



Friday 14th February 2025

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Federation News - Message from Mrs Rose

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of a short but very busy half-term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful learning, achievements, and experiences we have shared as a school community.

A huge thank you to our amazing PTA for organising the Valentine's Discos, which were a great success! The children had a fantastic time dancing, playing games, and enjoying the celebrations. Events like these really bring our school community together, and we appreciate all the hard work that goes into making them happen.

This week, I had the pleasure of showing prospective parents and grandparents around our school, and I couldn't have been prouder of our pupils. They were confident, articulate, and shone as they performed their leadership roles. Our visitors were incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm and the warm, welcoming atmosphere throughout the school.

During my learning walks around both schools, I have had the opportunity to see how children's writing is developing in each year group from their starting points in September. It has been wonderful to witness their progress, and the children are always so proud to share their work.

Over the last half-term, children in both schools have been earning certificates for demonstrating the school values, and for achievements both in school and beyond. It has been fantastic to celebrate their perseverance, kindness, respect and teamwork, and I look forward to seeing even more children recognised for their efforts next half-term.

This week in assembly, internet safety has been our key focus, as we joined a national link for a BBC Internet Safety Assembly. With children spending more time online, it is crucial that they understand how to stay safe and make good choices. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home and remind children about the importance of online safety.

Although it has been a cold few weeks, it's lovely to see the lighter mornings as we move towards spring (and the Infants will be able to link my assembly in January to the emerging snowdrops, seen around Burghfield this week). The brighter starts to the day make such a difference, and we look forward to enjoying more time outdoors as the weather begins to improve.

As we head into the break, I encourage everyone to take the time to rest and recharge, ready for another great half-term ahead.

Wishing you all a happy and restful break!

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



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Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News

What a week! We would like to thank the whole school community for pulling together during our critical incident on Wednesday. We witnessed displays of teamwork, resilience, perseverance and kindness, who knew lights and electricity were crucial to the safe teaching of our pupils! It is vital we have a local contact to pick up on these rare occasions, please speak to the school office if you need to update any details.

This week we have been talking about online safety, as part of Tuesday's Safer Internet Day. We have focused on how to spot scams. We listened to different stories and quizzes to help us think about what is and is not real or safe online. There are lots of resources available for parents if you have any concerns about keeping your child safe while using technology.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>
<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

D I S C O ! Didn't we all have groovy time on Tuesday? The children's energy was as infectious as the hit songs, and the PTA fundraising efforts continued today when the school was awash in red, white, and pink. The children and staff embraced the opportunity to wear these Valentine colours in exchange for a donation towards the Mother's Day Shhhop.

Dates for your diary

17th - 21st February HALF TERM

- w/c 24/02/25 Hazel Class lunches
- w/c 03/03/25 Rowan Class lunches
- 06/03/25 World Book Day
- w/c 10/03/25 Cherry Class lunches
- 11/03/25 Beech Class visit - Rushall Farm

Quote of the Week

"Prevent a jam, don't open spam."

School Stars

Acorns - Marko
Beech - Ruby
Birch - James
Cherry - Mia W
Cherry - Mimi S
Hazel - Kaleb
Rowan - Theo W

Star of the Week

Acorns - Caleb L
Beech - Jovan
Birch - Ollie
Cherry - Gage
Hazel - Taha
Rowan - Afsa A

Friendship Star



Acorns - Joey
Beech - Everley
Birch - Hugo
Cherry - Riley
Hazel - Molly
Rowan - Azreya M

