

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 23rd March 2026

Edition 26



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Dear All,

It's been a busy few weeks of Spring 2 – the same amount to do, just less time in which to do it!

Many thanks to all the parents and children who came along on Saturday to dig the pond. Everyone worked incredibly hard! I am hoping that the liner will be installed during the holidays or soon after, and that my STEM group can begin monitoring the pond's colonisation shortly after Easter.

This week, classes have been finishing off their topics and projects for the term. I have seen bridge building, electrical game-making, and Easter artwork. Also this week, Year 6 enjoyed their Forest School session at Layer Breton Heath, where they made chocolate orange cakes inside actual oranges!

On Wednesday, Delilah represented the school at the county cross-country final and came an impressive 15th. It has probably been around 12 years since we last had a finalist at this level, so this really is an amazing achievement!

Yesterday, the football team played another league match. Unfortunately, the opposition (Mildene) managed to score just before the final whistle, resulting in a 2–1 defeat. Well done to the football team—another super performance, but an unlucky result.

Today, all the children enjoyed a Physics Festival with an Easter theme. They explored the Light Room, the Sound Room, and the Power Room, as well as investigating friction through egg rolling and air resistance through a STEM engineering challenge—designing a parachute to bring an egg safely to the ground. There were some incredible designs, and many eggs landed safely! The egg rolling was eventually won by Johnny, just edging Jenson out at the last minute. It was an incredibly busy morning—thank you to all the staff for their hard work and energy, both for this event and on a daily basis!

Also today, the children enjoyed their PAFA Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks for your donations of Easter eggs, and to PAFA for organising such a lovely end to our Spring term.

SUMMER TERM:

The summer term is often incredibly busy, but several key dates are already on the calendar, so please do add these to your diaries early.

Looking ahead, please check the summer term uniform on the website before making any purchases, particularly the summer dress styles. Gingham dresses are welcome; however, jumpsuit or all-in-one styles are not practical for school. All children should wear black school shoes. Sandals are not appropriate for safety reasons, and plain trainers should only be worn on PE days.

Week Beginning 13th April:

We return to school on Monday 13th April.

Monday

Year 5 Morning Maths group

Football Club

Tuesday

Year 6 SATs revision classes begin at 8:00 am

No Gym Club

Year 5/6 Science (Great Science Share starting soon)

Wednesday

Year 6 SATs revision class at 8:00 am

Netball tournament postponed to 21st April

Thursday (National Offer Day for Reception places September 2026)

Parent Course (ACL): Anxiety (in the hall), 9–11am

EPC Year 5/6 Sports Club (before school): Rounders

EPC Year 3/4 Sports Club (after school): Rounders

Friday

Year 6 SATs revision at 8:00 am

Year 5 Maths as usual

Finally, I have a dog pen in my office that Buddy can easily jump out of. If this might be useful for your dog, please do come and let me know—you would be very welcome to it. I have borrowed a different crate, so, don't worry, he still has his own space within my office.

Have a lovely holiday, everyone!

Rebekah May

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
EASTER HOLIDAY Y5 parents: April instalment for Bawdsey will land during the holidays		
13 th April	Monday	1 st day of summer term
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 NETBALL TOURNAMENT THURSTABLE
	Thursday	ACL ANXIETY TRAINING OFFER AT SCHOOL 9:00-11:00 – Mrs Millbourne has sent a flyer with details. Please let us know if you are planning to come National Offer Day for Reception place September 2026
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 EcoBubbles sale of eco-refill goods.
20 th April	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
27 th April	Monday	FOOTBALL MATCH AFTER SCHOOL AGAINST MERSEA
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 Y5 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
4 th May	Monday	BANK HOLIDAY
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00

		Y5 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
11 th May Y6 SATS WEEK	Monday	Y6 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar tests
	Tuesday	Y6 Reading paper
	Wednesday	Y6 Arithmetic paper 1 and Reasoning paper 2
	Thursday	Y6 Reasoning paper 3 Y6 FOREST SCHOOL PM
	Friday	Assembly and Parent Forum for Classes 1 and 2 9:10
18 th May	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	CENSUS DAY: please order a school meal on this day as this impacts our funding. Thank you! Y6 ROUNDERS TOURNAMENT AFTER SCHOOL THURSTABLE
	Friday	Class photos for all classes and individual photos also for Y6 leavers.
Key dates to note for Spring/ Summer Term		<p><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 20th July: non-pupil day 12th June Classes 3 and 4 Assembly and Parent Forum 9:10 16th JUNE Great Science Share for Schools and KS2 Consortium Athletics competition SPORTS DAY AND PAFA COLOUR RUN 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</p>

PHOTOS: Y6 FOREST SCHOOLS, FRIDAY PHYSICS FESTIVAL





