

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 20th April 2026

Edition 28



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Dear All,

THIS WEEK:

Week 2 of the Summer Term has seen KS1 continuing their learning on the theme of 'Seasides'. Class 1 have been making some lovely mixed-media pictures, and Class 2 tell me they have learned about lighthouses this week.

In KS2, the children are now beginning to learn about the parts of a medieval castle for an exciting DT project. They are also all learning their 'Legend Story' in their Talk 4 Writing unit.

Some of the KS2 children led a 'Shout Out' last half term as part of their 'Agents of Change' work, focusing on children looking after the playground equipment. They have monitored this and seen some improvement, which led them to ask PAFA to support the purchase of new equipment. This has started to arrive and, as soon as the new storage box is delivered, they aim to make everything accessible for children to play with at lunchtime. Well done to them for making this happen!

The 'Agents of Change' theme to be explored this half term is 'Brighten Your Day'. The Year 4, 5 and 6 children are being asked to think of activities to brighten their own day or that of those around them, and to provide evidence of this. This could be through pictures, artwork or a letter. I am already beginning to see some great responses to this challenge—keep going, everyone.

Bishop Roger, the Bishop of Colchester, led our Collective Worship today and gave a really engaging assembly, during which he appeared to turn water into wine as he told the story! Class 5 then found out the science behind this part of his storytelling.

SPORTS NEWS:

On Tuesday 21st April, we went to a netball tournament at Thurstable School. We won two games and drew one out of seven games. In each match, we improved more and more and, although the sun was in our eyes, we carried on. As we scored more goals, we became more confident. A special mention must go to Thom for scoring the most goals for the team.

Report from Johnny and Matilda, Sports Captains

In other sports news, the children have been invited to take part in a Mini Marathon to celebrate the London Marathon, which is taking place this weekend. In assembly today, Mr Turnbull encouraged them to watch a few minutes of the race on TV to inspire them to run a two-mile course at school next Friday. This is not compulsory, but if your child is keen to take on this challenge, please ensure they are wearing their PE kit on Friday 1st May. The event will be organised and marshalled by our Year 6 Sports Captains and other Year 6 leaders.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Next week looks to be fairly straightforward. Year 5 have their first Forest School taster session on Tuesday afternoon—please wear PE kits, but we ask that legs are covered because of brambles, etc. Looking further ahead to next year, please begin to think about music lessons for September—you can find information here: <https://www.essexmusicservice.org.uk/site/>

LAST OF ALL:

Mrs Chaffe has asked parents to collect large pieces of cardboard for scenery for the KS2 play and for some corridor artwork that all the children are contributing to. If you have any fabrics that we can use in art and design technology, she would also welcome these.

Finally, now that the sun is making a fairly consistent appearance, may I remind everyone to apply sun cream to children before they come to school and to ensure they have caps. Generally, they should not need to reapply in school; however, please come and speak to us if there is a reason your child needs to have sun cream in school so that this can be monitored correctly. The same applies to hay fever medication—please administer it before school, but it can be given in school with permission. If children have a medical reason for wearing sunglasses, we ask that a letter is provided by the optician. Sunglasses are not part of the summer uniform. Thank you.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Rebekah May

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
27 th April	Monday	Football match against Mersea School NO FOOTBALL CLUB AT SCHOOL
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 Y5 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfs) Club starts – group of Y5 and 6
	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 NO GREAT SCIENCE SHARE CLUB
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 Sir David Attenborough's 100 th birthday!
11 th May Y6 SATS WEEK	Monday	Y6 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar tests
	Tuesday	Y6 Reading paper Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfs) Club – group of Y5 and 6
	Wednesday	Y6 Arithmetic paper 1 and Reasoning paper 2
	Thursday	Y6 Reasoning paper 3 Y6 FOREST SCHOOL PM FOOTBALL MATCH AGAINST BAYNARDS
	Friday	
18 th May	Monday	PROVISIONAL WELLBEING AFTERNOON
	Tuesday	Dress as a sound day for KS1 Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfs) Club – group of Y5 and 6
	Wednesday	Class photos for all classes and individual photos also for Y6 leavers – THIS DATE HAS CHANGED FROM FRIDAY 22 nd MAY
	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 1 and 2 assembly and parent forum -photos of the dress as a sound day
MAY HALF TERM		
Monday 25th May LAYER MARNEY FETE – s group of children will be running stalls, more details to follow		
WB 1 st June	Monday	
	Tuesday	Great Science Share for School club - group Y5/6/5)
	Wednesday	

	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 8 th June	Monday	Football match against Stanway Primary
	Tuesday	Y6 'Crucial Crew' visit and performance – details to follow
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 15 th June	Monday	PROVISIONAL: classes 3,4 and 5 Trip to Mountfitchet Castle GSSfS final club session to prepare for event
	Tuesday	Great Science Share for Schools (small group Y5/6) Consortium Athletics (team from KS2)
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	Sports Day and Colour Run (PAFA)
WB22 nd June Y6 TRANSITION VISITS WEEK	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y3/4 cricket team at Northern Gateway all day
	Wednesday	KS1 Visit to Frinton Y6 Forest School at Layer Breton Heath
	Thursday	Stanway Induction
	Friday	PARENT ASSEMBLY and PARENT'S FORUM for classes 3 and 4 parents – this has change due to change in date for proposed trip.
WB29 th June LAST WEEK OF TUITION	Monday	Y6 Science Quiz online
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Dress Rehearsal for KS2 play
	Thursday	New reception intake transition event pm
	Friday	KS1 Cricket Day
WB 6 th July	Monday	KS2 show afternoon Home visit new reception
	Tuesday	KS2 show EVENING Home visits new reception
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	New reception visits Whole school 'move-up morning'
	Friday	
WB 13 th July	Monday	'It's Your Move' for Y6 PROVISIONAL : Y6 'Moving on Camp'
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	Leavers' Tea for Y6 and Y6 families
	Friday	
WB 20 th July	MONDAY 20 th July is a non-pupil day	
Key dates to note for Autumn 2026		

PHOTOS: NETBALL TEAM, MAKING RIVERS IN FOREST SCHOOL



