Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

Guided by the Good Shepherd, we serve as compassionate leaders

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WB 2nd September

Autumn Term: edition 1

PE DAYS AUTUMN TERM:	Class 1: Thursday, Friday Class 2: Thursday, Friday Class 3: Monday Tuesday Class 4: Tuesday, Wednesday Class 5: Monday, **Friday**	
WB 7th Sept	Monday	Y6 Forest School
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	PAFA meeting all parents welcome (PROVISIONAL and details to follow) Class 1 Forest School or Outdoor Learning Class 2 group A Forest School Essex Music Service induvial singing lessons start with Miss Hammond
WB 14th Sept	Monday	Essex Music Service individual guitar and keyboard lessons start with Mr Webb
	Tuesday	Y5 Parents are invited to class 5 to find out about the Bawdsey Manor residential for their children in Y6 which has been provisionally booked for October 28
	Wednesday	Y3 Forest School After School for Parents: 3:30 gather in school hall before going to classes • Meet the Teacher/ Reading in your new class • Phonic Workshop for Reception
	Thursday	Essex Music Service individual drum lesson start with Mr Fraser
	Friday	Flu Vaccinations Class 1 Forest School or Outdoor Learning Class 2 group B Forest School PAFA After School Bake Sale (Roald Dahl themed) details to follow
WB 21st Sept	Monday	Y6 Forest School Mr Turnbull's football club Y4,5 and 6 to start again 3:20-4:20 (every Monday) Mr Pearce to start football club with **Y2 and Y3 3:20- (every Monday)**
	Tuesday	Gym club with Mrs May starts each Tuesday Y1-Y6 3:20-4:20. Dates where cancellation are needed will be communicated in this diary page
	Wednesday	After School for Parents: 3:30 gath in school hall before going to classes • Maths Workshops – exploring the key calculations/ maths in your new year groups
	Thursday	
	Friday	Outdoor learning
WB 28th Sept	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Y3 Forest School
	Thursday	Census Day (this happens 3 x each year and it supports the school to order school meals on this day)
	Friday	Class 1 Forest School or Outdoor Learning Class 2 group A Forest School Class 1 and 2 Parents are invited to Assembly/ collective worship at the end of the day for our Harvest Festival. We will collect food the Foodbank again this year
WB 5th Oct	Monday	Reception 2027 tours 9:30/ 11:00 (plese book via school office)

		Y6 Forest School
	Tuesday	PROVISIONAL Y6 trip to Chelmsford Cathedral linked to art and RE – we will go by train **NO GYM CLUB**
	Wednesday	KS1 and KS2 Parent Forum 5:30 pm
	Thursday	
	Friday	Class 1 Forest School or Outdoor Learning Class 2 group B Forest School
WB 12th Oct	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Y6 residential trip to Bawdsey Manor
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6's return from Bawdsey Manor Outdoor learning
WB 19th Oct	Monday	NSPCC Speak Out/ Stay Safe assemblies
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Y3 Forest School Science Lecture for KS2: Birch Quarry
	Thursday	Reception 2027 tours 9:30/ 11:00
	Friday	Class 1 Forest School or Outdoor Learning Class 2 group A Forest School PAFA movie night – details to follow
HALF TERM		
WB 2nd Nov	Monday	Late night parent consultation evening (all classes)
	Tuesday	Afternoon parent consultations for Class 2 and Class 5
	Wednesday	Afternoon parent consolations for class 3 and class 1
	Thursday	Afternoon parent consultations for class 4
	Friday	
Key dates to note for Autumn 2026		Dates for school tours for Reception 27: **Monday 5th October 9:30 and 11:00**, Tuesday 22nd October 9:30 and 11:00,Monday 9th November 9:30, Tuesday 8th December 9:30, 11th January 9:30 Other dates: November 13th History off the Page Day for KS2 linked to Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Details to follow

Dear All,

Firstly, welcome back to a new school year! I just have a couple of updates at this point.

PE PREMIUM

We will be sorting out clubs over the next few weeks and will share details via this newsletter and the website as soon as we can. Some details are already in the diary section.

