



Friday 11th September 2026

Burghfield Common Federation

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers.

We have come to the end of the first full week of the Autumn term already! The children have all settled in well to their new classes and routines, as if they were pros!

We have added in some of our diary dates at the end of the newsletter and will continue to add to these over the next few days. Next week, we have the school photographer in on Wednesday at Mrs Bland's and Thursday at Garland. Details of which have already been emailed out to parents.

We also have our Harvest Festival planned for Tuesday 29th September. Both schools come together and sing and recite poems all linked to Harvest. This is for pupils only, but we will post photographs on Seesaw.

We will be collecting donations at both schools for 'West Berkshire Foodbank together with Trussell'. Last year we were able to donate 209kgs of food to the charity. Let's see if we can beat this total!

Donations can be brought into both schools from Monday:

tinned food (soup, fruit, beans)

dried pasta

instant noodles

sugar

toilet rolls

cereal bars

deodorant

cereal

washing powder

Please check food is well in date.

Week commencing 11Sep 2026

Class	Attendance %
Beech	100%
Maple	97.6%
Cherry	99.2%
Hazel	100%

Class	Attendance %
Chestnut	94.0%
Sycamore	94.4%
Ash	93.4%
Hawthorn	96.8%
Aspen	97.9%
Willow	98.4%
Oak	95.5%

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

Mrs Bland's School Stars

Acorns - Jax
Beech - Preston
Maple - Maddison
Cherry - Caleb L
Hazel - Salma

Star of the Week

Acorns - Freddie
Beech - John-Joe
Maple - Clara
Cherry - Rosie
Hazel - Harper

Friendship Star

Acorns - Lilah
Beech - Finn
Maple - Kaiyrie
Cherry - Seren
Hazel - Oliver

Playtime Star

Little Acorns



During our first term in Little Acorns, our topic is "Can I Have a Dog Yet?". It is all about families and pets, learning to share, and looking after one another.

The children are starting to settle in and are already learning our routines, expectations, and how we all belong together in Little Acorns by sharing and being kind to one another.

Our story of the week is "Starting School", and we have been learning lots of new rhymes that help us throughout our day in Nursery, including the Tidy Up Song, Please and Thank You Song, and Hello and Goodbye Song.

We have also been practising sitting for our group times, where we sing rhymes and share a story during story time. We have introduced our rhyming basket on the carpet and have been learning our rhyme of the term, "Old MacDonald Had a Farm".

At the craft table, the children have been busy colouring and making handprints for our display. Outside, the children have enjoyed exploring the garden and all the new resources, playing in the dinosaur small-world area, and building tall towers in the construction area.

Acorns



A big welcome to all our families. The children have settled into Acorns so well this week. We have been learning the new routines, and they are very good at stopping when the bell rings.

We have jumped straight into our timetable and had PE with Danny on Wednesday. The children learnt how to stop and start when he blew the whistle and how to balance. We played the colour game and practised finding the coloured cones.

We also had Outdoor Learning on Wednesday. The children learnt the phrase 'Sticky Toes'. We use this phrase to call everyone together as a group when we are outside. We then pretended to be different animals, and when I called out 'Sticky Toes', the children were very good at coming together to make a circle.

Please remember that children need puddle suits and wellies for Outdoor Learning on Thursdays.

The children have also been very good during lunchtime and have been able to carry their own trays to the table.

This term, our topic is 'Why Do You Love Me So Much?' We will be learning all about our families and homes, and who lives with us. We will be talking about how we are all different and what makes us special.

On Wednesday, we will be having our school photos taken. Please can children come to school in their school uniform for the day this week. We will adapt our Outdoor Learning session to accommodate this, as we do not want them to miss out on their first school photo!

Well done to all the children for an amazing first week! We are so proud of how well they have settled into school.

Beech & Maple (Reception)



We are so proud of how the children have transitioned from their nurseries to Reception. There have been a lot of new routines to learn this week, but they have managed brilliantly.

They have attended all the assemblies, got used to eating in the hall at lunchtime, and completed their first full PE lesson with Danny.

Our topic this term is 'Marvellous Me'. In class, we have been focusing on the routines of the day and introducing our visual timetable to help us understand how the day works. We have read stories about how we are all different, and that is something to celebrate. We have also observed ourselves in mirrors and drawn self-portraits using the iPads. Next week, we will be starting Outdoor Learning. This will take place on Fridays, and children will need a pair of wellie boots and waterproofs, which should be kept in school for the whole term.