Playtime Star

Matthew
George

Reading Stars

Little Acorns



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

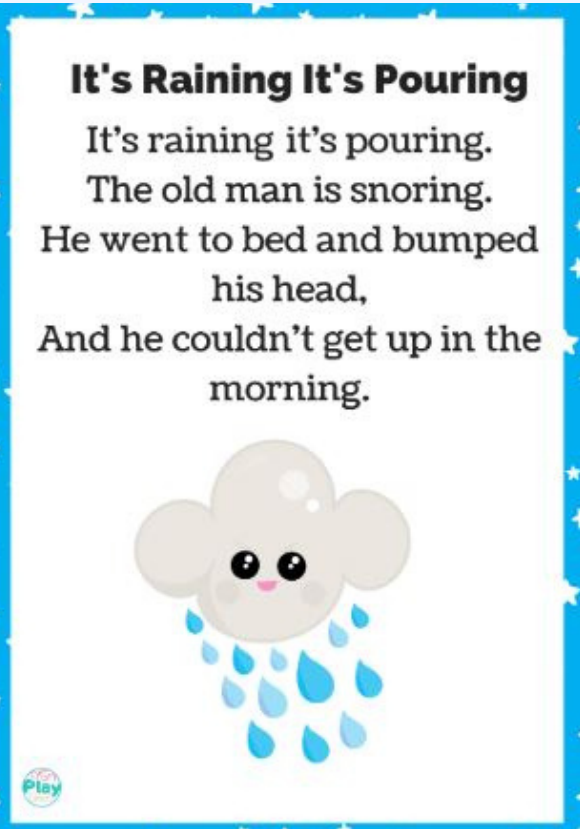
This week we have been reading the story *The Snowy Day*, and have been continuing to learn our rhyme of the term *It's Raining, Its Pouring*.

During carpet times the children have been in small groups to take part in yoga, enjoying singing lots of action rhymes, and learning to take turns using the rhyming basket.

The children have loved playing shop in our role play area and have been taking turns to either be the shop keeper using the tills or the shopper selecting lots of different foods they would like buy.

At the craft table this week the children have been enjoying making their very own Valentine's cards, and crafts for the people they care for.

In the outside area, the children have been enjoying using the diggers to dig in the sand, and playing with the pirates in the water tray.



Please could we ask that all parents who need to supply nappies also supply us with wipes for their individual child as we are very low on these.

Acorns



This week in Acorns we have been looking at homes and bridges round the world.

We have also talked about non-fiction books giving us information, and know to look at the front cover to tell us what the book is about.

In Maths we have been playing bingo games and turn taking games. We have been learning to wait our turn and then roll the dice, and to recognise the number on the dice without counting the spots- subitising.

We enjoyed PE with Danny and have been learning to throw and catch a ball with a partner.

In outdoor learning we enjoyed our fire circle and toasted marshmallows on the fire to have in a chocolate biscuit.

The children have been working so hard this term and we are very proud of them. We hope you all have a restful half term.



Beech (Reception)



This week in Beech class we have continued working on our story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, creating new versions of the story with different characters.

We have also tried to think about things from the Troll's perspective, and discussed whether the troll was really bad after all.

We completed a STEM challenge to design a bridge that might hold all three goats and then tested it, and drew trolls and goats, first with guided instruction, then by ourselves.

In Maths we worked hard on our subitising skills and quick recall of the numbers that bond together to make 6, 7 and 8.

We have also focused on how to keep safe online this week, and talked about who we can turn to when we need help, both online and offline.

Birch and Cherry (Year 1)

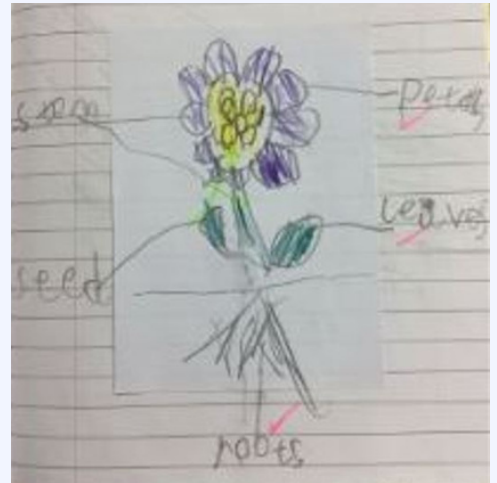


This week we have been thinking about how to stay safe using the internet. We were scam detectives, spotting what could be a scam and remembering the importance of never sharing their full name, address, school name or birthday to anyone online. There is a quiz on purple mash for you to try too.

