

# Birch Church of England (VA)

## Primary School

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



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**WB 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Edition 31**

Dear All,

I would like to start by saying a huge well done to our Year 6 children, who approached their SATs this week with confidence and maturity and worked hard throughout. Unfortunately, the predicted lightning prevented us from having a Forest School session yesterday to mark the end of SATs, but we are planning to make this right later today!

In other news, all classes have been involved in creating 3D woodland animals and leaves for the whole-school artwork project, and some of our KS1 children produced some very detailed invertebrate drawings on white pebbles. It will take a few weeks to complete, but I will keep you updated on our progress. Thank you to Mrs Chaffe for planning and preparing this ambitious project.

Also this week, our football team played an away match against Baynards, and Mr Turnbull reports that they worked really well together as a team. They also achieved a confident 4–1 win. Well done, footballers!

**NEXT WEEK IN SCHOOL:**

**MONDAY:**

The children have chosen their options for our 'Wellbeing Afternoon', and we look forward to everyone taking part in a variety of activities that can all contribute to living healthy, happy lives.

**TUESDAY:**

- KS1 Dress as a Sound Day
- Great Science Share for Schools (GSSfs) Club continues their preparations after school.

**WEDNESDAY:**

- Class photo day – Class 4 will need to wear school uniform and bring PE kits.
- A small group of our Year 6 children will be taking part in filming a training video for Mental Health Champions of the future as part of a team from our consortium, now called The Nexus Learning Partnership.

**THURSDAY:**

- CENSUS DAY: Please order lunches, as this impacts our future funding.
- Mr Turnbull is taking a Year 6 rounders team to a tournament after school at Thurstable Secondary School.

**FRIDAY:**

- Class 1 and 2 parents are invited to our morning assembly at 9:10am, followed by a Parent Forum.
- AGENTS OF CHANGE: Years 4–6 are working through the 'Brighten Today' aspect of Agents of Change. Please hand any evidence of activities to me by Friday 22nd May.

A FEW OTHER BITS:

SUNDAY 17th MAY:

We have been invited to take part in The Nexus Learning Partnership’s Parkrun ‘takeover’ at Old Heath Recreation Ground this coming Sunday. Details were sent earlier this week, but the brief version is that I will meet any Birch families at the site at around 8:40am, near the café, and then Buddy and I will help with marshalling. The 2km run starts at 9:00am. I hope a few families will be able to make it, but I understand that weekends are very busy!

WATER BOTTLES:

Can I remind everyone that children are expected to have water in their bottles, rather than squash. If there is a medical reason requiring a different drink, please share instructions or related information from your doctor or consultant so that this reasonable adjustment to our school policy can be accommodated.

Please note that we are coming into wasp season! Many thanks, everyone, for your support with this.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Rebekah May

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
17 <sup>th</sup> May	SUNDAY	Nexus Learning Partnership Junior Parkrun Takeover. Meet 8:40 Old Heath Recreation Ground
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday	WELLBEING AFTERNOON – our ‘Mindful Monday’
	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 Mental Health Champion: group for filming training
	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
<b>MAY HALF TERM</b>		
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May LAYER MARNEY FETE – s group of children will be running stalls, more details to follow. All Birch families will have FREE entry to this evnt!</b>		
WB 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Monday	
	Tuesday	Great Science Share for School club - group Y5/6)
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	ACL Anxiety training with children
WB 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday	Football match against Stanway Primary:
	Tuesday	Y6 ‘Crucial Crew’ visit and performance – details to follow
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
WB 15 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> June	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y3/4 cricket team at Northern Gateway all day

Y6 TRANSITION VISITS WEEK	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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> July	MONDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> July is a non-pupil day	
Key dates to note for Autumn 2026		<b>First day of new school year Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Spetember</b>

PHOTOS: DRAGON FRUIT TASTING LINKED TO A BOOK - CLASS 2





