

Birch Church of England (VA)

Primary School

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



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WB 18th May 2026

Edition 32

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
MAY HALF TERM		
Monday 25 th 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 event!		
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)
WB 22 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.
WB 29 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	NO SCHOOL DISCO: THE DATE FOR THIS WILL NEED TO BE LOOKED AT AGAIN
WB 13 th July	Monday	'It's Your Move' for Y6 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 2 nd September

Dear All,

Finally, the sun has arrived — and just in time for half term!

It's been a very busy week.

WELLBEING AFTERNOON: Mrs Milbourne organised a brilliant afternoon. She started by sharing a story with a clear message about concentrating on enjoying 'the moment' rather than worrying about what might happen. The children chose three activities and were given two of their choices. They selected from Mindful Movement, Top Field Takeover, Art Crafternoon, Show Tune Time, Sewing Station, The Puzzle Place, The Play Zone, and Bloom and Breathe. We explored calming breathing techniques and enjoyed an afternoon focused on our own interests. Many thanks to Mrs Milbourne and all the staff!

DRESS AS A SOUND DAY: KS1 enjoyed coming in dressed as one of the sounds from their phonics work — we had some incredible outfits, so many thanks to families for joining in! A lovely film of the day was shared at our Class 1 and 2 assembly today.

MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS: A group of Year 6 Mental Health Champions joined children from other Learning Partnership schools to film a training video for the Mental Health Champions of the future. Marney, Gia, Malachi, and Diana did an amazing job learning their scripts and engaging with the filming process. Well done to them all!

SPORTS NEWS: Year 6 enjoyed taking part in a rounders tournament at Thurstable Secondary School yesterday. They thoroughly enjoyed it and improved in every match.

PARENTS' FORUM:

Many thanks to the parents from Classes 1 and 2 who were able to stay on for the Parents' Forum. The format of this changed this year, and parents were invited to write down ideas about what is going well and what they would like us to look at again.

Lots of aspects of school were mentioned very positively, and a few things were discussed for further development. Some of these points are really about us communicating existing practice more clearly. For example, children always have both hot vegetables and a salad bar to choose from at lunchtime, and they always have the option of fruit. These additional choices are not clear on the ScoPay menu but are available every lunchtime. We also had other discussions about aspects of lunches and will look into these ideas further.

The change to the format of this newsletter is in response to a request, so please do send any comments to me about the impact of the changes.

Finally, there was some discussion about KS1 clubs and thoughts around parents who may be able to support KS1 club provision. If this is something you may be interested in, please let me know!

NEXT HALF TERM:

FRIDAY 5th JUNE – ACL COURSE:

The first week includes the Adult Community Learning (ACL) course 'Big Emotions Crafts'. There are still places available. We need to know a little in advance so that we can prepare the room for crafting and bring the children out of class to join you. I have attached the flyer again so that people can book via the QR code.

Just a couple of reminders for everyone:

- Summer uniform information is on the website — please check before buying.
- School dinners – children are not able to change choices once they are at school, so please make sure they are happy with their option.
- LAYER MARNEY FETE: This is on Monday, and Birch families can get in free. Some lovely posters have been handed in, and these can be exchanged for an ice cream on the day! Well done to all the children who have entered the competition!

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Rebekah May

PHOTOS FROM Y6 FOREST SCHOOL LAST WEEK (BUDDY JOINED THEM ON THE HEATH)
MENTAL HEALTH AMBASSADORS



