



Friday 02nd October 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils are off on their residential on the Isle of Wight. They will be spending most of their days outside taking part in adventurous activities on land, water and in the air! Year 6 will be strengthening friendships, learning new skills and building confidence, all whilst having fun and pushing their limits in a safe and supportive environment. They will be presenting an assembly on all they get up to the rest of the school and parents/carers later this term. We wish them the greatest time ever!

We will be holding a Year 5 parents/carers information session later this term to give you all the information on the residential for next year!



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 02nd October 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Mrs Bland's Infant and Nursery News



Dates for your diary

Tue 20th Oct
Halloween Disco

Week commencing 28 Sep 2026

Class	Attendance %
Beech	91.8%
Maple	93.3%
Cherry	95.9%
Hazel	96.2%



Mrs Bland's School Stars

Acorns - Veeha
Beech - Amari
Maple - Amboy
Cherry - Joey
Hazel - Alex

Star of the Week

Acorns - Genevieve
Beech - Eliza
Maple - Edward
Cherry - Ajith
Hazel - Henry

Friendship Star

Acorns - Rosa
Beech - Ayla
Maple - Elsie
Cherry - Sienna
Hazel - Reggie

Playtime Star

Little Acorns



Our topic this term is “Can I Have a Dog Yet?”, and our story of the week is Dear Zoo.

During carpet time this week, we have been learning the language of size and sorting animals into groups of big and small. We have also been talking about what a zoo is, the different animals that live there, the types of enclosures they need, and how they are cared for.

In our small-world area, we have created a Dear Zoo story scene where the children can retell the story using the different animals. During carpet sessions, the children have also been developing their building skills by using Duplo bricks to create large homes for different animals.

At the craft and mark-making table this week, the children have been using animal stencils to draw a variety of zoo animals.

Outside in the garden, the children have been practising their balancing skills using the balancing bricks and have really enjoyed developing new skills while riding the scooters.



Acorns



This week in Acorns, we have been learning all about Harvest.

We talked about where our food comes from and how it gets to our kitchens. The children then gave me a list of vegetables to buy from the shop. Once I had done the shopping, the children helped to chop all the fruit and vegetables. We enjoyed the fruit as a snack, and then we boiled the potatoes, carrots, and broccoli. The children were all encouraged to try a piece, and it was lovely to see them tasting new foods.



In PE, Danny taught us a game of Stuck in the Mud. The children showed excellent listening skills and teamwork as they worked together to unstuck each other. We also enjoyed trying yoga in the hall.

In Outdoor Learning, the children created their own leaf pictures to celebrate autumn and the changing weather. They used natural materials creatively and took great pride in their work.



The children are becoming very confident with our routines and are especially good at returning to the Sticky Toes Circle when asked, showing fantastic listening and self-regulation skills.

Beech & Maple (Reception)



This week in Reception, both classes performed our first Talk for Writing poem for the whole Federation, a poem about Harvest. The children were fantastic, speaking loudly and clearly, especially as we were the first class to share in the large assembly.

In Talk for Writing, we have been focusing on setting descriptions, trying to extend our sentences to describe what we can see in pictures from a familiar story. In phonics, we have continued adding Phase 2 sounds and have now learned g, o, c, and k.

In maths, we have been focusing on early addition and repeating patterns. We have explored these both indoors and outdoors using toys, buttons, and natural materials. In outdoor learning, we have been looking closely at leaves, noticing the patterns on them and comparing their sizes and shapes. We have also used single-handed punch tools to make holes in leaves and thread them together.

The children have also been exploring how many different things a stick can become by using their imaginations. We have seen walking sticks, witches' brooms, swords, fishing rods, and horses.

The children have loved sharing photos of their families and talking about who is in their pictures. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Cherry (Year 1)



Cherry Class made me very proud this week with their Harvest poem recital. They remembered all the words, spoke clearly, and no one dropped their cress head!

During PSHE this week, we looked at why we need rules in class. The children then took turns suggesting rules to include on our class charter. One particularly insightful rule that stood out to me was, "We don't distract others' learning."

We finished our English unit this week by innovating our model text, creating stories about something the children had lost and where they found it. In Science, learning about our senses continued, and the children had to reach into feely bags and try to work out what was inside using only their sense of touch.