In Literacy we have written another non chronological report this time on Tim Peake. See if your children can remember some of the facts they have learnt.

In Maths we have been subtracting numbers within 20. Trying to use our known facts already learnt to help us. For example, I know that $6-4=2$ so I also know $16-4=12$. The children have shown they are confident using a numberline to support their calculations too.

In Science we have labelled parts of a flower, and in Geography we have added some landmarks to our class map. Can you name all the continents and oceans? Check out Purple Mash for a quiz on this.



Can we please remind you to check all PE kits and school clothes fit and are labelled over the holidays, and also remember that large hair bows and ribbons are not needed in school.

Hazel and Rowan (Year 2)



We started this week by pretending to be George from *George's Marvellous Medicine*. This helped us get into character for the week, as we were planning and writing a diary from George's perspective. The children worked so hard on their story map plan and then wrote it up independently using a range of conjunctions and some brilliant adjectives - well done Year 2! Never forget what super writers you are!

George

Appearance	I don't like
I like	More about me...

In Maths this week we have continued working on the multiplication symbol. We have learnt about all the different names this symbol can be - times, lots of, and groups of. We have even solved word problems! To do this we learnt all about the importance of circling the key information to help us figure out what the question is asking us to do.

In DT this week Year 2 were amazing! They showed so much perseverance! We were practicing making a new type of mechanism for cards. This is the third mechanism we have looked at in DT this term, it was called V-shaped pop up. It had lots of intricate steps, but the children followed along very well and never gave up. Next half term is when we apply the skills we have learnt, and choose a mechanism to use in our Mothers Day cards!



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Garland Junior School News

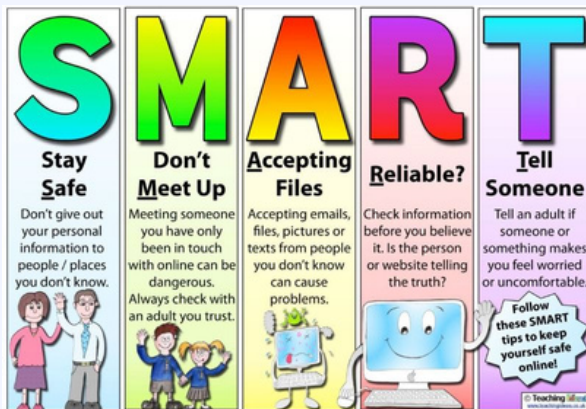
This week, we have been looking a lot at Online Safety - from detecting scams, to setting passwords, and finding help if you're not sure.

The children all joined a special online assembly on Tuesday as part of Internet Safety Day. The teachers have all commented on how well the children paid attention to the information given.

This has been followed up through the week with more assemblies and interactive discussions around online safety.

If you feel you would like some guidance on helping your children stay safe online, have a look at the NSPCC website:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#work>



Dates for your diary

17th - 21st February HALF TERM

- 25/02/25 Choir rehearsal at Mortimer
- 26/02/25 Year 6 Level 2 Bikeability final sessions
- 26/02/25 Year 3 Wellbeing Workshops
- 05/03/25 MyBank Workshops
- 06/03/25 World Book Day
- 12/03/25 MyBank Workshops
- 19/03/25 MyBank Workshops

Quote of the Week

“Safer Internet Day: because a little awareness goes a long way in cyberspace.”

School Awards

Values Certificate

*Olivia
Charlie D
Jan R
Maisie F
Isabel L
Esme F
Sam O
Theo P*

Reading Stars

*Zaner A
Eli K
Chloe L
Issy B
Isabel L
Oscar M
Aedan C
Kirah W*

WOW Award

*Nate S
Ellie W
Molly W
Annie H
Rose C
Sophie R
Arjun G*

Top Doodlers

*Madison H
Yenuth D
Clara M
Noah H
Harvey A
Jaxon B
Ava M
Owen W*

Remember: Part of our job at Garland is making sure you feel safe and happy, in all parts of your life – including online!

