put the animals in order and then we made our own lines and used the vocabulary "I am first, you are second." We have also been learning how to put numbers to 10 in order.

In PE we have been learning to balance bean bags on our head and walk around cones. Some of us even managed to run slowly!

We have been making lanterns because we learned that, at the end of Chinese New Year, Chinese people let lanterns go in the sky.

The children have all been working hard to write their names. We use the phrase 'Beaky bird' to hold our pencil, so if your child is writing at home please remind them to use 'Beaky bird'.



Beech (Reception)

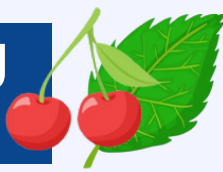


We are so proud of the children in Beech class. They have been fantastic this week – they coped really well with our visitors and have put in such hard work for our assembly. We hope you enjoyed it!

Throughout the week they have been constantly showing all our values: spontaneously helping each other with zips, prompting each other with lines for the assembly, challenging themselves to create new story maps. I could go on and on. They really have been amazing.

We embraced all things Chinese this week – tasting food, watching and performing dragon dances, learning songs about Chinese New year traditions and creating Chinese art.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)



In Literacy this week we have been learning how to write instructions. We learnt that the text needs a title, it has questions, a list and numbered steps to tell you what to do.

In Maths we have started to add numbers within 20. Learning that it is more efficient to count on from the greatest number. We have also discovered the link between our number bonds to 10 and the ones to 20. Recognising that if I know $6 + 4 = 10$ and $4 + 6 = 10$ then $16 + 4 = 20$ and $14 + 6 = 20$.

We have had lots of opportunities this week to use our creativity. In Art we created mixed media pictures inspired by photos taken by the Hubble telescope and started to make our moving alien vehicles. We were very proud of the children's perseverance and focus whilst creating their wheels and axle mechanisms. The children were delighted to show off how fast their vehicles could move too.

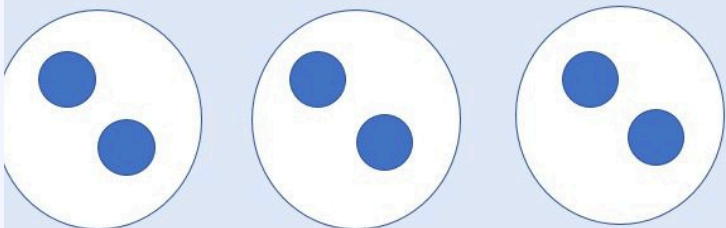


Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)



There are ___ equal groups with ___ in each group.

There are ___ counters altogether.



What a busy week we have had in year 2! The children have outdone themselves with how well they have behaved, and they have showed such a positive attitude towards their learning. Some children were even asked to share their learning with visitors, and they were so polite and articulate. Well done year 2!

In English this week we have been doing some independent writing all around the story of *Matilda*. Our biggest focus has been trying to include compound sentences into our writing by using the coordinating conjunctions that we have learnt. Writing the story of *Matilda* was also a great opportunity to

include some expanded noun phrases to help describe some of the main characters. We then had a chance to edit and improve our work which was really important, as it allowed us to all feel proud of our writing.

In Maths we started a new unit of work, 'Multiplication and Division', and started this topic by recognising equal groups. This included understanding our new vocabulary of 'equal groups' and 'unequal groups' first. We then moved on to represent equal groups by using counters, and by the end of the week, we were drawing equal groups and explaining them using our stem sentence 'There are ___ equal groups with ___ in each group'.

In PSHE this week we were discussing ways and strategies for helping someone who is feeling left out. We had some great pupil voice on how it feels to be part of a group. We also shared things about ourselves and noticed that we all had things in common and, therefore, all felt a part of a group.



— Friday 31st January 2025 —

Burghfield Common Federation

School Newsletter



Garland Junior School News

Matilda the Musical at the Cambridge Theatre was an unforgettable experience for the pupils of Garland. The moment the curtain rose, the stage came alive with colour, energy, and the captivating music of Tim Minchin. The talented cast brought Roald Dahl's iconic characters to life, and the performances were full of heart and enthusiasm.

