Friday 13th November 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter







Remembrance Day Assembly

This week, our school communities came together to mark Remembrance Day. We were incredibly proud of the members of the Learning Ambassadors at Infants and the Year 5 pupils at Juniors, who led our special Remembrance Assembly with confidence, respect and maturity.

The assembly provided an opportunity for pupils and staff to reflect on the sacrifices made by servicemen and women, both past and present. The children shared readings and reflections before the whole school observed a moving two-minute silence.

We would like to thank all the children involved for helping to make this an important and meaningful occasion for our school community.

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 13th November 2026

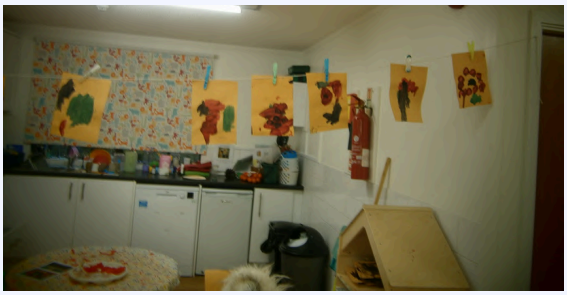
Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

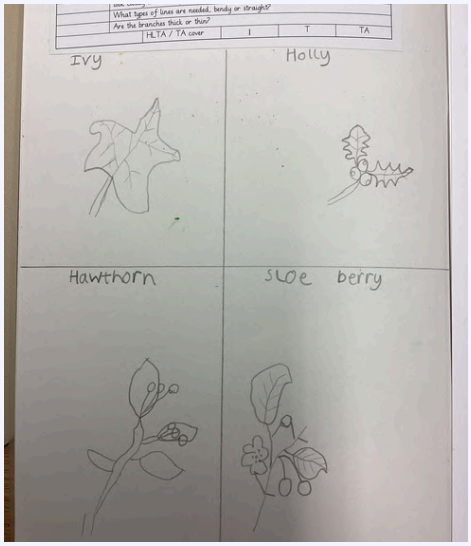


Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News











Dates for your diary

Tue 17th Nov & Thu 19th Nov

Parents Evening

Week commencing 09 Nov 2026

Class	Attendance %
Beech	92.5%
Maple	94.6%
Cherry	97.0%
Hazel	94.1%

Mrs Bland's School Stars

Star of the Week

Acorns - Liliana
Beech - Dominic
Maple - Vivien
Cherry - Leo
Hazel - Callum

Friendship Star

Acorns - Mikey
Beech - Manon
Maple - Amara
Cherry - Louie
Hazel - Louis

Playtime Star

Acorns - Hunter
Beech - Stela
Maple - Johnjoe
Cherry - Clara
Hazel - Kaylin

Little Acorns





This term in Little Acorns, our topic is Why Can't I Have Chocolate for Breakfast? Our story of the week is Chocolate Moose for Greedy Goose, and our rhyme of the term is Star Light, Star Bright.

During our carpet times this week, we have talked about Remembrance Day and why we wear poppies. We have also made our own poppy wreath to display in the hall. We have been learning number recognition and talking about Children in Need, including how Pudsey Bear helps lots of different children and what we can do to help, such as baking cakes and wearing spots to raise money.

The role-play area this week is a home corner with babies, where the children can look after them by washing, feeding and changing their nappies.

At the craft table, the children have been very busy. We have made a poppy wreath to display in the hall for Remembrance Day and also created Pudsey Bear ears ready to wear on Friday. We have also been busy baking cookies to sell for Children in Need.

Outside, the children have enjoyed exploring different materials in the farm tray and playing with dinosaurs in the sand tray.

Acorns

This week in Acorns, the children have been very busy. We started the week learning all about Remembrance Day. We made our own poppy wreath to take to the assembly on Wednesday. The children who attended the assembly represented Acorns beautifully and placed our wreath at the front. On Wednesday, we also observed a two-minute silence at 11:00am. The children stood still and remembered the soldiers who help keep everyone safe. We also painted our own poppies and decorated biscuits with red icing to mark Remembrance Day.

We have also been celebrating Diwali this week. We learnt all about the story of Rama and Sita and the Hindu Festival of Light. The children made their own diva lamps and decorated the garden with colourful rangoli patterns using chalk.

In science this week, we made fairy cakes to sell for Children in Need. On Friday morning, the children took part in the Children in Need assembly to help raise money for Pudsey Bear. We had lots of fun in class and even made our own Pudsey ears!

