

Birch Church of England (VA)

Primary School

*Guided by the Good Shepherd, we serve as
compassionate leaders*



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WB 4th May 2026

Edition 30

Dear All,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their short week! In the four days, the children have worked hard.

Class 1 have been reading the lovely story The Sand Horse and making sand sculpture artwork in response. In Class 2, the children have been writing stories based on The Stone Whale and, in French, they have been learning about the weather.

In Classes 3 and 4, the children have been learning about the Battle of Hastings and have started their castle models by preparing some of the inner buildings of the bailey, using nets and folding them into 3D shapes.

Year 6, whilst continuing all their usual topic work, have been completing the final preparations for their SATs next week with what we call 'Walking Talking SATs' activities. They have worked extremely hard and are now brimming with confidence, which is wonderful to see. Have a good rest this weekend, Year 6!

This afternoon, the children took part in a giant assembly hosted by Steve Backshall to celebrate the 100th birthday of the legend that is Sir David Attenborough!

Also this afternoon, staff from Heidelberg Materials, Birch Quarry, have been bedding in the dipping platform slabs and finishing off the edges of the pond with the sand and gravel they kindly donated. They also brought with them a very fancy bug hotel for the wildlife area of the pond, near the hibernaculum (a reptile and amphibian habitat pile). The next step is for starter plants and invertebrates, from a biosecure supplier, to be donated by The Landscape Conservation Trust, who also donated the liner. We hope to be pond dipping by the end of Summer 2 – all very exciting!

NEXT WEEK:

This is SATs week for Year 6, so we tend to keep the week fairly free in other areas. The details are in the dates table below.

TUESDAY:

After-school Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfS) Club

THURSDAY:

Last day of SATs. Year 6 children will have Forest School at Layer Breton Heath. Please bring a packed lunch or order a school packed lunch for this day, as we will be out over lunchtime.

After school: away football league match against Baynards.

LOOKING AHEAD:

I sent optional homework earlier this week for a poster competition for the Layer Marney Fete and look forward to seeing the children's responses!

Also attached to this newsletter is a flyer for the ACL course that we are hosting on 5th June from 1:30–3:00pm. Please remember that places for this must be booked, as it involves preparing craft resources for practical activities to carry out with your child. The booking details are on the poster, as this is not managed through the school.

Sunday 17th May Junior Parkrun event has been added to our diary of events – I sent a flyer last week and will email further details early next week.

KS1 FRINTON TRIP: Please look out for the payment and consent request on ScoPay.

KS2 MOUNTFITCHET CASTLE: This is now live on ScoPay.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY – WEDNESDAY 20th MAY: Please note that Class 4 have PE on this day. Please come to school in uniform and bring PE kits with you.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Rebekah May

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
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	
17 th May	SUNDAY	Nexus Learning Partnership Junior Parkrun Takeover
18 th May	Monday	WELLBEING AFTERNOON CONFIRMED
	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 Y5/6)
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	ACL Anxiety training with children
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	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		First day of new school year Wednesday 2nd Spetember

PHOTOS: Y5 FOREST SCHOO: TASTES VARY CONSIDERABLY ON HOW MUCH WE SHOULD COOK OUR MARSHMALLOWS! THE POND CREATION: THE NEXT STEP





