

# Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Edition 10



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Dear All,

It was lovely to see the varied and outlandish socks worn on Monday to highlight the fun of difference. We also learnt a great song about the 'Power of Good'. Many thanks to the 3 children who represented the school at the short service at the War Memorial on Sunday and read a prayer and a bible reading. They really did a great job and repeated it on Tuesday just before we held our own minute's silence.

Also, this week, children in KS2 have started their 'Mastering Number' sessions. KS1 have been taking part in this project now for a year and it is now extended into KS2 with a few to all children mastering key number facts through short, sharp sessions. It is not easy to fit extra sessions in to the timetable so many thanks to the staff who have made a few adjustments to ensure that the children have the best chance to become fully fluent in these key skills. This morning, Mrs Brown came into assembly to tell the children about the Layer Marney Nativity this year. This is a lovely event and the children can be involved as actors or they are welcome to come to singing as part of the Christmas Choir. The nativity this year is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30 at Layer Marney Church. Please call Mrs Brown on 078858980 or email the parish office using [layermarneychurchsec@icloud.com](mailto:layermarneychurchsec@icloud.com) if your child is interested in taking part in the acting. I will sort out the choir nearer the time.

Even as I write, Class 1 are enjoying a slightly soggy Forest School session. They had the option of a craft activity in the polytunnel but most chose to engage in the outdoor activities. Not one mention of the rain from anyone in the class 1 group – they don't seem to notice! Just a reminder that we only cancel Forest School if the wind or adverse conditions make the activity dangerous under the trees – with rain we continue with a dry space option. Can parents make sure that children have appropriate clothing so that they have the full choice, which is central to the Forest School ethos.

## COMING UP NEXT WEEK:

KS1 will start rehearsing their Nativity 'Christmas with the Aliens'. Please don't be alarmed and think that we've freestyled with the Christmas story. The context is that some aliens arrive on earth at Christmas time and are naturally curious about what is going on. A group of school children then share the Christmas story with them! Class 1 and 2 parents will receive a letter with further information shortly.

**MONDAY:** Mr Turnbull will continue with football club but it will be shortened due to the light. Please can children be collected at 4pm. Although please note that next week (Monday 24<sup>th</sup>) there will be NO football as Y6 are on a trip and Mr Turnbull will not be back in time.

**TUESDAY:** Christmas Choir continues – would love to see a few more children and it's not too late to join! 3:20-4:20

**WEDNESDAY:** Class 4 PE moves to Thursday this week – please come in school uniform on Wednesday and PE kit on Thursday this week.

**THURSDAY:** OUR INTERNAL RUGBY FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE AUTUMN SERIES. Weather permitting, all classes will be taking part in a Rugby Festival and gaining points for their team, supported by our ECP coach

Finally, just a few reminders.

- Birthdays – we love to celebrate with the children and wish them a happy birthday but ask that you do not send in cakes or sweets. If you want to mark the occasion, we suggest a gift of a book for the class
- Essex Local Authority wants us to remind all our families to apply for Reception places 2026 by the deadline of 15 January 2026. Even if a parent already has a sibling at the school, they need to apply if they have a child due to start Reception next September. The website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions) also has a copy

of the Primary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies. For spaces in other years, people should apply directly to school.

- The Christmas dinner for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> is now live on Scopay Sorry about last week and thanks to all who tried and fed back - it was a bit more complicated to make this happen than we had anticipated. Please book as soon as possible! Please note that the following Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> December) will NOT be a roast dinner, as advertised on our menus, but will be meatballs.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Monday	<b>Football club ends at 4:00 pm</b>
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	<b>No Class 4 PE</b>
	Thursday	<b>INTERNAL RUGBY FESTIVAL FOR ALL CHILDREN – CLASS 4 PE will be THURSDAY NOT WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK Forest School Group B (in the afternoon)</b>
	Friday	<b>Class 5 Lunch Club Group 4</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Monday	Class 5 trip to London - British Museum. Please do not book school packed lunches as this cannot be accommodated on a Monday. <b>No Football Club</b>
	Tuesday	9:30 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
	Wednesday	<b>Y5/6 Cross Country for selected team</b>
	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 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Monday	<b>Christmas Family Science Homework coming home Football Club ends at 4:00</b>
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	11:00 School tour available to book with Headteacher for Reception 2026 places
	Thursday	<b>Y5/6 Maldon Rugby Club Tournament for selected group</b>
	Friday	Y6 Forest School at Layer Breton Heath groups A and Group B
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Monday	<b>Football Club ends at 4:00</b>
	Tuesday	2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2
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	Thursday	Carol singing at New Copford place – <b>choir and some older children will be invited. 1:30 pm – help with transport will be needed</b>
	Friday	
WB 15 <sup>th</sup> December <b>NO CLUBS</b>	Monday	<b>NO FOOTBALL CLUB</b> PAFA 'CAROLS ON THE GREEN' – all families welcome <b>Christmas Family Science Homework due in</b>
	Tuesday	Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day and our community Christmas Dinner <b>NO CHRISTMAS CHOIR CLUB</b>
	Wednesday	LAYER MARNEY NATIVITY (PROVISIONAL) 5:30/ 6:00 TBC <b>Lunch menu is meatballs not roast chicken as advertised on menus.</b>
	Thursday	<b>NO EPC SPORTS CLUBS AM OR PM</b>
	Friday	Last Day of Autumn Term
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>		
	Monday	Back to School

WB January	5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	
		Wednesday	
		Thursday	
		Friday	PAFA COFFEE MORNING (PROVISIONAL)
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term			Spring 1: 5 <sup>th</sup> January – 13 <sup>th</sup> February Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb Non-Pupil Day Spring 2: 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb- 27 <sup>th</sup> March Summer 1: 13 <sup>th</sup> April – 22 <sup>ns</sup> May Summer 2: 1 <sup>st</sup> June- 17 <sup>th</sup> July Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July: non-pupil day SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19th June

PHOTOS FROM THIS WEEK: Our baguette option for lunch, our Y6 Forest School, Class 3 and 4 Zoo Trip