The set design was both whimsical and intricate, perfectly complementing the playful yet powerful storyline. The children (and adults) were completely engrossed in the show, reacting to the humorous moments and cheering on Matilda as she outsmarted her oppressive headmistress, Miss Trunchbull.

Throughout the visit, the children behaved extremely well and proudly represented Garland, displaying excellent manners and respect. The experience not only entertained but also sparked insightful conversations about courage, intelligence, and standing up for what's right.

It was a truly magical outing that left a lasting impression on everyone at Garland Junior School.



Dates for your diary

- 03/02/25 Year 5 Level 1 Bikeability - Take 2!
- 13/02/25 Valentine Discos
- 14/02/25 Non-uniform Day
- 17th - 21st February HALF TERM
- 25/02/25 Choir rehearsal
- 26/02/25 Year 6 Level 2 Bikeability final sessions

Quote of the Week

"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions."

School Awards

Values Certificate

Layton E
Ellie W
Sonnie S
Indianna S
Harvey A
Lara C
Khaleesi J
Owen W

Reading Stars

Madison H
Arlo R
Ruby D-D
Issy B
Ava U
Joey S
Henry P
Alfie H

WOW Award

Louie F
Bradley B
Alexander M
Martim A
Beni S
Aedan C
Alice L

Top Doodlers

Cathy P
Ted M
Logan S-M
Annie H
Grace D
Holly C
Ellie Mc
Tora M

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, is a festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar. Marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring, the festival takes place from Chinese New Year's Eve (the evening preceding the first day of the year) to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year.

This week's new moon, on Wednesday, January 29th, signalled the beginning of the Lunar New Year, which is this year called the "Year of the Snake."

The Chinese zodiac calendar is best described as a 12-year cycle represented by 12 different animals - Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. This means that those born in 2025 will be snakes. The snake symbolises the pursuit of love and happiness.

This festival is the one time of the year when many people travel home to be with their family, and is a time when envelopes are given as gifts. These are filled with money - and symbolize good wishes and luck for the new year ahead. However, the importance isn't the cash held inside; it's actually the envelope itself. Many South Koreans give white envelopes, as the colour white represents purity and a clean start to the new year, while the Chinese elders hand out money in red envelopes as the red colour symbolizes good luck and prosperity in Chinese (and other East Asian) cultures.



Franklin and Grey-Thompson (Year 3)

What a busy week we've had in Year 3, of course the highlight being our Matilda trip on Wednesday. It was so lovely to see how all the children followed our school values off-site, and how much they enjoyed the performance.

Our English this week has been focused on Roald Dahl's *Matilda*. We have explored how to become revolting children through drama, and looked at character descriptions for Miss Trunchbull.

In Maths this week we have moved on to our new topic of measure; we have been practicing measuring in cm and mm using our rulers.

Continuing with our history topic of Romans, in Art the children completed their own mosaics which look amazing and are ready to go on display in the Year 3 corridor.

During indoor PE we focused on improving our speed with lots of different relay races and in outdoor PE the children continued to develop their hockey skills.

Our Geography focus is the Lake District, and we learned about the weather climate and how this affected the farmers trying to grow crops.

Finally, on Friday, our day ended with Outdoor Learning where we spotted birds as part of the RSPB Big Birdwatch. It was amazing to see how many we could spot from just our woodland area.



