Friday 9th October 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Author Visit - Beccy Blake

The highlight of this week, was a visit by graphic novel author Beccy Blake. Y1-Y5 were a great audience as she talked about the characters in her books, how she got the ideas to write and how she illustrated the books. All of the children drew some fantastic illutstrations, following her step by step guide (If you bought one of the books, there's a guide to drawing the characters at the back). Beccy spoke about the inspiration for her storylines and the children learnt a lot about how to draw comic book style and they thoroughly enjoyed the interactive session . Beccy very kindly donated books to both school libraries.







We will also be welcoming Y6 back from the Isle of Wight later on this afternoon. We have been kept upto date with all of their adventures and look forward to hearing more. A big thank you to all the staff who spent the week with Y6.

Mrs Bland's News

Garland News



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Burghfield Common Federation

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Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News











Dates for your diary

Tues - 20th Oct

PTA Halloween Disco YR-Y2

Fri - 06th Nov

Governor Visit Day

Week commencing 05 Oct 2026

Class	Attendance %
Beech	82.3%
Maple	96.2%
Cherry	96.6%
Hazel	90.6%

Mrs Bland's School Stars

Star of the Week

Acorns - Lollan
Beech - Oscar
Maple - Amara
Cherry - Astrid
Hazel - Ruby

Playtime Star

Acorns - Emily
Beech - Manon
Maple - Carlo
Cherry - Theo
Hazel - Theo

Friendship Star

Acorns - Tegan
Beech - Lottie
Maple - Lillie
Cherry - Tilly
Hazel - George



Reading Star
Theo + Louie

Little Acorns



Our topic this term is "Can I Have a Dog Yet?" and our story of the week is Whose Baby Am I?

During our carpet times this week, we have been learning animal names and the names of their babies, such as piglet, calf and lamb. We have also been matching animals to their patterns and learning words to describe them, including spots, stripes and patches.

Our role-play area has been transformed into a jungle, where the children have loved pretending to go on adventures using binoculars and cameras to search for animals and each other. On the carpet, we have been working together to complete large floor puzzles.

At the craft and mark-making table, the children have been drawing different patterns using pattern cards. We have also been decorating our acorns with different coloured paints and corks to create a lovely display.

Outside in the garden, the children have enjoyed digging and building sandcastles in the sandpit. They have also been using their fine motor skills to make holes and shapes in leaves using hole punchers.

We have had a wonderful week and are looking forward to more exciting learning next week!

Acorns

This week in Acorns, we have been learning all about Black History Month. We have been learning about people in the past who were treated unfairly and had to be brave to help change the way we think.
This week, we read the book We Are All Welcome. It shows people from all over the world and teaches us that everyone is welcome in school. It also helps us learn about different cultures and ways of life. We then shared with a friend what makes us special. Some children said their hair, some said they can jump high, and some said they can run really fast. We made a class picture out of buttons to celebrate everyone and our unique qualities.
We also learnt about Rosa Parks. She lived a long time ago in America and was not treated fairly. She decided to challenge this by refusing to give up her seat on a bus simply because of the colour of her skin. The children thought this was very unkind and all agreed that we are kind to everyone at Mrs Bland's. We talked about how this happened many years ago and how Rosa Parks' bravery helped bring about positive change.
In Maths, we have been exploring size. We have been ordering animals by size and using the words bigger and smaller to compare them.
In Science this week, we made biscuits. The children helped to make the dough and then chose which size biscuit they wanted to make.





Beech & Maple (Reception)



This week in Reception, as part of our topic 'Marvellous Me', we have learnt a five-line story to describe ourselves, who is in our family, and the type of home we live in. We also worked on learning how to describe different types and styles of hair.
We thought about different types of homes, what they look like, and the different features they have. Using junk modelling, we created our own buildings, learning how to use a tape dispenser and when tape works better than glue.

In Maths, we have continued subitising by playing subitising bingo and dice games. We have also explored how numbers up to 4 can be represented in different ways using arrangements of shapes.

In Phonics, we have added the sounds ck, e, u, and r, as well as the tricky words to, go, and into. We have been using magnetic letters to help us build simple words.