If you ever have a worry about something that's happened online, you can come to us for help and advice. We'll always listen carefully and give you some ideas of what you can do. Sometimes, if we're worried that you or somebody else might be in danger, we have to pass on what you've told us to a special member of staff.

If we have to speak to them, it's not because you're in trouble, it's just because they have the special job of making sure every child here is safe.

- S** If something **seems to good to be true.**
- C** If someone **contacts you, when you weren't expecting it, like in a message or email.**
- A** If someone or something **asks for your personal information.**
- M** If someone asks for **money or to trade with you.**

Franklin and Grey-Thompson (Year 3)

It has been a busy last week of term in Year 3.

In Maths we finished our topic on length and perimeter and have been working hard practicing test style questions.

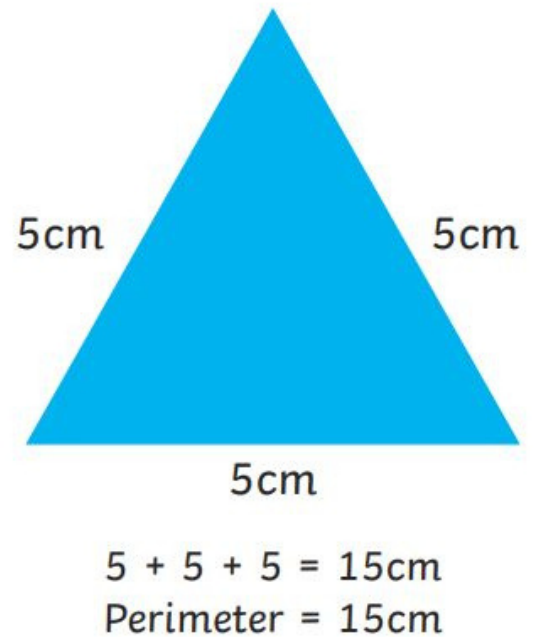
During English we have been writing up our very own myths; it has been lovely to see the children create their own Roman Gods or Goddesses and the journeys their character goes on.

In PE the children were able to use all their skills from the fitness unit and apply these to team games and circuits.

We rounded up our Geography for the term creating a knowledge filled 2-page spread all about the Lake District.

Music with Mrs Irons is always a highlight of the week - the children have learnt a Roman march and some sign language signals to go alongside.

The Whole School Enterprise has been a huge success in Year 3. 3F have been busy baking and selling their crisp packet keyrings, and 3T have created a fabulous chocolate quiz.



Edwards and Hussain (Year 4)

What an exciting week it's been! In Maths, we've been getting to grips with finding the lengths of missing sides while calculating perimeters — who knew geometry could be so much fun?

In English, we recapped grammar terminology and used this to locate the features in a chapter of our story *Leonora Bolt*, and utilised our geographical knowledge from this term to craft fantastic non-chronological reports about Europe.

We also embraced the great outdoors with our birdwatching for the Big Birdwatch — a brilliant way to connect with nature. Looking ahead to Science after half-term, we've planned an intriguing investigation to test melting points of different materials.

In Music, we focused on the orchestra, learning the difference between violins and violas as well as practising reading music, making rhythms and our own string instruments.

In PE, we have been working on our fitness skills with a focus on stamina and balance this week — lots of teamwork and determination!

Most importantly, we were super creative using clay to create dragon heads for our Viking long boat project! We can't wait to delve deeper into Viking history next term.



