

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 26th January 2026

Edition 19



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Dear All,

We've nearly made it through the seemingly endless month of January – well done all of us!

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Maths Workshops on Wednesday. We have realised that including 'cake' in the title is a great draw as the workshops were definitely busier last year for 'Cake and Calculations'. However, we have also had some feedback at Parent's Forum that the Spring Term is not ideal for calculation workshops and are thinking about how these could be moved into the Autumn term next year. Leave this with us and we will see how this might be organised differently in the future. Those presentations that used PowerPoint will be uploaded to the class pages.

We have had a busy week in school with KS2 having a day all around the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch, which we are taking part in in the WB 9th February. All the KS2 children enjoyed an art workshop making 3D birds, inspired by the mixed media artist Mark Hearld.

KS1 have started their Design Technology (DT) unit on wheels and axels and are making vehicles linked to their traditional tales. Please send in a box if you have not already done this!

NEXT WEEK:

TUESDAY Y3 are having their first Forest School 'taster'. Please ensure they have appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for the weather on the day.

THURSDAY: Y5 and 6 will represent the school at the Sportshall Athletics in the afternoon.

FRIDAY: Y6 Forest School at Layer Breton Heath – please dress for the weather and either order a school packed lunch or bring your own packed lunch.

PAFA MOVIE NIGHT: this is straight from school. Just to clarify, the children do not bring PJ's. A couple of years ago they WORE PJ's to school for a fundraiser and then stayed for movie night. It is not possible for the children to change into PJ's at school.

ALSO COMING UP...

ECOBUBBLES will be sending out a pre-order form as soon as possible – they would appreciate any donations of clean 1000ml or 500ml plastic bottles with lids. Please drop them off in the office or with me.

SPRING TERM SCHOOL COUNCIL will be talking to the children about their favourite school meals to help us make some menu changes after half term – new menus will be available WB 9th February.

DIGITAL LEADERS: We are looking forward to welcoming Thurstable's team of pupil DIGITAL LEADERS into school on Wednesday 11th February. They will be working with Y5 and 6 on safety and parents are invited into the hall at 3pm to see what Y5 and 6 have been up to and for parents to have a chance to meet and chat to the Digital Leaders about aspects of online safety. Digital leaders will be in the hall from 3:00-3:30 – pop in via the hall before you collect your child or just afterwards! We will open the playground gate a little early on this day.

STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) LEADERS: will start their KS1 clubs at break times after half term.

After half term, in Spring 2, we have a couple of days highlight:

SPRING CLEAN DAY: Saturday 28th February is a task day. We are hoping for some help with some school grounds work. I am also hoping to begin work on our pond on this day.

Thursday 5th March: this is World Book Day. We are asking children to come dressed as a single word – the dictionary is, after all a very important book. There are lots of ideas out there – you could come as ‘Sparkly’, ‘Colourful’, ‘Soft’. Have a think as a family.

Friday 27th March: this last day of term will be a Friday Phyzzi (physics) Festival instead of the traditional British Science Week activities. PAFA will also be helping to celebrate Easter with us and the STEM leaders are planning to send home an EGGCITING Easter science challenge to bring in for testing on this day!

Finally, a reminder to the Thursday morning sports club – the session starts at 8:05am and you are welcome to come in to school at 8:00 am. Children that turn up later than this are negatively impacting on the session as the game has to stop whilst teams are rearranged. Please be considerate to the other children in the club and come on time. Thank you!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May
(Headteacher)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
WB 2 nd February	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y3 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER (information to be shared asap)
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics
	Friday	Y6 FOREST SCHOOL AT LAYER BRETON HEATH PAFA MOVIE NIGHT
WB 9 th February	Monday	PROVISIONAL Y3/4 football tournament
	Tuesday	Safer Internet Day 2026 Y4 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER (information to be shared asap)
	Wednesday	DIGITAL LEADERS from THURTABLE secondary school will be working with Y5 and 6 and invite all parents to find out about the work of the Digital Leaders for safety from 3pm -3:30 in the hall
	Thursday	
	Friday	PAFA ‘Break the Rules’ Day
HALF TERM		
WB 23 rd February	Monday	NON PUPIL DAY
	Tuesday	Y3 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 2 nd March	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y4 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	WORLD BOOK DAY: DRESS UP AS A WORD
	Friday	Reports Coming Home PAFA BINGO NIGHT
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term		<u>Spring 1: 5th January – 13th February</u> Monday 23 rd Feb Non-Pupil Day RIVERS WALKS FOR CLASSES 3,4 and 5 are now planned for SPRING 2 <u>Spring 2: 24th Feb- 27th March</u> <u>Summer 1: 13th April – 22nd May</u>

Summer 2: 1st June- 17th July
Monday 20th July: non-pupil day
SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19th June
WB 22nd JUNE Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT DAYS (25th JUNE for many schools)
PROVISIONAL KS2 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: ART PROJECT KS2, BUDDY AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS



