

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 27th April 2026

Edition 29



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Dear All,

The children have been very busy this week, working on their Talk4Writing narrative stories and exploring their topics in greater depth. For Classes 3, 4 and 5, this has centred on thinking about the timeline and key events from the time of Robin Hood, as well as continuing their learning about medieval castles. In KS1, Class 1 has continued reading a range of sea-themed stories and enjoying their Ice Cream Parlour role play, while Class 2 has produced some beautiful artwork based on Hokusai's Great Wave.

The children also thought about the theme of Brighten Today in assembly, which is this half term's Agents of Change focus. I look forward to seeing some of their activities around this theme. We are planning a school-based Brighten Today activity in a couple of weeks, when Mrs Millbourne will be organising a wellbeing afternoon—more details will follow nearer the time.

At lunchtime today, many children took part in the mini-marathon organised by Mr Turnbull and our Year 6 leaders. This was an optional event, but almost every child in KS2 completed two miles, while KS1 children managed half of this at lunchtime and half during their PE lessons. Really well done to all the runners for taking part in this fantastic challenge, and especially to Year 6 for their brilliantly supportive leadership!

Following this, I would like to draw your attention to the 'Junior Parkrun Takeover' planned for Sunday 17th May at Old Heath—I have attached a poster. The Junior Parkrun is being 'taken over' by the Nexus Learning Partnership, the new name for our existing consortium of schools with whom we work closely. Children are very welcome to use their participation in this event as a Brighten Today challenge for their Agents of Change. I will also be there to help marshal on the day.

NEXT WEEK:

Next week begins with the Bank Holiday on Monday and, although it will be busy in school, there are only a few dates to highlight.

TUESDAY: There will be no Great Science Share for Schools Club (GSSfS), as I have a meeting.

FRIDAY: We will take part in a live online assembly with Picture News to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday.

COMING UP:

The children will be bringing home an optional homework task in the next week or so to design a poster for next year's Layer Marney Fete. This comes with some great prizes, including an ice cream at this year's fete for all who enter the competition!

This year's Layer Marney Fete will take place on the Bank Holiday Monday during half term (25th May). Some children will be running stalls, and EcoBubbles will be running their eco-refill shop; they would appreciate donations of bottles for the day. I am also planning to take Buddy along to take part in the dog show!

Lastly, I mentioned last week that Bishop Roger visited us for assembly. I received a lovely letter from him this week, and I would like to share a few highlights with the wider community:

'The children were delightful. They were engaged and responsive, as well as thoughtful and receptive.' He also spoke about the 'wonderful people on reception', describing them as 'always warm and kind'. Having seen some of the word puzzles in Class 4, he said, 'I was hugely impressed by the ambition the staff have for the children,' and he noted the 'playfulness' he witnessed: 'Learning should be fun, and I got the sense that you and your staff make it fun.'

These reflections capture something I am both delighted and proud to see in school every day, and I would like to thank the children, staff, and wider school community for making this possible.

Have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend!

Rebekah May

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
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
	Thursday	CENSUS DAY: please order a school meal on this day as this impacts our funding. Thank you! Y6 ROUNDERS TOURNAMENT AFTER SCHOOL AT 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 Y5/65)
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	ACL Anxiety training with children: there may be a few extra cars parked
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	PROVISIONAL PAFA DISCO
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	FINAL ASSEMBLY 2:30 OUTSIDE: ALL INVITED
WB 20 th July	MONDAY 20 th July is a non-pupil day	
Key dates to note for Autumn 2026		

PHOTOS: Y5 FOREST SCHOOL, MINI MARATHON