In History, the children applied their learning about the properties of toys from the past and present. They used the lists they produced last week to support this activity. If you have anything interesting that you, your parents, or grandparents could share about toys from the past, please send them in along with any stories for the children to enjoy.

Outdoor learning was a big hit this week. Our stimulus was The Gruffalo, and the children were challenged to name and create a new meal. They thoroughly enjoyed foraging around the school grounds to find ingredients. We may have to write to Julia Donaldson with some of our newly created meals: mouse doughnuts, mouse-tail soup, ladybird mash, snake cake, and fish-frog frappé, just to name a few!



This Gruffalo meal included some cocoa to drink

Master Reader
Vocabulary -
Sheepishly
Sneered
Defeated
Reluctantly



Hazel (Year 2)



Another great week of learning and fun in Year 2!

English was a little different this week, as we were very lucky to perform in our Harvest Assembly at Garlands. For the assembly, Year 2 practised and performed a harvest poem called Harvest Moon. The children really did themselves, and all the staff, proud when they stood in front of the whole federation and recited their poem with actions, smiles, and confidence, while also showcasing some amazing artwork!

In Maths, we have been looking at expanded form. This is where we turn part-whole models into number sentences. We have been using key vocabulary such as the whole and the part to ensure our mathematical language is accurate. Some of the children even blew Miss Kendall away by explaining that it does not matter which way round we write the parts in an addition sentence because of the commutative law!

In Music this week with Mrs Irons, the focus was on timbre. The children started the lesson by practising a song and remembering to keep a steady beat when there is more than one rhythm happening at the same time. They also listened to a piece of music called The Old Castle and drew some beautiful castle pictures.

In RE, we compared places of worship and noticed the differences and similarities between them. We focused on Diwali temples and Christian churches, exploring how each is used for worship and celebration.





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Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter



Garland Junior School News



Dates for your diary

From 05th - 09th Oct
Y6 Residential

Thur 22nd Oct
Halloween Disco



Week commencing 28 Sep 2026

Class	Attendance %
Chestnut	92.4%
Sycamore	99.0%
Ash	93.5%
Hawthorn	97.9%
Aspen	97.8%
Willow	98.1%
Oak	89.6%

Garland Junior School Awards

Values Certificate

Chestnut - Josie
Sycamore - Jacob
Ash - Leon
Hawthorn - Coral
Aspen - Holly
Willow - Bethany
Oak - Jan

Reading Stars

Chestnut - Zac
Sycamore - Seren
Ash - Willow
Hawthorn - Nicholas
Aspen - Mikey
Willow - Alexander
Oak - Amelie

Music Star

Clara M - 60

WOW Award

Chestnut - Gabriel
Sycamore - Kai
Ash - Lily
Hawthorn - Harrison
Aspen - Dennis
Willow - Nehaan
Oak - Jojo

Top Doodlers

Chestnut - Adam
Sycamore - Jack
Ash - Emma
Hawthorn - Javen
Aspen - Johsua
Willow - Logan
Oak - Bluebell

PE Star

Alice - 5A

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

Cathy P

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)



It has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into Year 3 and how hard they are working across all areas of the curriculum. It was lovely to welcome so many parents to our Meet the Teacher evening and to share our plans for the year ahead.

In English, we have been learning to read as readers and have explored a new text all about Stone Age fact files. The children have worked hard to understand key vocabulary, which we hope they will begin to use in their own writing.

In Maths, we completed our unit on place value and have now moved on to addition and subtraction. We have been investigating the relationship between number bonds to 10 and 100 and exploring how this knowledge helps us work out number bonds to 1,000.

In Art, we continued our Stone Age animal drawings, creating detailed sketches of woolly mammoths, deer, and horses.

We also had a wonderful time during Outdoor Learning, where the children worked together to make axes using sticks and stones. It was a tricky challenge, but they showed fantastic perseverance, determination, and resilience throughout.

We are very proud of all their hard work and positive attitudes to learning. Well done, Year 3, on another fantastic week!



