

Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

WB 9th March 2026

Edition 24



☎ 01206 330224

email: admin@birch.essex.sch.uk

www.birch.essex.sch.uk

Dear All,

School continues to be very busy and, in a short term such as this, that busyness can become even more concentrated – there is just as much to do, but we have less time!

This week, KS1 have continued their journey into fairytales, with Class 1 reading and exploring Jack and the Beanstalk. I have seen some super writing from them. Class 2 have been enjoying the story of Little Red Riding Hood through the 'Talk for Writing' approach.

KS2 have been looking at the features of rivers in the local stream during some geography fieldwork. Unfortunately, due to a very muddy path, we could not get far enough along the stream to reach a safe place to take our own stream measurements...so we asked Mr Turnbull to do this and he was more than happy to oblige (see photos).

The STEM ambassadors are sending a family engineering challenge home with this newsletter, which they introduced in assembly today. Can you design and make a parachute that will bring an egg safely to the ground? We will test these parachutes on our Friday Phyzzi Forces Day on Friday 27th March.

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY: Football match against St Luke's Primary here after school instead of football club.

FRIDAY 20th MARCH – RED NOSE DAY

The Spring Term School Council introduced their Red Nose Day fundraising ideas to the children in assembly this week. They are asking people to donate £2.00 to Comic Relief via the 'Donate' button on the website (<https://www.comicrelief.com/>) and to come to school on 20th March either dressed in red from 'nose to toes', in a silly costume, or in a silly way. During the day, we aim to have some silly relay races where people move in unusual ways.

SATURDAY 21st MARCH: POND DIGGING TASK

Please let me know if you are planning to come and whether you are planning to bring children. I can organise some other activities for children if the pond digging looks like it will not be suitable. I also need an idea of numbers so that I can bring refreshments for the workers! We will start at 10:00 with the aim of increasing the size of the existing pond – hoping to finish by 1:00.

LOOKING AHEAD TO WB 23rd MARCH:

This is the last week of the half term. Year 6 will have Forest School on Wednesday 25th March at Layer Breton Heath, weather permitting, and the whole school will be taking part in an Easter-themed physics festival on Friday 27th March during the morning. The parachute challenge is for this day, so please bring these in on Friday morning. PAFA have also organised some Easter-themed fun in the afternoon for everyone.

Finally, can I ask parents to think about the possibility of becoming a school governor. There is room for another parent governor on our governing body. Please come and talk to me, or contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Anthony Scrafton (scrafton@birch.essex.sch.uk), if this is a role that may interest you.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Rebekah May

WEEK BEGINNING	DAY	EVENTS
WB 16 th March	Monday	NO FOOTBALL CLUB – MATCH AGAINST St LUKE’S
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	RED NOSE DAY: COMIC RELIEF SPRING TERM SCHOOL COUNCIL PROJECT
SATURDAY: POND DIGGING TASK CONFIRMED TIME TO BE DECIDED – PLEASE RESPOND BY EMAIL WITH SUGGESTIONS		
WB 23 rd March	Monday	Football Club
	Tuesday	Gym Club
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	FRIDAY PHYZZI FESTIVAL – an Easter-themed Physics Festival plus PAFA’s Easter Egg Hunt. STEM ambassadors HW due in
EASTER HOLIDAY		
13 th April	Monday	1 st day of summer term
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 NETBALL TOURNAMENT THURSTABLE
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
20 th April	Monday	
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
27 th April	Monday	FOOTBALL MATCH AFTER SCHOOL AGAINST MERSEA
	Tuesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00 Y5 FOREST SCHOOL TASTER
	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
	Wednesday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6 revision sessions 8:00
11 th May Y6 SATS WEEK	Monday	Y6 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar tests
	Tuesday	Y6 Reading paper
	Wednesday	Y6 Arithmetic paper 1 and Reasoning paper 2
	Thursday	Y6 Reasoning paper 3 Y6 FOREST SCHOOL PM
	Friday	
18 th May	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	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	
Key dates to note for Spring/		<u>Spring 2: 24th Feb- 27th March</u> <u>Summer 1: 13th April – 22nd May</u> <u>Summer 2: 1st June- 17th July</u>

Summer Term	Monday 20 th July: non-pupil day 16th JUNE Great Science Share for Schools and KS2 Consortium Athletics competition SPORTS DAY AND PAFA COLOUR RUN FRIDAY 19th June WB 22 nd JUNE Y6 SECONDARY SCHOOL VISIT DAYS (25 th JUNE for many schools) PROVISIONAL KS2 SHOW: afternoon Monday 6 th July, Evening Tuesday 7 th July PROVISIONAL Reception 2026 home visits Tuesday 7 th July, Wednesday 8 th July THURSDAY 16 th JULY: LEAVERS TEA FOR Y6 and FAMILIES
-------------	---

PHOTOS: CABINET OF CURIOSITIES / KS2 RIVERS/ STREAMS FIELDWORK/ A MEANDER IN OUR STREAM





