

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 3rd November 2025

Edition 9



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Dear All,

I hope everyone had a restful half term – it's a long stretch from September to Christmas so that break in the middle really helps the children and staff recover and be ready for the next part of the autumn term and the lead-up to Christmas. It was lovely to see the children back, refreshed and lovely to see families this week for our Parent Consultations.

The Topic for KS2 remains the same them, South America, with a greater focus on Art rather than DT in this second half of term and in KS1 they will continue with the 'Space' theme whilst moving towards thinking about Autumn Festivals and special days, leading up to their Christmas work in December. Photos at the end of the newsletter are of Class 1 and their 'Firework pictures' and Class 5 'Lunch Club'. I'm told that this group worked very well together and were particularly tidy cooks!

Our Ogden Trust Physicist of the Term this Term was Robyn in class 4 who was commended for her work on Forces and Magnets last half term. Also given special mention by staff were Alfred and Rosie in class 3 and Jenson in class 4. Well done all!

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY: ODD SOCKS DAY – please wear odd socks to highlight the beauty and creativity that comes from differences as part of Antibullying week. This year, the theme is The Power of Good. No monetary contributions are expected for this, it is just to make a visual statement about the fun of difference!

ZOO CARDS for classes 3 and 4 should be brought in to school.

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY: Zoo Trip for Classes 3 and 4 – meeting at Colchester Zoo

THURSDAY: Group A Forest School for Y6

FRIDAY: CLASSES 1 and 2 FOREST SCHOOL – Groups B 9:30 Reception Visit for 2026

ALSO COMING UP:

'The 2 Johns' will be running another of their popular FREE virtual sessions for families on online safety on Thursday 11 December. Please register for a place via the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board website or using this link to the QR code <https://esafetytraining.org/upcoming-events/>. Please book soon as places are limited.

Please book your child's Christmas dinner in good time to support our planning. The menu looks amazing and it is a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate Christmas – tables are decorated, Christmas songs playing and everyone dressed in their Christmas Jumpers! It would help us to have numbers by NEXT FRIDAY (14th November) so please book as soon as possible.

Finally, I have attached a flyer to invite families to the Service of Memorial at the War Memorial opposite on Sunday. Some children will be taking part and there are refreshments offered at the village hall beforehand. I will open the school car park to help accessibility and parking.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
10 th Nov	Monday	Odd Socks Day, linked to antibullying
	Tuesday	Christmas Choir Club – 3:20-4:20
	Wednesday	Class 3 and 4 Zoo Trip
	Thursday	Forest School Group A – swapped groups as their session was cancelled last half term
	Friday	9:30 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
17 th Nov	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	No Class 4 PE
	Thursday	INTERNAL RUGBY FESTIVAL FOR ALL CHILDREN – CLASS 4 PE will be THURSDAY NOT WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK Forest School Group B (in the afternoon)
	Friday	Class 5 Lunch Club Group 4
24 th Nov	Monday	Class 5 trip to London - British Museum. Please do not book school packed lunches as this cannot be accommodated on a Monday.
	Tuesday	9:30 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
	Wednesday	Y5/6 Cross Country for selected team
	Thursday	
	Friday	9:00 am Class 3 and 4 Parent Assembly and Parent Forum PAFA Christmas Disco: KS1 then KS2- details to follow from PAFA
1 st Dec	Monday	Christmas Family Science Homework coming home
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	11:00 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
	Thursday	Y5/6 Maldon Rugby Club Tournament for selected group
	Friday	Y6 Forest School at Layer Breton Heath groups A and Group B
8 th December	Monday	
	Tuesday	2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2
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	Thursday	PROVISIONAL carol singing at New Copford place – choir
	Friday	
WB 15 th December	Monday	PAFA 'CAROLS ON THE GREEN' – all families welcome Christmas Family Science Homework due in
	Tuesday	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
	Wednesday	LAYER MARNEY NATIVITY (PROVISIONAL) 5:30/ 6:00 TBC
	Thursday	
	Friday	Last Day of Autumn Term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		
WB 5 th January	Monday	Back to School
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	PAFA COFFEE MORNING (PROVISIONAL)
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term		Spring 1: 5 th January – 13 th February Monday 23 rd Feb Non-Pupil Day Spring 2: 24 th Feb- 27 th March Summer 1: 13 th April – 22 nd May Summer 2: 1 st June- 17 th July Monday 20 th July: non-pupil day SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19 th June

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PHOTOS FROM THIS WEEK