Master Reader Vocabulary -

Phantoms
thrust
serpent
beckoned
glimpse
spirited



Ash & Hawthorn (Year 4/5)



In Outdoor Learning, we practised lashing, developing our teamwork and practical skills.

In English, we learnt a new character description and added actions to our retelling, helping us perform it confidently. We were also very proud to perform our autumn poem in the Harvest Assembly.

In Music, we got creative and made our own instruments using straws, exploring how different sounds can be created.

In Maths, we finished our place value topic, consolidating our number knowledge and ensuring we are confident with numbers up to 10,000. Next week, we will begin our new topic on addition and subtraction.

This week, we also started our pointillism paintings, considering foreground and background, as well as colour blending.

Well done for another fantastic week!

Aspen (Year 5)



This week in English, we have started our new unit on non-chronological reports, focusing on the animals we have encountered in Kensuke's Kingdom. We have enjoyed learning all about orangutans. Ask your child if they can explain why orangutans are described as arboreal! We have explored the features of non-chronological reports in detail and are looking forward to researching and writing about parrots found in the rainforests of Asia.

In Shared Reading, we have read further into Kensuke's Kingdom and are getting closer to discovering more about the mysterious Kensuke. When we finished reading on Tuesday, everyone was desperate to carry on! It has been lovely to see the children so engrossed in the story.

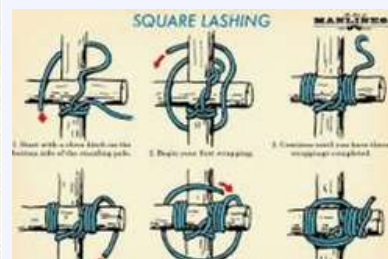
We were blessed with lovely weather for Outdoor Learning this week. The children had lots of fun using square lashing techniques to connect two sticks together. They showed great perseverance and became increasingly confident with their lashings.

In Science, we investigated soluble and insoluble materials by adding different materials to water and observing whether they dissolved. We learned that soluble materials dissolve to form a solution, while insoluble materials remain separate. We also discovered that a solution is a type of mixture.

In PSHE, we discussed the qualities of a good friend. The children shared thoughtful ideas about friendship and how we can show kindness and support to one another. It was wonderful to hear their mature reflections and examples of what makes a positive and caring friend.



Master Reader Vocabulary -
Agility
Honourable
Punting
Floundered
Condemnation
Racked



Master Reader Vocabulary -
recruiting
moustache
thief
mounted
apprehension
regiment

Oak and Willow (Year 6)



It has been a productive week in Year 6, with plenty of opportunities to develop our knowledge, skills, and confidence across the curriculum.

In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication, revisiting factors, prime numbers, and square and cube numbers. We have also been developing our fluency with formal multiplication methods, multiplying integers by two-digit numbers and applying these skills to a range of increasingly challenging calculations.

In English, we have continued our work on War Horse, writing diary entries from Joey's perspective as he is sold. We have focused particularly on the use of emotive language to convey thoughts and feelings, helping us to create writing that is both engaging and expressive. In Spelling, we have been tackling some challenging exception words, as well as exploring the prefixes im-, ir-, and il-. Our Reading sessions have continued to follow Joey's remarkable journey in War Horse. He is now part of the Axis forces and is being cared for by a young girl, Emilie, and her grandfather. We have also been developing our vocabulary through words including hazardous, hauling, loft, prattle, puzzled, and orderlies.

In History, we explored the events following the end of the First World War, learning about the Armistice and considering different perspectives on whether the Treaty of Versailles was fair. This provided some interesting discussion and encouraged us to think carefully about the consequences of decisions made at the end of the war.

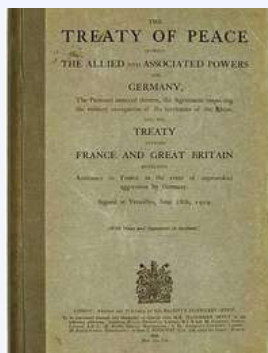
In Science, we focused on our spotlight scientist, Carl Linnaeus, and explored his significant contribution to the classification of plants, animals, and rocks. We have been developing our understanding of how classification systems help us to organise and identify living things.

