

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 13th October 2025

Edition 7



☎ 01206 330224

email: admin@birch.essex.sch.uk

www.birch.essex.sch.uk

Dear All,

This week, Classes 1 and 2 have enjoyed their Talk for Writing stories this week and are retelling confidently. They have also been enjoying Forest school – I believe they made a rope ladder today! On Wednesday, they enjoyed a visit from Bilbo the spaniel and learnt all about looking after dogs. Classes 3 and 4 have been designing their salsa dip as part of their work on South America – making changes to classic recipes to suit their personal tastes – and will be making and tasting these next week.

Class 5 have had a brilliant few days away at Bawdsey Manor. They enjoyed some personal challenges in activities like abseiling and climbing; some team building in 'Problem Solving', 'Challenge Course' and 'Jacob's Ladder' and some fun activities like giant swing, 'ambush' and campfire. They all represented the school brilliantly and are really proud of their many successes. Well done Y6!

NEXT WEEK:

This is the last week of a very long half term, so well done to all, particularly our reception children for making it through to the autumn half term break.

Tuesday is a Y6 visit to see the 'Mars' installation at Chelmsford Cathedral and Thursday is Group A Forest Schools. Wednesday – the KS2 children will be having a science lecture on 'Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy' and finding out some of the differences between us and digs, with Bilbo putting in another appearance to help demonstrate.

Friday: Class 5 parents are invited to our MONRING assembly at 9:10. We will be showing photos from Bawdsey and revealing the winners of the room competition. There will be a Class 5 Parents' Forum after this assembly, so I hope some of you will be able to stay.

Friday is also PAFA's 'Scary' hair day. Please note, we are looking for outlandishly scary hairdos not styles that will be frightening! Please remember that we do not, as a church school, celebrate Halloween but feel free to come to school with outrageous hairstyles on this day! Usual school uniform or PE kits please and safety rules around jewellery and footwear still apply. Thank you!

Moving on to Autumn 2. Classes 1 and 2 will be continuing their Forest schools for another half term – Mrs Vinters and Mrs Milbourne will let everyone know which groups they will be in.

Also, after half term, I will start a Christmas Choir Club on Tuesdays from 3:20-4:20pm. There will be a few events for the Christmas Choir coming up in December. All age groups are welcome, but some younger R and Y1 children may find the reading demands a little tricky so are welcome to 'come and see'. We start choir on Tuesday 4th November in Class 5. Please email into the office or just let me know if your child is interested,

Finally, there are no drum lessons next week and the order deadline for photos is 3.11.25 – orders after this date will incur a delivery charge.

Please make sure you have booked your parents evening appointments via Scopay

Have a great weekend!

Rebekah May
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
20 th Oct	Monday	
	Tuesday	Tuesday CONFIRMED Y6 visit to Chelmsford Cathedral- please consent via Scopay Tuesday: Class 1 and 2 Planetarium and 'Space Day' -contributions can be made via Scopay
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Thursday: Y6 Forest School Group A
	Friday	PAFA 'Scary Hair' Day – donations can be made via Scopay to PAFA
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	
	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
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 ^{ns} May Summer 2: 1 st June- 17 th July Monday 20 th July: non-pupil day SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19th June

PHOTOS FROM Y6 BAWDSEY MANOR TRIP



