

# Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Edition 17



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Dear All,

It's been a wet one this week but we have made sure the children were out as often as possible ... although they enjoy the odd wet play every now and then when it is very wet, nobody wants this too often! Please make sure they have appropriate clothing. They are asked to wear coats when it is raining a bit so that they get some fresh air. Next week may have a couple more rainy days so please just make sure they have coats with them.

This week, has seen some Y1 and Y2 children representing the school at cricket. I am told that they were all very well behaved and enjoyed engaging with the festival with quite a large number of schools. Well done Y2 cricketers and thanks to parents for transport!

I have also seen KS1 learning some Traditional Tales and KS2 starting to think a little bit about drawing texture in the context of birds in art. This is all which is leading up to taking part in the RSPB Big School's Bird watch later in the term.

## FOREST SCHOOL

Unfortunately, our Forest School Leader was unable to come in at the last minute today for class 1 and 2 and, sadly, I was unable to step in as I had several appointments. Class 1 were able to go ahead with some planned Outdoor Learning, but Class 2 Forest School was cancelled as we did not have enough staff to supervise this afternoon. All Class 2 children were, however, able to take part on PE. We need to re-plan some of the dates for Forest School anyway so please look out for an email from Mrs Vinters and Mrs Millbourne in the next couple of weeks.

Class 5: there are some dates in the diary that will be shared as soon as possible – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February is a Layer Breton Health Forest School Day for all Y6

Other year groups: this is something I am still looking into as I would very much like to roll it out further in some way. There are, however, some challenges of time, logistics and cost to work through.

## NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY: Football club 3:20-4:00

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY: Y3/4 cross country – children involved have had letters. Please make sure you have responded.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS: Please look out for our Calculation Workshop on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. You are invited into school to find out a little more about maths teaching. Further details to follow.

The EcoBubbles team will be selling their products again on the last Friday of this ½ term – 13<sup>th</sup> February. They are going to share a pre-order form with their customers as soon as they have organised this but would really like any plastic bottles that they could use - probably not bigger than 1 litre and 500ml are idea. If you send these in to school with your child, the EcoBubbles team will come and collect from classes on Fridays. Many thanks!

Best wishes,

Rebekah May  
(Headteacher)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
WB 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Y3/4 Cross Country – team have received a letter – responses needed
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Maths calculation workshop after school for parents
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics – letter to come home next week
	Friday	Y6 FOREST SCHOOL AT LAYER BRETON HEATH PROVISIONAL PAFA MOVIE NIGHT
WB 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday	PROVISIONAL Y3/4 football tournament
	Tuesday	Safer Internet Day 2026
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	PAFA 'Break the Rules' Day
HALF TERM		
WB 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Monday	NON PUPIL DAY
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	WORLD BOOK DAY: FANCY DRESS!!
	Friday	Reports Coming Home PROVISIONAL : PAFA BINGO NIGHT
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term		<p><u>Spring 1: 5<sup>th</sup> January – 13<sup>th</sup> February</u>  Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb Non-Pupil Day  RIVERS WALKS FOR CLASSES 3,4 and 5 are now planned for SPRING 2</p> <p><u>Spring 2: 24<sup>th</sup> Feb- 27<sup>th</sup> March</u>  <u>Summer 1: 13<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> May</u>  <u>Summer 2: 1<sup>st</sup> June- 17<sup>th</sup> July</u>  Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July: non-pupil day  SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> June  WB 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT DAYS (25<sup>th</sup> JUNE for many schools)  PROVISIONAL KS2 SHOW: afternoon Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July, Evening Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July  PROVISIONAL Reception 2026 home visits Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July  THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY: LEAVERS TEA FOR Y6 and FAMILIES</p>

PHOTOS: This is what Friday afternoon looks like in school: PE (class 2) , Computing (Class 5), RE (Class 4), Art (Class 3) and 'choosing time' in class 1



