Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

Guided by the Good Shepherd, we serve as compassionate leaders

☎ 01206 330224
email:admin@birch.essex.sch.uk
www.birch.essex.sch.uk

WB 7th September

Autumn Term: edition 2

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 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 gather 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 **ACL 'Separation Anxiety' course afternoon school hall – details will follow**
	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 3rd November: Other dates: November 13th History off the Page Day for KS2 linked to Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Details to follow **Class 3 and 4 Parent Assembly 27th November 9:10** **KS1 NATIVITY PLAY PERFORMANCES: TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th, WEDNESDAY DECMEBER 9th – usually around 2:00 pm but precise times can only be determined as we near the event**

Dear All,

We have now had our first full week in school, and the children have settled well into their new classes.

In Class 1, the Reception children have continued to explore their new classroom and forge friendships through free-flow play, while the Year 1 children have started their Year 1 learning and joined with the other half of the group. They have all been exploring Arctic animals.

Class 2 have been learning a story about a great Arctic explorer and drawing a story map. Both Key Stage 1 classes have started their Forest School and Outdoor Learning curriculum.

Classes 3 and 4 have been writing Kenning poems and working on the poetic devices of simile and metaphor. They have also started their science work on the digestive system by looking at the importance of a healthy diet. Next week, they will begin to look at food packets and investigate their sugar content.

Year 6 started their Forest School sessions earlier this week. They have also followed their introductory unit on Kenning poems with some focused work reviewing their grammar from previous years.

'Meet the Teacher' and Reading – Wednesday 16th September, 3:30pm

All parents are invited to a 'Meet the Teacher' event after school. We are trialling things a little differently this year and would like to meet together in the hall first.

Please sign the fire register at the hall door between 3:20pm and 3:30pm and then gather in the hall. I will briefly introduce reading progression across the primary age range to give an overview. Parents will then be invited to visit their child's class to explore the resources and approaches to reading used in that class and year group.

You will have an opportunity to have a closer look at your child's new classroom and chat informally with the class teacher. Children are welcome to come with you and share their class base with you.

For Reception parents, there will be a more structured look at our phonics programme in Class 1. I invite you to leave the Reception children with me in the hall so that you can engage fully with this presentation from Mrs Vinters.

If your child is in Year 1 in Class 1, please have a look at the Year 1 reading resources in Class 2, as these are the approaches we use with all Year 1 children, regardless of which class they have as their base.

If you have any further questions about this event, please just ask.

NEXT WEEK

Tuesday: Year 5 parents are invited to meet with Mr Turnbull to hear about the Year 6 residential trip to Bawdsey Manor in 2027. Year 5 children are also invited to attend. This will be in Class 5 at 3:30pm.

Wednesday: Meet the Teacher event (see above).

Friday: PAFA's Roald Dahl-themed bake sale after school in the hall (details on flyer)

LOOKING AHEAD AND A FEW OTHER BITS

ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING (ACL)

Mrs Millbourne has invited the Adult Community Learning (ACL) team into school again on Tuesday 3rd November to run a session with parents on separation anxiety.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival will be on Friday 2nd November. I have attached some information from the Foodbank in Tiptree.

Class 1 and Class 2 parents are invited to our Harvest Festival at 2:45pm on this afternoon, where we hope to be able to share a collection of food with representatives from the Foodbank. Please have a look at the attached shopping list if you would like to contribute.

SMARTPHONE-FREE CHILDHOOD

We are signed up as a school with 'Smartphone Free Childhood' and have been since this was launched in school last year. This, along with the book *The Anxious Generation* and Government guidelines, has informed our mobile phone policy in school.

Families can explore the organisation and its mission through their website, including finding out about the range of phones available for older children that are not smartphones:
https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/

Finally, if you have any updates to addresses, emails, mobile phone numbesr, including emergency contacts, can you please either email these to the Birch admin email or drop in to clarify these with office staff by next Thursday (17th September). Many thanks!

Thank you for the stationary donations that have been made via ScoPay so far. We are very grateful for any support with this area of expenditure.

As ever, please just ask if anything is unclear.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Rebekah May

CLASS 1 FOREST SCHOOL, Y6 RE: exploring creation through art with the BIG question 'Creation and Science: conflicting or complementary?'