It has been a busy and enjoyable week full of learning, creativity, and celebration.





Beech & Maple (Reception)





We have continued our topic of 'Let's Celebrate' by learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We read the story of Rama and Sita and used shadow puppets and a shadow puppet theatre to act out the story. We made our own diva lamps using salt dough and decorated them with lots of glitter and sequins.

We also learned about Remembrance Day and made class poppy wreaths. We read stories about why poppies are a symbol of remembrance at this time of year.

In Talk for Writing, we learned a story about a little star who was afraid of the dark and have been using the model of this story to create a new class story about a candle. We also drew our candles and wrote labels and captions for them.

In Maths, we have been comparing sets of objects and matching them one-to-one to see whether they are equal sets or not.

In Outdoor Learning, we have begun making our Christmas decorations, using palm drills to make holes in conkers.

Cherry (Year 1)

Cherry Class have moved back into our Cherry classroom and settled in really well. The children were incredibly helpful during the move and loved being involved in the process.

This week, we have celebrated Remembrance Day, and the class created a beautiful wreath for the service.

We had an amazing time during Outdoor Learning, creating a huge Goldsworthy-inspired art piece in the playground, with every child taking part. We also collected a huge pile of leaves, which the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring. It was wonderful to see their imaginations at work and the different ways they chose to play. You may have noticed that they came home a little dirty, with foliage still stuck in their hair, after making "leaf angels" and burying one another in the leaf pile!

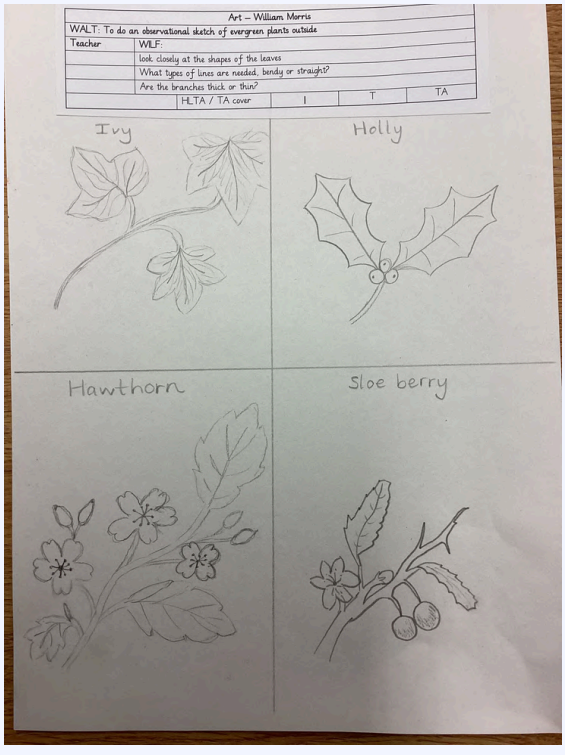
We have also started using a proper Maths book for the first time this week, and the children are loving feeling all grown up. In Maths, we have moved on to addition and subtraction. In English, we have been writing the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears in preparation for our innovation next week.

Preparations for the Christmas play are well underway, and Cherry Class are doing an amazing job learning their songs and dances. If your child has a speaking part, please could you help them practise their lines at home so that they feel confident when performing on stage.

Thank you for your continued support.



Master Reader
Vocabulary -
Lodged
Curlicue
Blizzard
Glimpse



Hazel (Year 2)

In English this week, we have written our own innovated narratives. It has been incredible to hear and read everyone's ideas. Some amazing adjectives and verbs were used to really uplevel their sentences. Well done, Year 2!

In Maths, we have been looking at adding and subtracting ones and exploring the resources we can use to help us. We have used rekenreks, Dienes and number lines to show how to add and subtract one-digit numbers from two-digit numbers. The children have shown a great understanding of how numbers get smaller when we subtract and bigger when we add.

In Art and Design this week, we were introduced to a new artist, William Morris. We have learnt a lot about his many talents and his legacy. We can't wait to focus on his artwork this term and have already been completing some observational sketches of winter branches. The children loved exploring the school grounds in search of holly, ivy, hawthorn and sloe berry branches to use in their sketches. If you have any of these at home that you wouldn't mind bringing in, Miss Kendall would love to have a vase of different branches on display!

We also enjoyed two fantastic assemblies this week. Well done to the Learning Ambassadors and School Council for showing us the importance of both Remembrance Day and Children in Need. You were incredibly brave to lead assemblies in the hall in front of the whole school!

