

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 1st December 2025

Edition 13



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Dear All,

As you know, we started our week with a group of STEM Ambassadors sharing ideas around the Christmas Family Science homework. I hope everyone is beginning to think about how you would like to take part in this as a family.

Our Y4.5 and 6 children will have brought home their 'Agents of Change' posters. I will share the mechanisms and procedures for children to begin to collect their stamps and certificates in their 'passports' in and assembly in early January. The general ideas will be that we will focus on one strand of our Agents of Change each half Term, starting in January with 'Be yourself'. The children can then look for ideas about how to engage with this on their poster. They should share 3 activities linked to the 'Be Yourself' strand with me over the course of half term and then we will have a certificate assembly at the end of the half term.

Also this week, some Y5 and 6 children represented the school at a Rugby competition - they played superbly in very damp conditions and came 5th out of 9 teams. Really well-done rugby team and thank you Mr Turnbull for organising and parents for supporting.

I have met also with our School Council this week. They are making some Christmas cards to take to the residents at New Copford Place residential home when we go next week to sing but are also keen to send cards to any elderly people that may be known to the children here. Please have a chat with your children and see if they know any elderly people, neighbours or relatives, who may appreciate a card from the school and we will endeavour to make enough!

My new Eco Council also met this week and have shared their thoughts about the Eco Refill shop in a separate letter.

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY: Dress Rehearsal of Class 1 and 2 Nativity – please ensure that all costumes have been brought in and are labelled (some children play the role of 'school children' and therefore do not need a separate costume)

TUESDAY: 2:15 Nativity performance – tickets have been distributed, Please send back any tickets that are no longer needed to the school and we re-allocate to people on the waiting list.

LAST CHRISTMAS CHOIR CLUB

WEDNESDAY: 2:15 Nativity performance – tickets have been distributed, Please send back any tickets that are no longer needed to the school and we re-allocate to people on the waiting list.

THURSDAY: Christmas Choir to New Copford Place

8:00 pm The Two Johns online Safety Training for parents – register via Essex Safeguarding Children's Board using this link <https://esafetytraining.org/upcoming-events/>.

FRIDAY: ECOBUBBLES, our Eco refill shop, will open for the first time under new management. The children of the Eco Council will also be trying to find out what their customers want from the shop so please be prepared to be asked a few questions! All families invited to come and shop! OPEN at 3:10pm - come to the School Hall via the Playground just before pick-up or collect your child and then come down afterwards. Please bring containers!

Finally,

- There is a 'postbox' for children's christmas cards – please make sure that the name (including second name or initial) and class is clear as we may have several children with the same first name.
- Gym Club starts after school on Tuesday 20th January – please email in if your child is interested and their name can be added to the register
- Please remember that PE kit should be plain non-branded items

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
8 th December	Monday	Last Football Club (ends at 4:00)
	Tuesday	2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2
	Wednesday	2:15 pm Nativity Show Classes 1 and 2
	Thursday	Carol singing at New Copford place – choir and some older children will be invited. 1:30 pm – help with transport will be needed Last EPC sports clubs
	Friday	ECO-REFILL SHOP open in the hall 3:10 pm for all
WB 15 th December NO CLUBS	Monday	NO FOOTBALL CLUB PAFA 'CAROLS ON THE GREEN' – all families welcome 6:30pm by The Hare and Hounds Christmas Family Science Homework due in
	Tuesday	Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day and our community Christmas Dinner. Please Donate Directly to Save the Children: https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate 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 GUITAR AND KEYBOARD LESSONS START
	Tuesday	NO CHOIR -MRS MAY WILL CHANGE TO GYM CLUB STARTING ON TUESDAY 20 th JAN
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	EPC before and after school CLUBS START Y5/6 am, Y3/4 pm
	Friday	PAFA COFFEE MORNING (PROVISIONAL) Singing Lessons start again
WB 12 th January	Monday	Football Club starts again – until 4:00 pm until further notice
	Tuesday	Y3/4 archery – letter for team to come
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Drum Lessons start again Y2 cricket event – letter for team to come
	Friday	Last day for admissions for September 2026 via ECC admissions

	SATURDAY	PROVISIONAL: PAFA POND TASK/ GROUNDS DAY
WB 19 th January	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Y3/4 Cross Country – team will receive a letter
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 26 th January	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Maths calculation workshop after school for parents
	Thursday	PROVISIONAL Class 5 Rivers Walk Fieldwork
	Friday	
WB 2 nd February	Monday	
	Tuesday	PROVISIONAL Rivers Walk fieldwork Classes 3 and 4
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics
	Friday	PROVISIONAL Y6 FOREST SCHOOL AT LAYER BRETON HEALTH PROVISIONAL PAFA MOVIE NIGHT
WB 9 th February	Monday	PROVISIONAL Y3/4 football tournament
	Tuesday	Safer Internet Day 2026
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	PAFA 'Break the Rules' Day
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term		Spring 1: 5 th January – 13 th February Monday 23 rd Feb Non-Pupil Day Wednesday 28 th January – Maths Calculations Workshop 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 THIS WEEK: Y6 FOREST SCHOOL AT THE HEATH: Flat line, leaf pinata, den making, camp fire soup, swing





