

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 15th December 2025

Edition 15



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Dear All,

We've made it – we are practically at the end of a very long and busy term and the children and staff have managed incredibly well.

This week has seen lots of finishing off of curriculum projects – Amazon leaflets, 'leaf art', and Kandinsky baubles using the computers... as well as some great Christmas crafts in class 1

Also this week, many families enjoyed taking part in ~PAFA's Carol's on the Green. This was well attended by lots of people from the village who very much appreciated the children's singing. Well done everyone who came – it was a lovely occasion and thank you PAFA for all the hot chocolate!

Children also sang and performed at the Layer Marney Nativity on Wednesday evening – again a lovely occasion and a huge well-done to all those who participated, whether as actors or as part of the choir,

Tuesday's Christmas Dinner was a lovely occasion – thank you to all the children who made decorations and many thanks to the kitchen team for all their hard work preparing and lovely feast and to the office team for their behind the scenes organisation. It was also on Tuesday that PAFA arranged for Father Christmas to visit! He came bring gift of books for every child, for which we are all very grateful. v

On top of this the children al took part in 'Mrs May's Musical Extravaganza (and poetry)' on Wednesday – singing, karaoke, learning a poem, playing percussion (class 1), dancing and a Christmas quiz. The children were brilliant and it was a lot of fun – we really have some great voices and talented dancers in our school!

Finally, It was great to see everyone's response to the Family Christmas Science. I have put a photo or 2 of the display of catapults that came in but was sent an equal number of films and photos. It looks like you all had fun with this project and learnt a little about forces and motion as you explored!

Well done to the Eco Council for their first sale last Friday and thanks to the school council for organising Christmas cards from the school for the various people put forwards by other children.

FIRST WEEK BACK WB Monday 5th January TUITION GROUPS START STRAIGHT AWAY

MONDAY: Children are straight back in on this day Mrs May's Y5 maths group starts 8:00 for 8:10 am and Mrs Broad's maths group starts again after school

TUESDAY: Mrs May's Y6 maths group 8:00 for 8:10

WEDNESDAY: Mrs May's Y6 maths group 8:00 for 8:10. Mrs Lawrence's 8:30 group start. Buddy starts his official School Dog n Mentor Training

THURSDAY: Mrs Lawrence's 8:30 group, Mrs Broad's after school group EPC Y5/6 and Y3/4 Sports Clubs start again with a focus on netball/ basketball

FRIDAY: PAFA Coffee Afternoon - TBC

And Finally,

- reception and Y6 parents are warmly invited to our school carol service here tomorrow 2:30pm.
- Please will KS1 children remove their various toys from their school bags over Christmas – Buddy starts his official school dog training in week 1 of our new term and these are very much a distraction. Perhaps parents could label the top of the school bag using a sharpie to help your child locate their bags?

May I also take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their energy and commitment to our school and wish everyone in our community a very Happy Christmas.

Best wishes,
Have a great holiday everyone!

Best wishes,
Rebekah May
(Headteacher)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
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 Y1/2 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	
	Friday	
WB 2 nd February	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	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		Spring 1: 5 th January – 13 th February Monday 23 rd Feb Non-Pupil Day RIVERS WALKS FOR CLASSES 3,4 and 5 are now planned for SPRING 2 Wednesday 28 th January – Maths Calculations Workshop 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 WB 22nd JUNE Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT DAYS (25th JUNE for many schools) PROVISIONAL KS 2 SHOW: afternoon Monday 6th July, Evening Tuesday 7th July PROVISIONAL Reception 2026 home visits Tuesday 7th July, Wednesday 8th July THURSDAY 16th JULY: LEAVERS TEA FOR Y6 and FAMILIES

PHOTOS FROM THIS WEEK: FAMILY CHRISTMAS SCIENCE PROJECT,