On Seesaw, we will set a task this weekend. We would like children to upload a picture of their favourite teddy and their favourite book. Next week, we will look at these in class and talk about them.

Cherry (Year 1)



It has been a great pleasure to welcome the new Cherry Class. They have done an amazing job of settling in and have been an absolute delight. We have spent the first few days getting to know routines and being introduced to the equipment and resources the children will be using. Our topic this half term is 'Toys'. This links to the trip to Milestones that we will be having in October.

This week, the children had their first whole-class writing lesson, as they have only done this in small groups up until now. I was pleasantly surprised by how well they coped with it. We are using Colourful Semantics this week, with a focus on creating and writing simple sentences.

Maths this half term will be a recap of their learning from EYFS, with a focus on Place Value to 10. We will be using a new maths programme called Mastering Number alongside White Rose Maths, which we will pick up again in Autumn 2. Mastering Number is the phonics equivalent for maths, supporting the development of number fluency. This fluency will help the children access new content more confidently and swiftly.

This year, we have adopted a new phonics scheme called Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS). Further information about this will be sent to you shortly. We are currently organising all the new reading books, and these will be sent home soon, along with login details, which will be included in the Reading Records. The children will bring home a library book on Wednesdays, which will need to be returned the following Wednesday so that it can be changed.

Thank you for being kind enough to line up at home-time collection. Please continue to do so until I get to know you all, to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all the children.

I hope the children have had a fantastic first week! We are looking forward to a wonderful term ahead.

Master Reader
Vocabulary -
Accommodation
Defences
Dwellings
Moat

Hazel (Year 2)



What a lovely first week back in the new academic year! Year 2 have all worked really hard this week, and it has been wonderful getting to know everyone. 😊 We have all settled in beautifully, and we can't wait for the year ahead together!

In English, we have found out about our new term topic, 'Towers and Turrets', which the children are very excited to learn more about. After our six weeks off, we have been recapping how to write sentences and remembering those important non-negotiables. These include starting with a capital letter, using finger spaces, adding the correct punctuation at the end of a sentence, and presenting neat handwriting. The children have certainly blown me away with how much they have remembered from Year 1!

In Maths, we have been working on number formation and numbers to 50. We have learnt the key word 'numerals' and discussed how important it is to recognise numbers in both numeral and word form. The children have loved playing bingo, where we created our own bingo boards and practised scanning quickly for numbers.

In Computing this week, we refreshed our memories on how to log on to the iPads and learnt how to find and complete a task that had been set for us on Purple Mash. We then looked at how to save our work. Next week, we are looking forward to learning how to retrieve that work, as well as viewing any comments that have been made about it.

In Art and Design, we were introduced to our new artist, Paul Klee. We looked at a selection of his artwork and discussed how his work links to our 'Towers and Turrets' topic. We can't wait to learn more about him and be inspired to create our own pieces of artwork soon!

We hope the children have enjoyed their first week in Year 2 as much as we have. Have a wonderful weekend, and we look forward to another fantastic week of learning ahead!



Garland Junior School Awards

Values Certificate

*Chestnut - Riley
Sycamore - Amir
Ash - Kelyn
Hawthorn - George
Aspen - Arlo
Willow - Indianna
Oak - Clara W*

PE Star

Olivia - 5A

Music Star

Jahnna - 5A

WOW Award

*Chestnut - Sophie
Sycamore - Rory
Ash - Demi
Hawthorn - Poppy
Aspen - Daniel
Willow - Martim
Oak - Issy*

Top Doodlers

*Chestnut - Lucas D
Sycamore - Freyja
Ash - Xavier
Hawthorn - Ruby
Aspen - Alice
Willow - Annie
Oak - Charlie*

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

Arthur H

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)



We have had a wonderful start to Year 3. The children have settled in well and have been adjusting to the new routines of a new school. We have seen many smiles and happy faces, and the children have shown such a positive attitude towards their new school day.

We had a wonderful time on Tuesday when we were visited by Portals to the Past for a fabulous Stone Age Day. We learned all about the different eras and how clever Stone Age people really were. We found out that Great Britain was once attached to mainland Europe and was called Doggerland!

In Maths, we have been revising our numbers to one hundred and exploring different ways of partitioning numbers. We had lots of fun logging on to Doodle Maths, and passwords for this will be sent home at the end of the week.

The children have now completed their Accelerated Reader assessment, and reading books will also be going home on Friday.

Well done, Year 3, for such an amazing first week back at school! We are incredibly proud of how well you have settled into your new classes and embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and confidence.