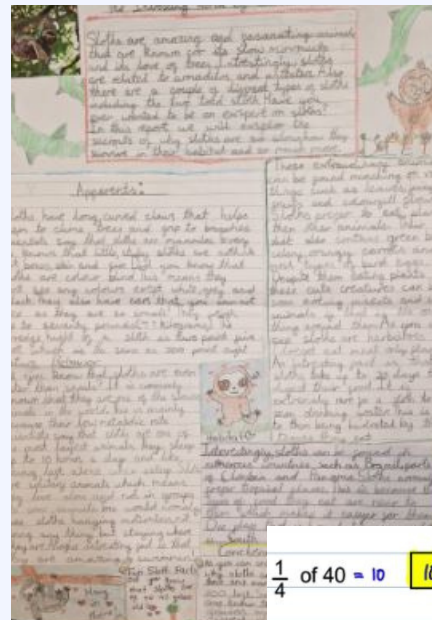
Brunel and Zephaniah (Year 5)

What a fantastic week we've had in school! The children have really enjoyed their English lessons, immersing themselves in both reading and writing. We are drawing to the end of this half term's text, *Street Child*, and the excitement is palpable. The children are utterly gripped by the challenges facing Jim, so much so that they're eager to read ahead before we've had a chance to predict what might happen next!

In our writing sessions, we've been focused on redrafting our non-chronological reports about Amazonian animals. It's been wonderful to see the children making thoughtful improvements as they go, ensuring their work is as neat and presentable as possible.

In Maths, we've been multiplying fractions and finding fractions of an amount. This week has particularly highlighted the importance of being secure with our times tables, which has been a great focus for us.

Wednesday was especially exciting, as we devoted time to our DT project. The children have been designing and creating pop-up books that they will later read with the younger children at Mrs Bland's. The mechanisms are quite complex, so we've all been concentrating hard on creating prototypes to test out different designs. We can't wait to see how everything comes together after the half term!



Parks and Wiltshire (Year 6)

Year 6 have been busy bees this week! We took some time to explore a non-fiction text from a SATs paper in Shared Reading, becoming more confident in our ability to scan the text for key words.

We have also had a chance to do a free-write, using a picture prompt to inspire a piece of writing! We enjoyed the chance to come up with our own stories, and create our own characters.

Do you know what a rectilinear shape is? We do! We also know how to find its perimeter and area. Maths has seen us build on our knowledge from other years, applying our understanding of area to compound shapes and problem-solving questions.

Our Geography topic this half term is allowing us to explore where our food comes from. We have looked at which aspects of our diets are reared, caught, or grown. Thinking about the wider world, lots of us have been curious about snails, frogs and kangaroos, and whether they are reared or caught. What do you think?



**Have a lovely, relaxing, half term holiday,
from us all at the Burghfield Common
Federation!**

Dates for your Diary

17th - 21st February - HALF TERM			
February	Monday 24th		Children return to school
	Monday 24th - Friday 28th	Lunchtime	Hazel Class - Share lunch with your child
	Tuesday 25th	AM	Garland Choir rehearsal at Mortimer
	Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th		Year 6 - Bikeability Level 2 final sessions
	Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th	PM	Year 3 - Wellbeing Workshops at school
March	Monday 3rd - Friday 7th	Lunchtime	Rowan Class - Share lunch with your child
	Wednesday 5th	All Day	MyBnk Financial Workshops - Years 5 and 6
	Thursday 6th		World Book Day
	Monday 10th - Friday 14th	Lunchtime	Cherry Class - Share lunch with your child
	Tuesday 11th	All Day	Beech Class - Visit to Rushall Farm
	Wednesday 12th	All Day	MyBnk Financial Workshops - Years 5 and 6
	Monday 17th - Friday 21st	Lunchtime	Birch Class - Share lunch with your child
	Wednesday 19th	All Day	MyBnk Financial Workshops - Years 5 and 6
	Monday 24th - Friday 28th	Lunchtime	Beech Class - Share lunch with your child
	Tuesday 25th	3:30 - 6:00pm	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 27th	3:30 - 6:00pm	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 27th	From 12:00	Garland Choir performing at The Hexagon
	Friday 28th	9:30am	Hazel Class - Class Assembly
April	Thursday 3rd	All Day	Year 5 - Ancient Egyptian Day
7th - 21st April - EASTER HOLIDAY			
April	Tuesday 22nd		Children return to school