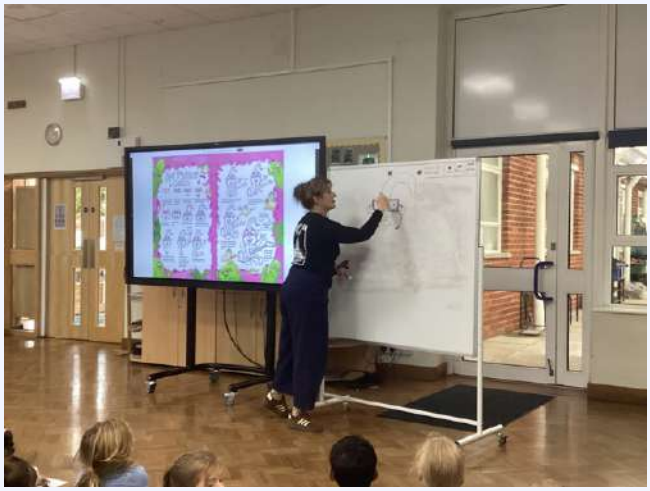
In Outdoor Learning, we have been learning the safety rules for playing with sticks and stones. We also learnt a Ghanaian stone-passing game, working together to pass stones around the circle.

Cherry (Year 1)

Another lovely week in the land of Cherry!
The children have been working hard on their fluency, specifically focusing on recognising the different parts that make up a number.
In English, we have been innovating our model text based on the story The Tiger Who Came to Tea. In Science, we explored our sense of smell. The children smelt different substances and tried to guess what they were. I wonder if they can remember any of the things they smelt today!
In Computing, we focused on typing skills, with the children practising the home row keys. We also continued our learning about staying safe online and the importance of not sharing personal information.
Our current History topic is all about understanding the differences between toys from the past and present. This week, the children took on the role of museum curators and told us all about different toys and their properties.
We were also lucky enough to welcome an author this week, who led some exciting illustration activities with the children.
In DT, our topic is free-standing structures. This week's challenge was to make structures sturdier by adding extra supports called buttresses, which can also be found naturally in the world around us.



Master Reader Vocabulary -
Damsels
Baron
Vicious
Suspiciously



Hazel (Year 2)

In English, we have been learning how to research and find important facts in a book. To do this, we have been practising our scanning skills. We are planning our innovated text all about how to become a knight and have discovered that there are three main steps to this. I wonder if your child can remember any of them? Towards the end of the week, we even started writing our fact files. We can't wait to finish them!

Maths this week has been all about number lines. We started the week by looking at number lines that count up in ones, before progressing to number lines with different intervals. We learnt the three most important steps when using a number line:

1. Look at the start number.
2. Look at the end number.
3. Work out what the intervals are counting up in.

We ended the week by learning some new mathematical vocabulary, focusing on the word "estimating".

We were also very lucky to have an author visit us at Mrs Bland's on Wednesday. Beccy Blake, author and illustrator of the Chicken Hill books, taught us how to draw her characters step by step. We created some amazing illustrations of dogs, cats, snails and even rock 'n' roll guinea pigs! It was wonderful to have her visit, and even more exciting to hear how many of the children would like to become authors and illustrators when they grow up.

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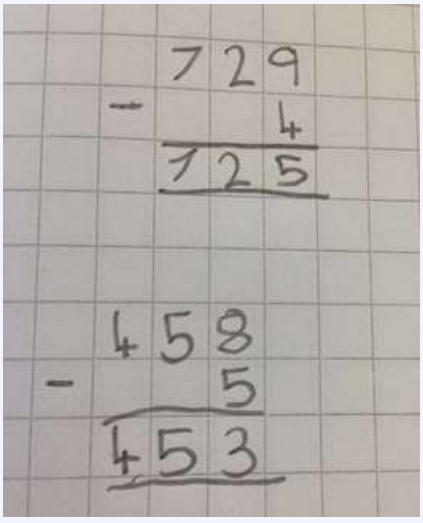


Garland Junior School News









Dates for your diary

Thurs 22nd October

PTA Halloween Disco

Fri 6th November

Governor Visit Day

Week commencing 05 Oct 2026

Class	Attendance %
Chestnut	92.0%
Sycamore	98.0%
Ash	91.2%
Hawthorn	96.9%
Aspen	98.8%
Willow	93.3%
Oak	100%

Garland Junior School Awards

Values Certificate

Chestnut - Arwen
Sycamore - Isaac
Ash - Ava
Hawthorn - James
Aspen - Eliana
Willow- Noah
Oak-Chloe

Reading Stars

Chestnut - Abel
Sycamore - James
Ash - Alanis
Hawthorn - Anya
Aspen - Isabella
Willow - Leo
Oak- Abigail

WOW Award

Chestnut - Charlie
Sycamore - George
Ash - Anna
Hawthorn - Cassidy
Aspen - Max
Willow - Yousuf
Oak - Amelie

Top Doodlers

Chestnut - Rupert
Sycamore - Lenny
Ash - Youssef
Hawthorn - Sophia
Aspen - Alice
Willow - Jack
Oak- Meleka

PE Star

Pixie- 3C

This week's Headteacher Values Award goes to...