Master Reader Vocabulary -

parka
wept
gazing
whined
quilt



Ash & Hawthorn (Year 4/5)



A Brilliant Start!

We have had a brilliant start back at school, and it has been wonderful to see everyone settling in so well!

In Maths, we have started our key skills work on place value, exploring the value of digits in numbers. In Geography, we have learnt about the key features of mountains and developed our geographical vocabulary. In Science, we enjoyed a living things hunt around the school grounds, identifying different habitats and the plants and animals that live there.

We have also been learning about the importance of teamwork and putting these skills into practice during PE. We had a fantastic time working together, supporting one another, and having lots of fun!

Aspen (Year 5)



Wow, what a fantastic first week back we have had!

We have begun reading our new Shared Reading book, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. This has linked perfectly with our English work, where we have been exploring descriptions of deserted island settings while developing our understanding of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Our Maths lessons have focused on numbers up to 1,000,000. The children have been learning to read and write these numbers and understand the value of each digit. We have also launched our new DT topic on structures by investigating arch, beam and truss bridges.

As part of our Science learning, the children explored the properties of different materials, grouping them according to whether they were magnetic, hard or transparent. We also began our new Computing unit on quizzes. Everyone enjoyed discussing their favourite quizzes and considering what makes a quiz fun and engaging. We are already looking forward to creating our own later in the unit!

During PSHE, we celebrated the qualities that make each of us unique and discussed the importance of making our own positive choices rather than following others who may be making poor decisions.

Gymnastics and rugby have got off to an enthusiastic start in PE, with the children thoroughly enjoying both activities.

The children have settled back into school brilliantly, and we are very proud of the enthusiasm they have shown towards their learning.



Master Reader Vocabulary -

Gloomy
Exiled
Looming
Promise
Reluctant
Precious



Master Reader Vocabulary -

Auction
clambering
tailboard
halters
conviction
affection

Oak and Willow (Year 6)



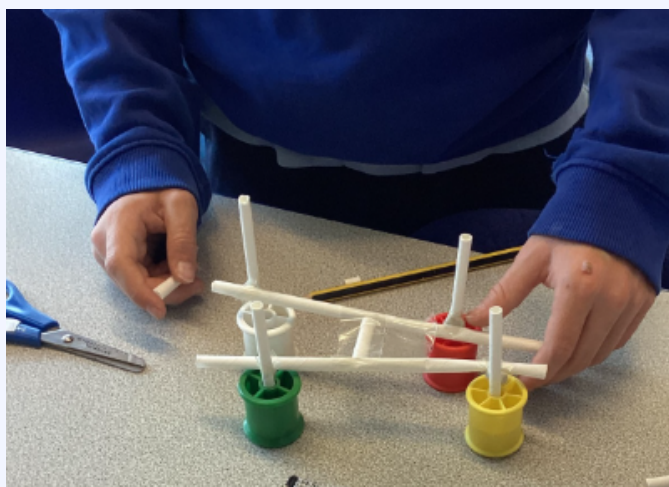
Year 6 have settled in quickly and have even enjoyed their first SATs-style assessments, helping us to see what they already know and can remember from their learning so far!

In PSHE, they have explored how to work effectively as a team by sharing ideas and theories while tackling the complex challenge of building a bridge for a toy car. Using only a few art straws, four cotton reels, a limited amount of Blu Tack, and a small piece of Sellotape, they had to consider both the design and practicality of their bridge. They also had to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to contribute their ideas and suggestions. It was a tricky challenge, but they did amazingly well!

In Science, we have begun our new topic by looking at how living things can be grouped and classified. This has led to some great discussions about different characteristics, features, and habitats.

In History, we have been investigating the causes of the First World War and exploring what life was like for soldiers on the Western Front. To bring our learning to life, we recreated trenches and their layouts using our tables and chairs, helping us to gain a better understanding of the conditions soldiers experienced.

We have had a fantastic start to the year and are looking forward to all the exciting learning ahead!



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
Thursday 11 th Sep	6:00 pm	Full Governing Board meeting
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-details to follow)
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
Wednesday 21 st October	3:30 - 4:30 pm	MBS Halloween Disco
Thursday 22 nd Oct	3:15 - 4:30 LKS2 4:30 - 5:30 UKS2	GJS Halloween Disco
Thursday 22 nd Oct		End of Term 1
Friday 23 rd Oct		Staff Inset Day
Tuesday 03 rd Nov		Term 2 Starts

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