

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 29th September

Edition 5



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Dear All,

The children in KS1 have been preparing some work to share in the Harvest Assembly this afternoon – autumn pictures and ‘things we are thankful for’. It was lovely to see so many Class 1 and 2 parents at our Harvest Assembly – many thanks everyone for your contributions to the Tiptree Foodbank. This will be collected next week so you can still contribute if you would like.

In Classes 3, 4 and 5 the children have started some Geography work around their Topic of South America, looking at locations and the variety of habitats in South America. They explored the structure of Forests and Woodlands by taking part in a World Wildlife Fund live lesson with Steve Backshall.

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY:

On Monday, Thurstable staff will be visiting Y6 to give them some insight on what it is like to be a pupil at Thurstable by bringing a couple of former pupils to chat to them. The Thurstable teachers will be available to Y6 parents at the end of the day should you have any queries.

Also on Monday, Year 3 and 4 should have returned or be ready to return their ‘Keep on Reading’ books for their discussion session with Mr Kemp. For those in KS1, the ‘Keep on Reading’ project has been running for many years at Birch with the support of Mr Kemp. The aim is that children in Y3 and 4 have a suitable story read to them and that parents keep on reading to their child at this crucial point in their reading development to keep encouraging that enjoyment. The National Literacy Trust have lots of research on this subject and maintain that reading with your child ‘has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun’.

ON THE SUBJECT OF READING:

Regularly practicing reading is crucial for children as it boosts cognitive development, including vocabulary, critical thinking, and focus, while also improving writing skills and fostering empathy and imagination. Daily reading also leads to greater academic success, strong language and social skills, and even helps reduce stress. Please ensure that you are supporting your child with this skill that is crucial; in all subject areas with regular practice. We ask that your child reads at least 4x at home each week and that their reading diaries are signed. These are checked in school on Mondays.

Finally, the Gazette have pictures of new reception intakes in a special edition on Tuesday 7th October; please find attached the ‘Wake Up Wednesday’ information on online football games and please check Scopay for any outstanding contributions to trips, Y6 lunch club and stationary. Many thanks!

Have a great weekend!
Rebekah May
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

| WEEK BEGINNING | EVENTS | | WEEK BEGINNING | EVENTS |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| 6 th Oct | Monday Y3/4 Keep on Reading with Mr Kemp:-deadline for return of books. Monday: Y6 will have a visit from Thurstable secondary school and teachers will stay to talk to any Y6 parents/ answer questions at 3:20 | | 17 th Nov | No specific dates to share yet |
| 13 th Oct | Monday Individual (& in school siblings) photographs. Please wear red jumpers/ cardigans. Tuesday School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places Wednesday 15 th - 17 th Y6 Bawdsey Manor residential trip | | 24 th Nov | Monday: Class 5 trip to London - British Museum Friday: 9:00 am Class 3 and 4 Parent Assembly and Parent Forum Friday PAFA Christmas Disco KS1 then KS2 detail to follow from PAFA |
| 20 th Oct | Tuesday CONFIRMED Y6 visit to Chelmsford Cathedral – letter to follow Tuesday: Class 1 and 2 Planetarium and ‘Space Day’ Thursday: Y6 Forest School Group A Friday: Y6 parents invited to assembly at 9am for Bawdsey photos Parent Forum for Cl 5 parents Friday: PAFA ‘Scary Hair’ day | | 1 st Dec | Wednesday 11:00 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places Friday Y6 Forest School at Layer Breton Heath group A and Group B |
| 3 rd Nov Parent consultation week | Monday: non-pupil day Monday: late night parent consultation DETAILS WILL BE SHARED NEARER THE TIME | | 8 th December | Tuesday: 2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2 Wednesday: 2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2 Thursday: PROVISIONAL carol singing at New Copford place - choir |
| 10 th Nov | Monday: Odd Socks Day Thursday Forest School Group B Friday 9:30 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places | | Key dates to note | 31 st October: secondary School Application deadline 16 th December: Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day for ‘Save the Children’ |

More Forest Schools!