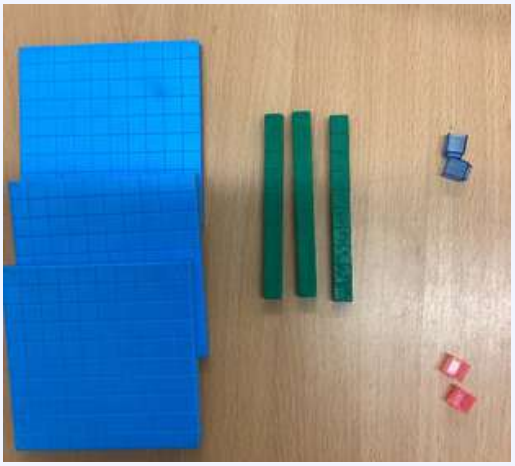
Amir B

This award is presented to a pupil who consistently goes above and beyond in demonstrating our school values of kindness, perseverance, teamwork, respect, and good manners.

Chestnut and Sycamore (Year 3)

Year 3 have had another busy and successful week of learning.
In English, the children have worked extremely hard on their shared write all about Stone Age tools. We used a toolkit to help us remember the key features needed in our writing, including headings, subheadings, paragraphs, and conjunctions.
In Maths, we had lots of fun using practical equipment and drawings to consolidate our understanding of addition and subtraction. These activities helped us to build our confidence and deepen our understanding before moving on to using the column method.
In Shared Reading, we have been learning about Iron Age houses and comparing them to Stone Age settlements.
A highlight of the week was the author visit on Wednesday afternoon. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to Beccy Blake and had great fun learning how to draw some of the characters from the Chicken Hill books.
In PE, we have continued to develop our balancing and rolling techniques. The children have worked collaboratively to create and perform their own routines, demonstrating increasing confidence, control, and creativity.
Well done, Year 3, for your perseverance, enthusiasm, and positive attitude towards learning. You should all be very proud of the fantastic progress you are making!

Master Reader Vocabulary -
chief
hearth
thatch
artificial



Master Reader Vocabulary -
Hideous
pleasant
deafening
collisions
intently
cavern



Ash & Hawthorn (Year 4/5)

We have had another brilliant week!

One of our highlights was meeting the amazing author Beccy Blake. We loved hearing about her books and learning how to draw characters from her stories. Many of us are now dreaming of becoming illustrators!

We are getting very close to the end of our shared reading book, and we think we may have finally found Starjik! We are so excited to discover what happens next and can't wait to find out how the story ends.

In Maths, we are loving our addition and subtraction unit. We are becoming experts at using the column method for addition and are growing in confidence when solving increasingly tricky problems.

In Computing, we have started learning about coding and have been creating our very own mini-games. It has been fantastic to see everyone experimenting with their code, solving problems, and having lots of fun along the way!

Aspen (Year 5)

This week in Aspen, we have thoroughly enjoyed beginning our shared write about parrots. We have been using our research to organise interesting facts under subheadings and thinking carefully about the vocabulary we choose to make our writing informative. Can your child tell you which bird is the fastest and how fast it can fly?

Our shared reading of Kensuke's Kingdom has seen us watch the beautiful friendship between Kensuke and Michael grow. We have enjoyed discussing how their relationship has changed and what we have learnt about both characters. We have now reached a nail-biting moment and are desperate to read on and discover what happens next!

To finish our addition and subtraction unit in maths, we have been comparing calculations, solving word problems and finding missing numbers. The children have been thinking carefully about which calculations they need and choosing suitable strategies to help them solve each problem.

Science brought lots of fun as we investigated how to separate materials. We made a variety of solutions and mixtures and explored how to separate them using sieving, filtering and evaporation. This gave us the opportunity to put our scientific knowledge into practice and consider which method was best suited to each mixture.

During PSHE, we discussed the qualities of a good friend and designed our own friendship cakes. We thought about the important "ingredients" that make a friendship strong, including kindness, honesty and listening to one another.

In PE, we have been combining moves into sequences with precision and control. We have focused on linking actions smoothly and performing them with increasing confidence, accuracy and balance.

Master Reader Vocabulary -
Reproached
Sullen
Treachery
Slunk
Bemused
Fluent



Master Reader Vocabulary -
recruiting
moustache
thief
mounted
apprehension
regiment

Oak and Willow (Year 6)

Year 6 have been away on Residential. We know they will have had an amazing time, and we hope they (and the staff!) have a restful weekend!



For the few who didn't go, we have been using Stormbreaker as a basis for our shared reading and writing. We used two important days in Alex's life to write diary entries, exploring how he transforms from an ordinary teenager into a trained spy!

Our afternoons have included art, cooking, and gardening.

