

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 2nd March 2026

Edition 23



☎ 01206 330224

email: admin@birch.essex.sch.uk

www.birch.essex.sch.uk

Dear All,

On Saturday, with a great deal of help from my family, I managed to empty 20 years' worth of debris and decaying matter from the pond and cut out the old liners and protective matting – we cracked on as we got the work completed. It was very dirty, very smelly, very slippery and very heavy work so was just as well to have a small group and was definitely not work for children.

Thank you to those parents who were able to come in the ACL (Adult Community Learning) informal chat with tea and biscuits – watch this space for courses that may emerge from this contact.

The Y5 children have completed their Bikeability course – really well done! They start off in the playground for the first morning session and, once they are safe to do so, spend the remainder of the course with instructors on the roads of Birch, learning the rules of the road and how to cycle safely.

This week, we have also enjoyed dressing up as a word for World Book Day. The children explored the words they represented and we are making a dictionary of our World Book Day words – they all looked great! There are some photos on the picture page!

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY: RIVERS WALK FOR Y6: It's still a bit muddy so we will walk a short way along the stream. Please bring wellies, walking boots or old trainers. Long sleeves and long trousers needed as there is some bramble and the new spring stinging nettles are starting to come up!

FRIDAY: CLASS 3 and CLASS 4 RIVER WALK: this will go ahead as long as the weather says dry. As above – can children wear appropriate footwear and long sleeves and trousers to protect from brambles and stingers.

COMING UP:

RED NOSE DAY 20th March

Our Spring Term school council would like to organise for us to take part in this fund raiser and will send out further information as soon as possible. This will mostly be a non-school uniform day with a theme. They are currently coming up with ideas of how to 'Make yourself Funny' on that day and will also offer the option to wear red from 'nose to toes'. A flyer will come home next week.

NEXT POND TASK SATURDAY 21st March

I would very much appreciate some support from Birch families as we dig to extend the pond into the old duck cage. I think that children, could potentially help with this, or I can find some other suitable activities for children within the grounds. Could families put this date in their diaries? It may be that the time last week was not suitable for many people and I am happy to change this. Could you perhaps email me if you plan to come but have a preference about the time? I can then decide on the most appropriate time for this task and will send further details out.

A pond is brilliant to use in our science curriculum as well as an excellent habitat to support biodiversity, both in the pond and for the wildlife around so is a great resource for school – all help to complete this project is really welcome. WE WILL BE COLLECTING OLD BITS OF CARPET TO HELP PROTECT THE POND LINER – CAN PEOPLE HAVE A LOOK IN THEIR GARAGES AND SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY DONATIONS?

STEM CHALLENGE WB 16th MARCH LINKED TO FRIDAY PHYZZI FESTIVAL 27th MARCH

The STEM ambassadors are sending home a STEM engineering challenge for families. This is to be brought into school on Friday 27th March for our **Easter-themed Friday Phyzzi Festival**. They will introduce to the school on Friday 13th March and I will send home the challenge with my newsletter next week.

Finally, can I remind everyone that, other than Buddy, dogs are not allowed on site. Puppies in arms is fine, but please do not put them down. There are a few children who are very nervous around puppies and dogs and this could cause some distress. A school dog works in a very structured way and, although Buddy is still in training, he has been assessed as suitable to slowly begin this work. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Please find attached a Wake-Up Wednesday Leaflet on reading – have a look at all the suggestions to support your child and foster a love of reading. Also attached are a couple of poster from KS2 to ‘SHOUT OUT LOUD’ about FAIRTRADE.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Rebekah May
(Headteacher)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
WB 9 th March	Monday	RIVERS WALK Y6 Football Club
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	RIVERS WALK CLASSES 3 and 4 STEM AMBASSADORS WILL INTRODUCE AND SEND HOME A FAMILY SCIENCE HOMEWORK FOR OUR FRIDAY PHYZZI FESTIVAL (27 th March) STEM AMBASSADORS TO SEND EASTER-THEMED ENGINEERING CHALLENGE
WB 16 th March	Monday	Football Club
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	RED NOSE DAY: COMIC RELIEF SPRING TERM SCHOOL COUNCIL PROJECT
SATURDAY: POND DIGGING TASK CONFIRMED TIME TO BE DECIDDED – PLEASE RESPOND BY EMAIL WITH SUGGESTIONS		
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 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 AND PAFA COLOUR RUN FRIDAY 19th 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: THE MAYS PONDING, BIKEABILITY SESSION 1 ON THE PLAYGROUND, SPRING MENU WEEK 2 WITH SALAD BAR AND DESSERT (FRUIT ALSO ALWAYS AVAILABLE) WORLD BOOK DAY