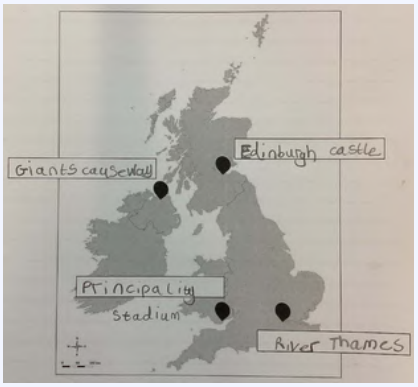
Friday 13th November 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Garland Junior School News







Dates for your diary

Tue 17th Nov & Thu 19th Nov
Parents Evening

Fri 27th Nov
Christmas Fayre

Mon 30th Nov
Y3 Marwell Zoo



Our eco committee met with Mrs Irons for the first time this week. Together we made a list of environmental priorities that we'd like to work on this year and also went over our duties for pen recycling and food waste bins.



Week commencing 09 Nov 2026

Class	Attendance %
Chestnut	95.8%
Sycamore	97.5%
Ash	92.9%
Hawthorn	96.0%
Aspen	97.7%
Willow	97.4%
Oak	91.8%

Garland Junior School Awards

Values Certificate

Chestnut - Josie
Sycamore - Freyja
Ash - Willow
Hawthorn - Autumn
Aspen - Layton
Willow- Hanna
Oak - Clara

Reading Stars

Chestnut - Rupert
Sycamore - Lenny
Ash - Kelyn
Hawthorn - Harrison
Aspen - Madison
Willow - Leo
Oak- Charlie

Music Star

Emily - 6O
Elliott - 6W

WOW Award

Chestnut - Lucas C
Sycamore - Reuben
Ash - Phoenix
Hawthorn - Mason
Aspen - Callie
Willow - Rudi
Oak - Rufus

Top Doodlers

Chestnut - Austin
Sycamore - Kaiden
Ash - Finley
Hawthorn - Theo
Aspen - Alexandra
Willow - Nehaan
Oak - Emily

PE Star

Daisy - 5A

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

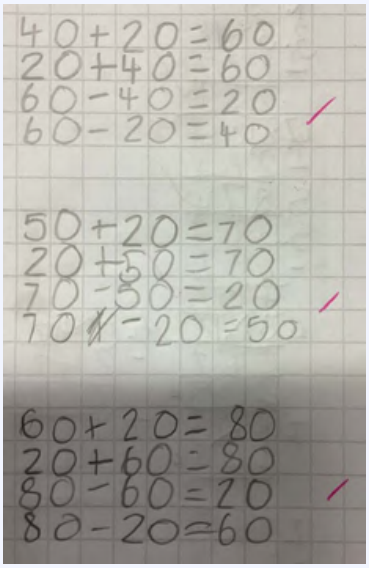
Marley M

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.

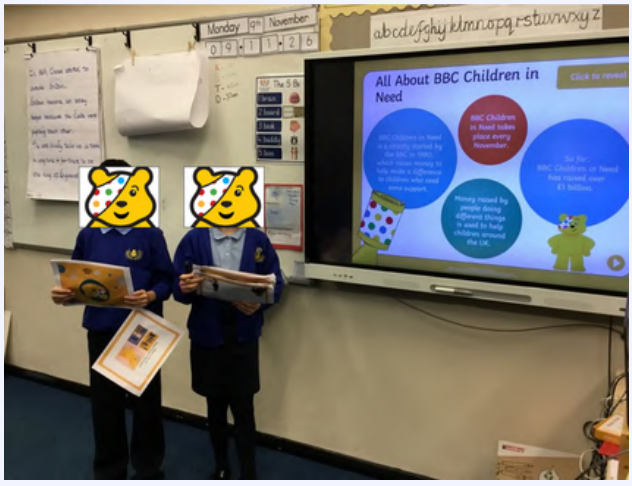
Chestnut and Sycamore (Year 3)

What a wonderful week we have had in Year 3!
In English, we explored persuasive writing through a shared write about a cleaning company. The children impressed us with their use of rhetorical questions, imperative verbs and persuasive language to encourage customers to choose their service. We were particularly pleased with the way they included expanded noun phrases, ambitious adjectives and effective adverbs to make their writing more engaging and convincing.
In Maths, we have been learning about fact families and using inverse operations to help solve missing number problems.
We also enjoyed spending time outdoors during our Outdoor Learning sessions. The children showed great creativity and teamwork as they designed and made special gifts for people they care about, including drum kits, picture frames and shelters for their favourite teddies. Their imagination and problem-solving skills were wonderful to see.
In Computing, the children thoroughly enjoyed using Purple Mash to develop their coding skills, resulting in the creation of their own games!
We had great fun in Geography, using atlases to locate key places within the United Kingdom.
Well done, Year 3! We are incredibly proud of all your hard work and enthusiasm this week.

