

# Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 9th February 2026

Edition 21



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Dear All,

Sadly, it's been another rainy week, but the children have managed to get outside for all of their playtimes and lunchtimes, which is great.

In classes 3 and 4 they have been continuing their explorations into the properties of materials and have been investigating.... In class 5, they are coming to the end of their science topic of evolution and have been investigating the adaptations of the Galapagos finches, using a variety of implements, such as tweezers and tongs and a variety of 'foods', such as pasta and counters. They are finding out which tool or beak is most adapted for which food type. All this work took place on Darwin Day on Tuesday... which seems fitting!

Class 2 have been designing 'traps' for the Gingerbread man and writing about their ideas and class 1 have explored Valentines Day and Pancake Day. Both classes have enjoyed finishing off their buggies!

## **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK:**

Our Mental Health Champions planned activities at lunchtime this week to mark children's Mental Health week. They enlisted the support of our two Y6 Sports Captains, Matilda and Johnny to design a 'workout' to highlight the link between physical health and mental health. They also explored this year's theme 'This is My Place' by inviting every child in school to decorate a handprint to add to our 'Birch Tree' in the hall and visually represent our sense of belonging to our school community. Thank you, Gia, Malachi, Diana, Marney, Delilah, Lhana, Rosie and Niamh for all the time you have given to this project this week.

## **SAFER INTERNET DAY:**

The children discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) in classes and assembly and thought about when it may be helpful and when it may be harmful. Also, on Wednesday Y5 and Y6 had a visit from Thurstable's Digital Leaders and some parents popped in at the end of school to talk to them. The Digital leaders used lots of quizzes, discussion and film to discuss a range of topics with Year 5 and 6 pupils and then they all tested their retention with a 'Boolet' quiz at the end!

## **PAFA's BREAK THE RULES DAY:**

I have talked the children about the key rules that cannot be broken – anything related to being **safe** or being **respectful** or **kind** must be maintained. With this in mind, please ensure that the children wear appropriate clothes, especially footwear, for their activities on Friday (e.g PE, Forest School, running around the playground etc) – even if these are not the correct school uniform clothes. You can break as many rules about uniform, make-up, etc as you wish for a donation. If anyone does choose to bring in a soft toy, as exemplified on the PAFA poster, can I remind everyone that we cannot be responsible for these being lost or damaged. Buddy will not be in on Friday, so his belief that all toys might belong to him will not an issue!

## **ECOBUBBLES SALE FRIDAY FROM 3:00PM IN THE HALL:**

The EcoBubbles team are selling their washing up liquids and hand soaps on Friday from 3:00 pm. Please come and see what they have to offer. If you have sent in a pre-order form, come and collect your goods, if you still need to pay, or the Eco team will send them home via your child.

**AFTER HALF TERM (WB 23<sup>rd</sup> FEB):****MONDAY: THIS IS A NON-PUPIL DAY****TUESDAY:** Y3 Forest School in the afternoon – please wear appropriate clothing, Gym Club continues**SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup>: STILL TO BE CONFIRMED BUT MAY NEED SOME HELP WITH POND CLEARANCE/ RE-DIGGING AND RE-LINING THE POND**

I have attached the new menu for the Summer Term with the newsletter – thanks to the School Council for their input!

Have a great half term when we get there!

Rebekah May

(Headteacher)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
<b>HALF TERM</b>		
WB 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Monday	NON PUPIL DAY
	Tuesday	Y3 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER <b>NEW AGENTS OF CHANGE THEME 'SHOUT OUT LOUD' FOR Y4-6</b>
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>PROVISIONAL POND TASK</b>
WB 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Monday	<b>Football Club - 3:20-4:20 Y4,5,6</b>
	Tuesday	Y4 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER Gym club
	Wednesday	ACL informal drop-in session with tea and biscuits about parenting 'Big Feelings' – please come and chat with the providers
	Thursday	WORLD BOOK DAY: DRESS UP AS A WORD
	Friday	Reports Coming Home PAFA BINGO NIGHT
WB 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday	<b>PROVISIONAL RIVERS WALK Y6 – WEATHER DEPENDENT</b> Football Club <b>STEM AMBASSADORS TO SEND EASTER-THEMED ENGINEERING CHALLENGE</b>
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	<b>PROVISIONAL RIVERS WALK CLASSES 3 and 4 – WEATHER DEPENDENT</b>
WB 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday	Football Club
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Monday	Football Club
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	<b>FRIDAY PHYZZI FESTIVAL – an Easter-themed Physics Festival plus PAFA's Easter Egg Hunt.</b>
Key dates to note for Spring/		<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>

<p>Summer Term</p>	<p><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 19th 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>
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PHOTOS: Y6 PIZZA MAKING OVER THE CAMPFIRE...IN THE RAIN, KNOT TYRING...IN THE RAIN, Y4 FOREST SCHOOLS ...IN THE RAIN