In PE, we continued our gymnastics work, focusing on different jumping techniques and exploring how body position can help us achieve greater height while maintaining control and landing safely. In Art, we completed our Paul Nash-inspired landscapes using pastels. The finished pieces are looking fantastic and really showcase the children's creativity!

In RE, we explored Christian beliefs about what happens after death, considering different beliefs and perspectives. In Music, we discovered more about the hugely influential composer John Williams and explored some of his best-known film scores, including Jaws, Star Wars, and Schindler's List.

In PSHE, we focused on resolving conflict and the importance of showing respect when managing disagreements. We considered how listening carefully, communicating calmly, and understanding different perspectives can help us to resolve conflict positively.

We rounded off the week with our Harvest Assembly, where the children confidently recited Autumn by John Clare alongside their beautiful autumn-inspired artwork. They should be incredibly proud of their performance and the enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work they have shown throughout the week.



$$\begin{array}{r}
 124 \times 26 \text{ becomes} \\
 \begin{array}{r}
 1 \ 2 \\
 1 \ 2 \ 4 \\
 \times \quad 2 \ 6 \\
 \hline
 7 \ 4 \ 4 \\
 2 \ 4 \ 8 \ 0 \\
 3 \ 2 \ 2 \ 4 \\
 \hline
 1 \ 1 \\
 \hline
 \text{Answer: } 3224
 \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

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

Dates for your Diary

New dates added in light blue

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

CAMHS West Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

For Primary Schools

NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Issue 2 (Autumn 2026)

Welcome to the CAMHS West Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Newsletter!

We are pleased to offer you our latest termly newsletter designed to keep parents, carers and young people of MHST schools connected with the latest developments in our services.

This edition contains the following:

1. Who are the Mental Health Support Team?
2. Online Parent Workshops
3. School worries what is normal and when to seek support
4. Resources and Support



 <https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/services>

 CAMHSWestMHSTs@berkshire.nhs.uk

4: Resources and Support

Your school should be able to offer you some support and advice, but you can also consider the resources and support below:

Resources for supporting your child with anxiety:

- Helping Your Child with their Fears and Worries book – full of information and a self-help guide for parents, including practical strategies: <https://overcoming.co.uk/titles/cathy-creswell/helping-your-child-with-fears-and-worries-2nd-edition>
- YoungMinds - A helpful website that gives advice and tips on how to support children and young people with symptoms of anxiety while waiting for treatment: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/anxiety/>
- PLace2Be- have some useful advice about anxiety and how to support young children that you may encounter <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk>
- Anna Freud has a number of resources for parents around how to manage anxiety in children and young people [Resources for Families](#) | [Anna Freud](#)

Resources for learning more about Autism and SEND needs:

- Parenting Special Children – help with navigating the world of SEND: <https://www.parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/> (or phone 0118 986 3522).
- AutismBerkshire(also supports ADHD)–<https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk> (or phone: 01189 594 594)
- SENDIASS – SEND advice - <https://www.kids.org.uk/sendiaass/advice/>

Support for young autistic people:

- NeuroBears(8-14and14-25yearsold)
- NeuroBearsCubs (under 8)

Groups providing psychoeducation about neurodiversity, a space to connect with other neurodiverse young people, a safe space to explore their neurodiversity and create positive self-identity:<https://www.pandasonline.org/>

Urgent mental health support:

- Childline – www.childline.org.uk (phone: 0800 1111 or text 'shout' to 85258)
- Samaritan's – www.Samaritans.org (phone: 116123)
- CAMHS Urgent Care – phone 0300 247 0000

We hope you found this newsletter informative. If you have any questions, please contact the team on the below email address:

 CAMHSWestMHSTs@berkshire.nhs.uk



Information for
parents and carers



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Anxiety workshop for parents of primary aged children

With the Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

This parent workshop is designed to help you:

- Understand what anxiety is and how it can show up in children's thoughts, feelings, bodies, and behaviour
- Learn about the key factors that maintain anxiety
- Explore practical ways parents and carers can provide support
- Understand when and how to seek further support if your child is struggling



Microsoft teams

Thursday the 12th of November 12:30-13:30

Sign up here: [Register for Anxiety Workshop \(Primary\) - 12th Nov](#)



Scan me

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
at the end of the school day.**