Master Reader Vocabulary -
Smoothly
bucket
wobbly
chauffeur



Master Reader Vocabulary -
loyalty
conquered
strong-minded
govern
weave
pagan



Ash & Hawthorn (Year 4/5)

In English, we have been linking our learning to Geography by writing non-chronological reports all about mountains. The children have been exploring key facts and information and learning how to organise their writing using headings and subheadings.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of the 3 and 6 times tables, as well as beginning to explore square numbers and recognise patterns.
In French, we have been learning how to ask for different vegetables, practising our vocabulary and developing our speaking skills.

During PSHE, we have been thinking about how to resolve disagreements effectively and kindly. We discussed the importance of listening to one another, understanding different points of view, and finding positive ways to work through arguments.

Aspen (Year 5)

Master Reader Vocabulary -
throbbing
wares
grand
quarters
wails
crashing



What a busy and memorable week Year 5 have had! From exploring Victorian life to presenting our Remembrance Assembly, the children have had plenty of opportunities to make us proud.

Tuesday was a particularly proud moment as Year 5 presented an outstanding Remembrance Assembly. There were some important and challenging words to deliver, and the children spoke clearly, confidently and thoughtfully. Well done, Year 5, for helping us mark this significant occasion with such respect.

Aspen Class also had a fantastic visit to Reading Museum. The morning gave us the chance to step back in time and experience life as Victorian schoolchildren. The children enjoyed it so much that some even said they would like to attend a Victorian school! The afternoon was spent exploring the museum, following trails around the lower and upper floors. We discovered more about Reading's history and Huntley & Palmers biscuits. The wonderful collection of biscuit tins was a particular highlight, and we all found a favourite.

A huge well done to the children for representing themselves and our school impeccably throughout the visit. Both the Victorian schoolteacher and a member of the public commented on how engaged and beautifully behaved they were. They should feel very proud of themselves!

In school, Shared Reading has taken us deeper into Street Child, where we have already encountered tragedy and developed our understanding of what life was like in the workhouse. The children have been considering Jim's experiences and how different life was for Victorian children.

During English lessons, we have explored the meanings of some of the trickier vocabulary in our model text and examined how a good diary entry is structured. Next week, we will begin our shared write from Jim's point of view, reflecting on his time in the workhouse and the events that led him there.

Our new Maths unit focuses on fractions. We have been finding and recognising equivalent fractions, drawing on our multiplication and division knowledge to spot connections between them. A secure understanding of these facts will make the new concepts we explore over the coming weeks much easier to grasp. Please continue to support your child with regular practice of their times tables and corresponding division facts, even when they already know them confidently.

Thankfully, we stayed dry during Outdoor Learning this week, but we were preparing for rain just in case! Working in small groups, the children had lots of fun building shelters designed to protect them from a downpour. It was a lovely opportunity to work together, share ideas and solve practical problems.

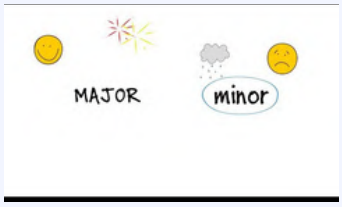
Well done, Year 5, for another fantastic week of learning, teamwork and achievement. We look forward to another exciting week ahead!



Oak and Willow (Year 6)

Master Reader Vocabulary -
bustle
plump
lingered
frantically
steely
glance
hushed







As the days grow darker, Year 6 have been working hard across the curriculum on a variety of topics.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of fractions, learning to compare, order and add both like and unlike fractions.

In English, we have been planning and developing balanced arguments around the question, "Should children be allowed to choose their own lessons?" We held a class debate on this topic, focusing on the use of formal vocabulary, adverbial openers and causal conjunctions to strengthen our arguments and present both sides effectively.

In Reading, we have continued our class text, Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson. This week, we followed Maia as she arrived in Manaus and met her new family, who did not give her quite the warm welcome she had hoped for! We have also been developing our comprehension skills through three-mark style questions.