Sadly, we will no longer have the Essex Primary Coaching KS2 clubs on Thursdays before and after school due to the changes to the PE Premium. We are very much hoping that the DfE will share plans soon for how this will be replaced, and we can then work out what this will look like at Birch as we move forward.

Competitions and PE lessons will continue as usual, led by school staff and Mr Turnbull.

FOREST SCHOOL

We plan to expand our Forest School experiences further this year, despite the challenges created by the withdrawal of the PE grant.

Forest School is a child-centred educational approach where learners regularly visit a woodland or outdoor space to learn through a range of activities. It helps children to build confidence, teamwork skills, friendships and resilience. At the same time, they learn about their natural environment and develop practical skills.

We will also be introducing some Outdoor Learning sessions in KS1. These differ from Forest School as they are much more adult-led, with children learning about the outdoors through a more structured lesson.

Class 1

Class 1 will be split into two groups each Friday. Half of the group will have Forest School, while the other half will have an Outdoor Learning lesson.

They will also have PE on Fridays, so should wear their PE kit each Friday and bring any additional clothes that are suitable for the weather on that day. Both groups will be spending some of the day learning outside the classroom.

There are a few Fridays when I am unable to lead Forest School; all the children have Outdoor Learning sessions planned on these days.

Class 2

This will continue in a very similar manner to previous years, with the children divided into two groups. Mrs Millbourne will share the Forest School dates directly with parents.

Class 2 also has PE on Fridays. There are a few Fridays when I am unable to lead Forest School; all the children have Outdoor Learning sessions planned on these days.

KS2 Forest School

Y6 will start their Forest School sessions, generally every other Monday afternoon, from Monday 7 September. As the alternate Mondays will be PE days, please come in PE kit every Monday, with additional clothing suitable for the weather on Forest School days.

Y3, Y4 and Y5

These year groups will each have two blocks of Forest School over the course of the year, starting with Y3 this half term on Wednesday 16 September, Wednesday 30 September and Wednesday 21 October.

Can Y3 come in PE kit on these days and please just provide additional clothing suitable for the weather.

Y4 will have their first block in Autumn 2 and Y5 will have their first block in Spring 1. This pattern will then repeat for the next three and a half terms.

We have only had a few days, but it has been lovely to see how quickly our new Reception children have settled in and how well our other children have welcomed them. Well done, everyone!

The plans for this term will be on the website as soon as possible - we have had a small problem with the Class 1 page, so please bear with us. Please note that we have 'Meet the Teacher' sessions for parents after school diary for Wednesday 16th September at 3:30. The focus will be on **reading** and what this will look like in your child's new year group and, for reception parents, a chance to find out about the teaching of **phonics** at Birch. Maths Workshops for parents are also in the diary for Wednesday 23rd September at 3:30. This will guide you through the calculations that your child will meet and some of the key maths content, including the Mastering Number programme, of their new year group. We used to run this workshop in the Spring Term, but parents suggested that it would be really useful to have this earlier in the year to enable them to support learning more effectively. Both sessions give you a chance to see your child's new class and find out a little more about the coming year, particularly with reading and maths. Further details will follow.

KS1 are exploring the polar regions in this half term's topic and KS2 are exploring the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 started their return to school with a topic day on Wednesday, and there are some photos of their wonderful Anglo-Saxon broaches at the end of this newsletter.

THANK YOU:

Thank you for checking the uniform policy before stocking up this term – everyone looks very smart. Please remember, going forward, that children should have a plain, non-branded PE kit. Please name all school clothes

Thank you to those who have already given a donation towards stationery. This option is live all year on ScoPay, and any contributions are gratefully welcomed, as school budgets are incredibly tight. This option is now live for Reception parents also.

REMINDERS:

Please bring any Free School Meal eligibility response forms back to school

Y3 families, please send any KS2 'Acceptable Use of ICT' response forms to the school office

Finally, if your child participated in the Summer Reading Challenge with the library service, please bring their certificate/ medals to school to share in assembly on Friday 11th September. Thank you!

Next week looks fairly quiet, but please look out for dates in the following few weeks for parent workshops, meetings and events.

Have a great weekend, everyone.

Best wishes
Rebekah May

KS2 ANGLO_SAXON BROACHES, Y6 CONTEMPLATING CREATION IN RE







