

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 17th November 2025

Edition 11



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Dear All,

It's beginning to feel a lot like winter now – so please ensure that your children have appropriate clothing. If they have a PE day, it will continue to be outside, if appropriate, so think about making sure that they have long joggers rather than shorts.

Key Stage 1 have started rehearsing their Christmas Nativity and we have also started learning Christmas carols in our music assemblies, ready for the varied singing opportunities as we get to nearer Christmas. I will send out letters about the singing events to all my 'Christmas Choir' members and other interested KS2 children as soon as possible.

RUGBY YESTERDAY:

All the children joined in our Rugby Festival yesterday and we had a great day! The results in KS2 were that Ireland won the Y3/4 tournament; in Y 5/6 New Zealand won every game but overall, across KS2, Ireland triumphed. Really well done all the children and thanks to Mr Turnbull for organising. Mr Turnbull has also chosen Matilda and Johnny to be our Sports Captains this year– both lead with enthusiasm for sport and a supportive, compassionate attitude. Mr Turnbull looks forward to working with them this year.

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY: Y6 LONDON TRIP. This is a visit to the British Museum, linked to History. **NO FOOTBALL CLUB AS MR TURNBULL IS ON THIS TRIP**

TUESDAY: RECEPTION 2026 VISITS – please share this with any interested families in your networks as school numbers are vital in maintaining a school community.

WEDNESDAY: Y5/6 CROSS COUNTRY – the chosen team will have had a letter about this event.

FRIDAY: PARENT ASSEMBLY AND PARENTS FORUM FOR CLASSES 3 and 4. Assembly 9:10 and Parent's Forum to follow. All parents from classes 3 and 4 are invited. We will show the trip photos and, hopefully, have some ukulele to play for you!

PAFA DISCO:

Key Stage 1 (classes 1 and 2) to bring in their change of clothes for disco straight after school from 3:20. Parents are asked to meet children on the playground, as we usually do at the end of the day.

Key stage 2 (classes 3,4 and 5) are invited back to school at 4:30 and finish at 5:30. Please **drop off** at the main entrance to the school (school reception) so that we can register each child as there needs to be record of who is in the building. Please do not arrive until 4:30 as we need to ensure that all KS1 children have gone home with the correct adults before we start bringing our KS2 children in. At **'pick up'**, please collect from KS2's usual area at the front of the school.

Disco 'Photo Booth': Children are not to bring their own phones. We will take photos of children with a group of friends on school cameras and print for them to take home.

Finally, we will be sending home 'Acceptable Use' agreements for ICT in line with our policies. We ask that parents go through these with children and also discuss this in relation to any online use – whether linked to school or not. Whilst I'm in the area of safeguarding, please do sign up for 'The 2 Johns', who are experts in child online safety, via the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board <https://esafetytraining.org/upcoming-events/>. Along the same lines, you may have seen the display about the organisation 'Smartphone Free Childhood' in the reception area. There is also a book 'The Anxious Generation' by Jonathan Haidt about the impact smartphones

have had on a generation of users. I recommend this book – it makes for very interesting and quite disturbing reading. Should anyone wish to borrow the copy on the display, you would be most welcome. I have made enquiries with the organisation about them delivering a workshop to parents in the new year – which would probably be an online event in the late spring or early summer.

JUST A FEW REMINDERS:

- Clubs for next term are now on the website
- No tuition groups from WB 8th December
- No after school or before school clubs from WB 15th December
- As usual, Childcare will run every day before and after school until the last day of term

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
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. No Football Club
	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 Football Club ends at 4:00
	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	Football Club ends at 4:00
	Tuesday	2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2
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	Thursday	Carol singing at New Copford place – choir and some older children will be invited. 1:30 pm – help with transport will be needed
	Friday	
WB 15 th December NO CLUBS	Monday	NO FOOTBALL CLUB PAFA ‘CAROLS ON THE GREEN’ – all families welcome Christmas Family Science Homework due in
	Tuesday	Save the Children’s Christmas Jumper Day and our community Christmas Dinner NO CHRISTMAS CHOIR CLUB
	Wednesday	LAYER MARNEY NATIVITY (PROVISIONAL) 5:30/ 6:00 TBC Lunch menu is meatballs not roast chicken as advertised on menus.
	Thursday	NO EPC SPORTS CLUBS AM OR PM
	Friday	Last Day of Autumn Term
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		

WB 5 th January	Monday	Back to School: NO FOOTBALL CLUB
	Tuesday	NO CHOIR -MRS MAY WILL CHANGE TO GYM CLUB IN WB 19 th JAN
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	EPC CLUBS START Y5/6 am, Y3/4 pm
	Friday	PAFA COFFEE MORNING (PROVISIONAL)
WB 12 th January	Monday	Football Club starts again – until 4:00 pm until further notice
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
	SATURDAY	PAFA PROVISIONAL POND TASK/ GROUNDS DAY
WB		
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term		Spring 1: 5 th January – 13 th February Monday 23 rd Feb Non-Pupil Day Wednesday 28th January – Maths Calculations Workshop (provisional) 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

PHOTOS FROM THIS WEEK: Delicious School Dinner! , rugby and Forest School