In Science, we began exploring the circulatory system, learning how the heart pumps blood around the body and discovering that the heart is a muscle. In Geography, we have been identifying the continents and oceans of the world using maps and atlases.

In PE, we continued our dance unit, experimenting with jumps, claps and stomps to create rhythmic dynamics. We also created actions for words such as "swish" and "pop" to add variety to our group routines and considered how to evaluate performances.

In RE, we developed our understanding of the Trimurti and its significance to Hindus. In Music, we explored the difference between major and minor sounds, creating our own happy and sad rhythms using xylophones.

In PSHE, we discussed differences and bullying, thinking carefully about what we can do if we witness bullying or experience it ourselves. In Computing, Willow Class began exploring online safety, while Oak Class started working in groups on their JDO collaboration project.

During our Outdoor Learning session, we discussed how natural resources could be used to design and create Christmas decorations, alongside enjoying some fun outdoor games.

Finally, we took time to mark Remembrance Day, participating in the two-minute silence to remember and show respect for those who have fought and lost their lives in conflict.

Well done, Year 6, for another fantastic week of learning and achievement.

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 03rd November		Term 2 Starts
Friday 06th November		**MBS** - Governor Visit Day
Tuesday 10th November	9:00 am	**GJS -** Aspen Class lead Remembrance assembly (Aspen parents invited)
Wednesday 11th November	9:05 am 9:00am - 3:10 pm	**MBS -** Learning Ambassadors lead Remembrance Assembly (no parents) **GJS -** Y5 Educational Visit to Reading Museum
Friday 13th November	9.05am	**MBS -** School Council Lead Children in Need Assembly (no parents) **GJS -** School Council leading class assemblies Children in Need (no parents)
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

A Little Time for



Tea & Talk

TALKING • SUPPORTING • PARENTING • SEN

A friendly space to chat, share and support each other.

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
9:00–10:00 AM

Join us for tea, biscuits and an informal chat.



Spend a little time with

Amanda Fox | SENCO

Amber Clarke | Pastoral Lead



NO APPOINTMENT, NO PRESSURE – JUST A CUPPA AND A CHAT

The Burghfield Common Federation PTA

BAG2SCHOOL®

Clothes Donation Collection

19th November

At both Mrs Blands and Garland School
After drop off

What you can donate

- Clothes
- Paired shoes
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Bras
- Jewellery
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft Toys

Please ensure all items are clean and in good condition.

No school uniform please.



The more your school community donates — including soft toys, shoes, and bags — the more your school earns.

If in doubt, check our website

www.bag2school.com

THE BURGHFIELD COMMON FEDERATION PTA

Non-uniform Day

Friday 20th November

In exchange for a donation to the upcoming Christmas Shhhop



Acorns & Little Acorns
Wrapping paper



Mrs Bland's students
Men's gifts



Garlands students
Tubs/boxes of confectionaries

The Burghfield Common Federation PTA

Little Acorns Fancy dress day

Friday 20th November

in exchange for donation of wrapping paper for our upcoming

Christmas shhhop



Please ensure outfits selected do not impact nursery routines including using the toilet etc.

THE BURGHFIELD COMMON
FEDERATION PTA

Christmas Fayre

Garland Junior School

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2026
3.15 PM – 4.45 PM

JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL AFTERNOON FILLED WITH ARTS AND CRAFTS, FESTIVE GAMES, STALLS, TOMBOLA, FACE PAINTING, A RAFFLE, AND A VERY SPECIAL VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS HIMSELF!



Burghfield ON ICE

FRIDAY 4TH & SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
BURGHFIELD VILLAGE HALL



Come along and enjoy the festive fun!



Christmas stalls



Snow globe photos



Live entertainment

Stalls and live entertainment on Saturday.

Browse the stalls, find a gift, snap a festive photo and enjoy the music.

SKATING WALK-UPS WELCOME

Subject to space being available on the day.

Book ahead to secure your skating session

www.burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

WBDF

WEST BERKSHIRE DANCE FESTIVAL

A celebration of dance for primary school children across West Berkshire

Sunday 14 March 2027

Cheam School, Headley, Berkshire

- Open to children in Years 1–6
- No previous dance experience necessary
- FREE participation and online dance lessons
- Solo, couples and optional group performances
- A fun and inclusive event welcoming children of all abilities

PARENTS & CARERS

Please register your child's interest directly with their school.

Proudly supporting
New Life Special Care Babies