

# Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Edition 20



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Dear All,

This week started with KS2 enjoying the chance to say a huge 'thank you' to Mr Kemp, who has run the 'Keep on Reading' project for 20 years at Birch. Children in Y5 devised a book quiz for him, we presented him with a beautifully designed book/card where all the KS2 children and the staff had written some messages to wish him well. Thank you to Mrs Davies for the cake (pictures at the end) and Mrs Daniels made book-themed cup cakes for KS2 to enjoy alongside this. Mr Kemp has donated several boxes of his 'Keep on Reading' books and we will re-imagine this project and continue with it as soon as we are able to organise this.

Also, this week, KS1 have been enjoying making their various buggies and Y3 enjoyed a slightly soggy Forest School session. Some groups have now started their RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch and this will continue next week as a Citizen Science Project for the whole school.

## SCHOOL DINNERS:

We would welcome some feedback from families about this provision as the current uptake in KS2 is low and this is not sustainable financially for the school. I will be sending an email next week to explain in more detail about how school meal funding works and why we need your support, but in the meantime, the School Council have been surveying the children about their preferences in our proposed Summer menu. We will then feed (pardon the pun) this information into the summer menu that will be uploaded to the website at the end of next week. Please bear in mind that, no matter what the children say they like best, we must also comply with standards set by the local authority and cannot simply have a menu that serves burger, hot dog, meatballs and fishfingers, mostly with chips, on a rolling programme! Any other ideas you have would be most welcome, so please just catch me or one of the office staff at the school gate for a chat or email us your thoughts or queries. Thank you!

## NEXT WEEK: Children's Mental Health Week and 'Safer Internet Day'

The Mental Health Champions have organised activities for lunch times around relaxing and the benefits of exercise on mental health.

**TUESDAY:** Safer Internet Day. This backs up our curriculum work (PSHE and ICT curriculum) and is always a useful reminder. Children will undertake activities in class and think about online safety in our assembly and collective worship.

**WEDNESDAY:** Thurstable's 'Digital Leaders' will be working with Y5 and 6. Parents are invited into the school hall, from the playground at 3pm to find out a bit about e-safety from the Digital Leaders.

**FRIDAY:** PAFA's 'Break the Rules' day. Further details will come from PAFA tomorrow and there will be an opportunity to pay via Scopay next week.

EcoBubbles will be selling some more hand soap, washing up liquid and shower gel. Watch out for some **pre-order** forms that will be distributed **early next week**. We would still welcome some empty plastic bottles if you have any that are 500ml or more lying around! Normal plastic water bottles are ideal if you have some of these.

## ALSO COMING UP AFTER HALF TERM

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

**CHANGES TO SPRING CLEAN DAY** (Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February) this is looking as though it will just be around sorting out the pond for use in our science curriculum so not a suitable for a family task. Any parents who have particular skills that could be useful, please come and see me. I am trying to source a new pond liner at the moment.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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!

Please find attached the term dates for 27-28 and a poster about SEND support locally. Please also look out for the new date – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March where an ACL (Adult Community Learning) provider will be holding a drop-in session at school about to chat about helping children manage big feelings (there will be tea and biscuits!). If this is well attended they may be able to organise another session/ course based at school.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May  
(Headteacher)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
WB 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Monday	
	Tuesday	Safer Internet Day 2026 Y4 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	DIGITAL LEADERS from THURSTABLE 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 <sup>rd</sup> February	Monday	NON PUPIL DAY
	Tuesday	Y3 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y4 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	<b>ACL informal drop-in session with tea and biscuits about parenting ‘Big Feelings’ – please come and chat with the providers</b>
	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: 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 <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

PHOTOS: MR KEMP'S CAKE, FOREST SCHOOLS, THE Y3 BOYS MADE A CHANDELIER (VERY FANCY) IN THEIR SHELTER, MAKING COOKING STICKS