We missed our classmates and are looking forward to being reunited next week!

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

Dates for your Diary

New dates added in light blue

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 1st Sep		Staff Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd Sep		Staff Inset Day
Thusday 3rd Sep		Autumn Term commences for Y1 -Y6 **MBS** YR Visit days **MBS** YN Home visits
Monday 08th Sep		**MBS** YR in 8.55am-1.00pm all week
Tuesday 09th Sep	6:15 pm	PTA AGM and committee meeting @ MBS
Friday 12th Sep		Flu Vaccinations
Week commencing 14th Sep		Children to bring in donations for Harvest Festival (will be donated to West Berks Foodbank)
Tuesday 29th Sep		Harvest Assembly
Tuesday 29th Sep	5:00 - 5:45pm **MBS** 6:00 - 6:45pm **GJS**	Meet the Teacher
Monday 06th Oct to Friday 10th Oct		**GJS** Y6 Residential
Tuesday 20th October	3:30 - 4:30 pm	**PTA MBS** Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October	3:15 - 4:15 LKS2 4:30 - 5:30 UKS2	**PTA GJS** Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October		End of Term 1
Friday 23rd October		Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 03rd November		Term 2 Starts
Friday 06th November		**MBS** - Governor Visit Day
Wednesday 11th November		**GJS** - Y5 Educational Visit to Reading Museum
Tuesday 17th November	3:30-6:00 pm	**BCF -** Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 19th November	3:30-6:00 pm	**BCF -** Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 26th November		Full Governing Board Meeting
Friday 27th November	3:15 - 4:45 pm	**GJS -** PTA Christmas Fayre
Monday 30th November	9:00 - 4:00 pm	**GJS -** Y3 Educational Visit to Marwell Zoo, Winchester
Friday 04th December	9:00 -9:30 am 9:30 -10:30 am	**GJS -** Choir singing at Christmas Tree Festival (Burghfield Parish Church) **GJS** - Open Morning for Y2 Parents
Tuesday 08th December	9:30 -10:30 am	**MBS -** Nativity
Wednesday 09th December	9:30 - 10:30 am	**GJS -** Y3 Nativity
Thursday 10th December	9:30 -10:30 am	**MBS -** Nativity Full Governing Board Meeting
Friday 11th December	9:00 - 9:30 am	**GJS -** Choir singing at Christmas Community Cafe (at Burghfield Village Hall)
Monday 14th December	9:30- 10:00 am	**MBS -** Nursery Nativity
Tuesday 15th December	2:00 - 3:00 pm	**BCF -** Carols @ St. Oswalds
Wednesday 16th December		**MBS -** Panto @ Hexagon
Thursday 17th December	8:30 -1:30 pm	**BCF -** Christmas Jumpers, Parties and Lunch

Please note that these dates may be subject to change. If any changes were to be made, we would endeavour to give you as much notice as possible

THE BURGHFIELD COMMON FEDERATION PTA

PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN DISCO

AT MRS BLAND'S NURSERY AND INFANT SCHOOL

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER

STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 4.30PM

TICKET: £4
(INCLUDES DRINK AND CRISPS)

PLEASE SEND A COSTUME IN A NAMED BAG FOR CHILDREN TO CHANGE INTO AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

MUSIC AND DANCE!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PTA

THE BURGHFIELD COMMON FEDERATION PTA

HALLOWEEN DISCO

THURSDAY
22ND OCTOBER



GARLAND
JUNIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 3 AND 4 STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 4:15PM

YEAR 5 AND 6 4:30PM UNTIL 5:30PM

TICKETS £4

Parents of year 3 and year 4 children, please send a costume/change of clothes for your child to change into

Calcot Family Hub Timetable

October half term 2026

MONDAY

No sessions today.

TUESDAY

Baby Group
9.30-11am
0-18 months
St Oswald's Church, Burghfield

WEDNESDAY

Cooking Club
Calcot Family Hub 10-11am
All ages welcome

11.15-12.15pm
Open to children aged 7 and over only, who may be left to attend independently.

Booking is essential for these sessions.

THURSDAY

Stay and Play
10-11.30am
Theale Village Hall
All ages welcome

Spooky Outdoor Explorers
Linear Park
(Meet by the carpark)
1.30-2.30pm
All ages welcome

FRIDAY

Art Club
CalcotFamily Hub 10-11am
All ages welcome

11.15am-12.15am
Open to children aged 7 and over only, who may be left to attend independently.

Booking is essential for these sessions

Follow the QR code to explore West Berkshire Family Hubs and register today.

Follow the QR code to book online.



Calcot Family Hub, Curtis Road, Calcot, Reading, United Kingdom, RG31 4XG