

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 8th December 2025

Edition 14



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Dear All,

Really well done to classes 1 and 2 for great performances on Tuesday and Wednesday. They told the Christmas story really well and with such joy – and managed the technical Thanks to all the staff who worked hard to help put this together – MRs Millbourne and Mrs Vinters, our KS1 LSA's – Miss Daniels, Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Hickman and thanks also to Mrs Broad for the programme, Mr Broad for the scenery and Mrs Christopherson for her help with 'wardrobe'. Thank you for your kind donations towards KS1 groups reading books and art supplies.

Well done also to the choir who came to sing for the residents of New Copford place and to the School Council members who have been making Christmas cards this week, which were delivered by the choir yesterday. The residents really appreciated the joy and the fun that the children brought...as well as the lovely cards!

In other news, Class 5 have been completing some excellent leaflets about Bawdsey Manor for the Y5's to help them understand a little more about their Y6 residential trip. Classes 3 and 4 have been completing some of their learning on their Amazon Topic – I have seen some amazing work about the layers within the rainforest.

I have seen films, pictures and witnessed live demonstrations of a wide variety of catapults in response to our Family Christmas Science homework. I look forward to receiving more over the next few days so that and my lovely STEM ambassadors can help me put together a display of the work.

NEXT WEEK:

ALL CLUBS HAVE NOW FINISHED.

MONDAY: PAFA Carols on the Green at the Hare and Hounds in Layer Breton at 6:30pm. There is a section in the middle of this community event where I will invite our Birch Children to come and sing for everyone! Bring torches!

TUESDAY: Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day. Where possible, Please Donate Directly to Save the Children: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate>

WEDNESDAY: 5:30 pm Layer Marney Nativity at St Mary's Church, Layer Marney. Parking is available at Layer Marney Towners and the path through to the church is well-lit (although you may want torches for the bit near the church). Some children are involved in the acting but all children from Birch are invited to come join us and sing as part of a choir at the end. Some children like to dress up as Angels or Shepherds at this very interactive Nativity and this is always encouraged! There are refreshments served after the service, to which everyone is invited.

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 2:30 pm RECEPTION AND Y6 parents are invited to our Carol Service in the school hall, lead by Y6

Finally, a few reminders:

- Please make sure that you don't plan ear-piercing, hair dying, unusual haircuts for the Christmas Holidays as there is not enough time for these to heal/ grow out before we return to school. Thank you. These are definitely Summer Holiday things!
- Christmas Jumpers for next week – if you have a spare please bring these in to school and these can be shared with those who do not have a jumper or have forgotten – many thanks!

- Please remember to apply for places for Reception September 2026 by 15th January 2016 via the Essex country Council website.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Best wishes,
Rebekah May

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
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) 5:30pm CONFIRMED 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 2:30 CAROL SERVICE: Y6 PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AS THE Y6 children will be organising this event and it will be their last carol service here. Reception parents are also invited as this will be your child's first carol service here.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY		
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL TUITION GROUPS START IN WEEK 1 (5th JANUARY)		
WB 5 th January	Monday	Back to School: NO FOOTBALL CLUB Y5 maths tuition starts with Mrs May 8:00 for 8:10 start Guitar and keyboards start Mrs Broad's after school Monday maths club starts
	Tuesday	Y6 maths tuition starts again with Mrs May 8:00am for 8:10 start No choir – Mrs may will start gym club on Tuesday 20 th January
	Wednesday	Y6 maths tuition Mrs May Mrs Lawrence's' 8:3-0 am groups starts again
	Thursday	EPC before and after school CLUBS START Y5/6 am, Y3/4 pm Mrs Lawrence's 8:30 am group Mrs Broad's after school Thursday maths club starts
	Friday	PAFA COFFEE MORNING (PROVISIONAL) Y5 maths tuition Mrs May 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 HEATH 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		<p>Spring 1: 5th January – 13th February Monday 23rd Feb Non-Pupil Day Wednesday 28th January – Maths Calculations Workshop Spring 2: 24th Feb- 27th March Summer 1: 13th April – 22^{ns} May Summer 2: 1st June- 17th July Monday 20th July: non-pupil day SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19th June</p>

PHOTOS FROM THIS WEEK: CHRISTMAS CHOIR SINGING AT NEW COPFORD PLACE RESIDENTIAL HOME, SOME PICTURES FROM ‘CHRISTMAS WITH THE ALIENS’



