

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 20th October 2025

Edition 8



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Dear All,

Many classes are beginning to reach the appropriate number of 'Birch Points' to get a class treat. They earn points as a class for their effort, good behaviour and displaying, as a whole class, our Christian values of Wisdom, Trust and Friendship. Once they have earned their points, they are choosing, with their teachers, a 'class treat' that can be easily arranged. Well done, children!

It has been a very busy week. KS1 really enjoyed their Space Day with the visit from the Planetarium, their dressing up and all the other activities that Mrs Vinters and Mrs Millbourne organised. They enjoyed decorating and eating biscuits as their 'Birch Points' treat. Very well done KS1 and thank you staff for organising such a great day!

We had some lovely feedback from the providers of the Planetarium:

'...wanted to drop you a line to say a big thank you for having me. Those costumes were fantastic and it was great to see everyone make such an effort and get into it. You have a lovely school to visit!' Well done KS1 for representing the school so positively.

Classes 3 and 4 have enjoyed, along with Class 5, a wonderful 'Science Lecture' all about Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy, with Bilbo the spaniel making another appearance as a live model! Many thanks to Mrs Tusting for giving up her time to share her expertise. Today, Class 3 and 4 will be making their South American salsa variations, having been through the design cycle to make informed choices of ingredients.

Class 5 had another trip this week. This time, they visited Chelmsford, by train, to see the 'Mars: war and peace' art installation at Chelmsford Cathedral. They also visited Chelmsford Museum. They enjoyed a variety of activities linked to the art installation and were impeccably behaved throughout the trip. Well done Y6 – you are shaping up as really good role models to our younger children.

TOMORROW:

PAFA's Scary Hair Day. Hairstyles should be OUTRAGEOUS rather than linked to the theme of Halloween. This is because some 'scary' hairstyles may be frightening to some children and because we do not celebrate Halloween, as a church school. The children have had an assembly today to explain the Christian festival of All Saints Day, which is celebrated on 1st November. Some children have asked about autumnal themes with plants and animals that are around in autumn – this is all fine. All plants and animals are part of our wonderful world! Please remember this just a hairstyle change – uniform and expectations for footwear and jewellery rules remain the same as usual. I am looking forward to seeing some wonderful creations! If you have planned a style that is not suitable, may I first apologise for my lack of clarity around this event early on, and then and ask that you simply keep it for your own family/ friend gatherings next week.

CLASS 5 PARENT ASSEMBLY AND PARENTS' FORUM: Class 5 parents are invited to stay for our morning assembly at 9:10 tomorrow. Mr Turnbull will be sharing some photos of our residential visit to Bawdsey Manor and the much sought-after 'Room Prize' will also be announced! Class 5 parents are invited to stay for a Parent's Forum afterwards.

WEEK BEGINNING 3rd NOVEMBER:

Thank you all for booking your Parent consultations on Scopay.

MONDAY: non-pupil day and late-night parent's evening

TUESDAY: Christmas Choir starts – please let me know if your child is planning to join our choir and represent the school at various singing events around Christmas time. Younger children are welcome to ‘come and see’ but they may find the reading demands a bit tricky.

Finally, from 10th November, we will be offering a choice of cheese or ham baguettes for school meals. We will change these on Scopay as soon as possible, but be aware that you may wish to change some of your orders from this date.

Have a great half term holiday!

Rebekah May

Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
HALF TERM		
3 rd Nov Parent consultation week	Monday	Monday: non-pupil day Monday: late night parent consultation
	Tuesday	Class 2 parent consultation afternoon and early after school Class 5 parent consultation afternoon and early after school Christmas Choir Club Starts
	Wednesday	Class 1 parent consultation afternoon and early after school Class 3 parent consultation afternoon and early afterschool
	Thursday	Class 4 parent consultation afternoon and early after school
	Friday	Y6 group 3 Lunch Club – donations via Scopay
10 th Nov	Monday	Odd Socks Day, linked to antibullying
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Forest School Group B
	Friday	9:30 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
17 th Nov	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Class 3 and 4 Zoo Trip TBC – costings being calculated
	Thursday	
	Friday	
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	
	Thursday	
	Friday	9:00 am Class 3 and 4 Parent Assembly and Parent Forum PAFA Christmas Disco KS1 then KS2 detail to follow from PAFA
1 st Dec	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	11:00 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 Forest School at Layer Breton Heath group 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
	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 19th June

PHOTOS FROM THIS WEEK