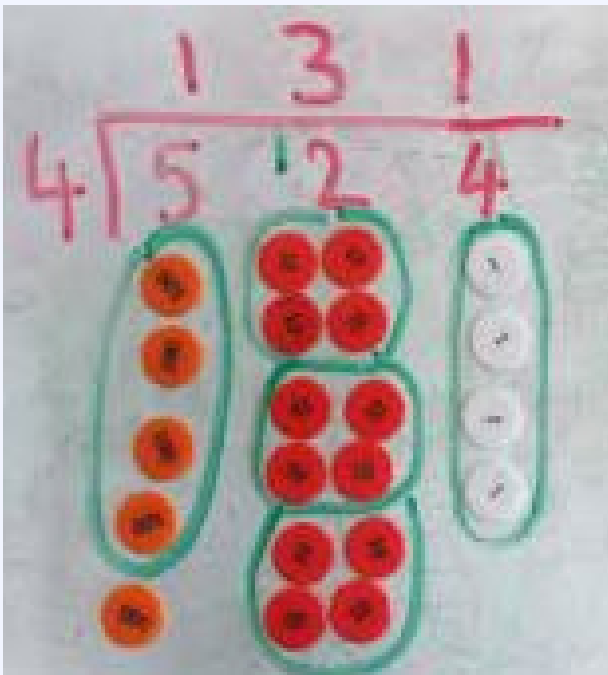
Edwards and Hussain (Year 4)

What a fantastic week we've had in Year 4! Our English work was inspired by the enchanting world of *Matilda*. The children delved into the vocabulary found in song lyrics, which sparked their imaginations as they developed characters ranging from nice to naughty.

In Maths, we improved our skills in dividing two-digit numbers by one-digit, introducing the bus stop method alongside using counters to create equal groups—much fun was had!

Our Outdoor Learning session was a real treat, as the children crafted bird feeders to encourage more feathered friends into our school grounds.

In Geography, we explored physical features, and learned about digital maps with a particular focus on Europe. We even discovered ways to identify these features, sparking curiosity and excitement in our budding geographers.



Brunel and Zephaniah (Year 5)

What an exciting week we've had in Year 5! Our main focus has been on Roald Dahl's enchanting story, *Matilda*, which ties in beautifully with our theatre trip on Wednesday. The children absolutely loved experiencing the magic of the performance, and it's sparked some wonderful discussions in class.

We've been delving deep into the characters of *Matilda* and exploring the ways they are described in the book. This week, the children have not only crafted detailed descriptions of existing characters, but also had a fantastic time creating their own imaginative characters. It's incredible to see their creativity shining through!

In Maths, we've been wrapping up our division unit. The children have been applying their learning to a variety of problems, and we are pleased to see their confidence grow with each challenge.

Additionally, our Outdoor Learning session was both fun and educational as we began participating in the RSPB Bird Count. The children made delightful bird feeders using birdseed and lard, which will hopefully attract some feathered friends to our school grounds.



Parks and Wiltshire (Year 6)



This week we have focused our work around the theme of *Matilda*, as the trip to the theatre to see the show on Wednesday was the highlight of our week.

We have looked at persuasion in our English lessons and are composing a piece of writing to persuade the Wormwoods to let Matilda stay with Miss Honey.

We've also used these persuasive skills in our Geography, to consider how we could ask MPs to support campaigns to end the use of fossil fuels.

Our Maths has continued to look at percentages, and we are now confident at finding percentages of an amount – great for finding the best deal when items are on 'SALE'.

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

Dates for your Diary

January 2025	Wednesday 22nd		KS1 visit - Matilda the Musical
	Thursday 23rd	AM/PM	Year 5 - Level 1 Bikeability
	Wednesday 29th		Garland School KS2 visit - Matilda the Musical
	Friday 31st 9:30am		Year R - Chinese New Year Assembly
February	Monday 3rd	AM/PM	Year 5 - Level 1 Bikeability
	Tuesday 11th	3:25-4:30pm	Mrs Bland's Valentine Disco
	Thursday 13th	3:10-6:00pm	Garland Valentines Discos - please check year group times
	Friday 14th		Valentines Non-Uniform Day- Mothers' Day Shhhop donations
17th - 21st February - HALF TERM			
February	Monday 24th		Children return to school
	Tuesday 25th	AM	Garland Choir rehearsal at Mortimer
	Wednesday 26th		Year 6 - Bikeability Level 2 final sessions begin
	Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th	PM	Year 3 - Wellbeing Workshops at school