

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 23rd February 2026

Edition 22



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Dear All,

I hope everyone had a good half term – it's lovely to finally see some sunshine~!

This week in school, KS2 have been thinking about equality on a global scale, using the book 'If the World were a village'. We used jellybeans to represent the wealth of the world and divided them up according to the statistics given. The children were able to see very clear the inequality that exists using this model. Y4,5 and 6 then had some time to complete an Agents of Change activity for their next certificate. The aspect being explored this ½ term is 'Shout out Loud'. They are invited to think of some issues that concern them and then take part in an activity that helps promote their thinking on the issue. Some wrote a letter yesterday to our local MP and others made a poster promoting Fairtrade.

In Class 1, the children have been learning about Chinese New Year – listening to the story of The Great Race of all the animals to find out their position in the 12-year cycle. They have also enjoyed their role play area, linked to Chinese New Year. In Class 2, the children have started some geography work on various geographical skills. This week, they have been thinking about how we describe and measure weather and have made weather windmills and cloud views, learning all the different names of the clouds.

POND TASK SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY 10:00-12:00

Mr Broad has started emptying the pond in preparation for the work on Saturday. I am hoping that a few volunteers will turn up to help me finish the job of emptying the pond and clearing up the old pond liner and the carpet that I remember putting down to protect the liner about 20 years ago! I will be ready to start at 10:00. Unfortunately, this task is not suitable for children due to the water safety aspect so I am hoping that a few parents might be able to give some time to support this – I will bring refreshments! Please bring gloves, wellies, rakes, spades and buckets if you can – I'm afraid they are likely to get pretty grubby! Please just drop me an email if you think you will be able to spare a little time on Saturday so that I can cater properly! Headteacher@birch.essex.sch.uk Thank you!

For many years our pond has been used brilliantly our Science curriculum with children studying the invertebrates that live there and for many years these were varied and interesting. However, the last few years has seen a huge decline in the diversity as the pond has filled up with decaying debris. This lowers the oxygen content and creates an environment where only a few specialised invertebrates can live. In addition, the duckweed has completely taken over. We basically need to start again and create the wonderfully diverse wildlife pond that we had several years ago!

WORLD BOOK DAY

We are all dressing as a word this year. This could be a colour or a different adjective, such as 'shiny'. Some children may want to use a costume they already have and decide what 'word' they are representing, for example, if you come as Sherlock Holmes, you may decide you are representing 'investigation'. Please discuss with your child which word they will represent with their outfit; possibly write a label in case they forget. We plan to use this diverse vocabulary in lessons and it would be really helpful for everyone if they were really clear about their word for the day! We will be making a dictionary of all the words and exploring sentences, so be creative and ambitious! The Gazette have asked for photos to be included in a special edition on Tuesday 10th March. We will, of course, check the photo permissions before selecting photos to send.

Please remember that we have an informal drop-in session with ACL. If we have enough people, they are hoping they will be able to offer a course based here. This could potentially include subjects such as parenting anxious children, although other areas are also available.

Have a great weekend everyone and I hope to see a few volunteers on Saturday to support our pond work!

Rebekah May
(Headteacher)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

| WEEK BEGINNING | DAY | EVENTS |
|---|-----------------|--|
| | SATURDAY | POND TASK CONFIRMED 10:00-12:00 |
| WB 2 nd March | Monday | Football Club - 3:20-4:20 Y4,5,6 BIKEABILITY Y5 |
| | Tuesday | Y4 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER Gym club BIKEABILITY Y5 |
| | 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 th March | Monday | PROVISIONAL RIVERS WALK Y6 – WEATHER DEPENDENT Football Club STEM AMBASSADORS TO SEND EASTER-THEMED ENGINEERING CHALLENGE |
| | Tuesday | Gym Club |
| | Wednesday | |
| | Thursday | |
| | Friday | PROVISIONAL RIVERS WALK CLASSES 3 and 4 – WEATHER DEPENDENT |
| WB 16 th March | Monday | Football Club STEM AMBASSADORS WILL SEND HOME A FAMILY SCIENCE HOMEWORK FOR OUR FRIDAY PHYZZI FESTIVAL (27th March) |
| | Tuesday | Gym Club |
| | Wednesday | |
| | Thursday | |
| | Friday | |
| WB 23 rd March | Monday | Football Club |
| | Tuesday | Gym Club |
| | Wednesday | |
| | Thursday | |
| | Friday | FRIDAY PHYZZI FESTIVAL – an Easter-themed Physics Festival plus PAFA's Easter Egg Hunt. STEM ambassadors HW due in |
| 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> <u>Summer 2: 1st June- 17th July</u> Monday 20 th July: non-pupil day SPORTS DAY FRIDAY 19 th June WB 22 nd JUNE Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT DAYS (25 th JUNE for many schools) PROVISIONAL KS2 SHOW: afternoon Monday 6 th July, Evening Tuesday 7 th July PROVISIONAL Reception 2026 home visits Tuesday 7 th July, Wednesday 8 th July THURSDAY 16 th JULY: LEAVERS TEA FOR Y6 and FAMILIES |

PHOTOS: SUMMER MENU BURGER DAY, MARSHMALLOWS, SEQUENCING THE EASTER STORY WITH FAMOUS WORKS OF ART AND BIBLICAL TEXT



