Birch Church of England (VA) Primary School

Guided by the Good Shepherd, we serve as compassionate leaders

WISDOM~TRUST~FRIENDSHIP

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WB 14th September

Autumn Term: edition 3

PE DAYS AUTUMN TERM:	Class 1: Thursday, Friday Class 2: Thursday, Friday Class 3: Monday Tuesday Class 4: Tuesday, Wednesday Class 5: Monday, Friday	
TOMORRW	Friday	Flu Vaccinations (only for those who have given parental consent) 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 or on the website
	Wednesday	After School for Parents: 3:30 gather in school hall before going to classes - sign in at the hall door again • 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 for collective worship at the end of the day for our Harvest Festival. We will collect food the Foodbank again this year and we will put out a box for donations.
WB 5th Oct	Monday	Reception 2027 tours 9:30/ 11:00 (please 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	**Individual Photos for all – classes 3 and 5 please BRING IN PE KITS TO CHANGE INTO AND WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM**
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	Y6 residential trip to Bawdsey Manor
	Thursday	
	Friday	Y6's return from Bawdsey Manor (usual time) 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	
WB 9th Nov	Monday	
	Tuesday	
	Wednesday	
	Thursday	
	Friday	
Key dates to note for Autumn 2026		Dates for school tours for Reception 27: Monday 5th October 9:30 and 11:00, Tuesday 20th October 9:30 Thursday 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 **SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER PAFA CHRSITMAS FAIR –volunteers to help run this will be welcomed.** KS1 Nativity Performances: Tuesday 8th December and Wednesday 9th December- usually around 2:00 pm but precise times can only be determined as we near the event. Details about tickets will follow nearer the time

Dear All,

Many thanks for coming to our Reading Workshops and 'Meet the Teacher' event yesterday.

Reading is such a fundamental skill for children. It enables them to access their learning confidently as they progress through school, but it also opens up a whole range of experiences. Through reading, children can deepen their knowledge and understanding of unfamiliar places and situations, as well as develop their understanding and 'experience' of the social and emotional aspects of life.

In primary school, we travel from 'Learning to Read' to 'Reading to Learn'. This is discreetly taught through reading lessons, but it also needs a high level of support from home through regular reading practice, including discussions about new vocabulary and its meaning.

ALSO THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL:

Class 1 have been settling into their routines and reading a story about a penguin called Up and Down. They have also been learning about materials in science and designing their own wellies.

Class 2 have become experts on emperor penguins through the story The Emperor Penguin's Egg. They have been writing facts about emperor penguins.

Year 3 started their block of Forest School with me and were clearly very confident and competent as they played, built, made, problem-solved, took turns and explored the outdoors. They demonstrated that they could do this safely, cooperatively and independently.

Other lessons in Class 3 have been learning about mythical beasts as part of their work on simile and metaphor poetry whilst Class 4 have started their Talk 4 Writing work around Beowulf. Both Classes have continued their work in science on healthy foods, looking particularly at the sugar content of some foods – there were some surprises there – and have started to look also at the human skeleton.

Class 5 have started some work on classification in science, further developing their understanding of the scientific classification system and have continued their work in RE thinking about scientific religious and creation theories.

MATHS WORKSHOP – WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 3:30pm (sign in at the hall door again)

Last year, at one of the Parent Forums, it was suggested that an introduction to the key calculations for each year group earlier in the new school year would help parents support their children at home more effectively.

As such, we are holding another 'after-school event' next week, on Wednesday 23rd September, with a focus on Maths. Again, I will introduce some key elements of our Maths curriculum, particularly progression in calculation, to everyone and then invite you to visit workshops in your child's/children's class/classes.

This time, there will be no crèche, and we invite your child to accompany you.

In Classes 1 and 2, they will look at Mastering Number for Reception (Class 1) and Years 1 and 2 (Class 2).

If you attended this workshop in the Spring Term, we encourage you to go to Class 3 to find out about the importance of times tables for Years 3 and 4 and how we teach these in a meaningful way in school.

The teachers in Classes 4 and 5 will show parents the key calculations that children in Years 5 (Class 4) and 6 (Class 5) will encounter during the year.

There will be two timetabled workshops, with the teachers presenting at 3:45pm and again at 4:10pm. This means that you can visit two classes if this is relevant or of interest to you.

I hope that you will be able to come into school again and get a clear idea of what Maths will look like in your child's new year group.

NEXT WEEK:

Monday: Year 6 Forest School in the afternoon. Football Club starts for Years 4, 5 and 6 with Mr Turnbull, and for Years 2 and 3 with Mr Pearce. Please bring PE kits if this is not your usual PE day. Children will meet in the hall to change, and pick-up is at 4:20pm from the front of the school – please register your child via the admin email

Tuesday: Gym Club starts with me for Years 1–6. Children should come to the hall to change after school, and pick-up is from the front of the school – please register you child via the admin email

Wednesday: Maths Workshop – please sign in at the hall entrance. The workshop will start at 3:30pm in the hall with a brief introduction.

Friday: Classes 1 and 2 will have 'Outdoor Learning'.

FINALLY:

- Harvest Festival: This is on Friday 2nd October, not November as I wrote last week – sorry! Donations on the gate to the Foodbank
- Volunteers: If anyone has thought further about regular volunteering at school, please ask me. PAFA are always looking for regular volunteers, and this is also a really helpful way to contribute to our school community.
- Reminder: children cannot wear earrings for PE or PE clubs – please remove them before school or ensure that the child can remove their own earrings. Thank you!
- **THEMED CAKE SALE AND COMPETITION TOMORROW!** I have attached the PAFA poster. Please bring nut-free cakes into school tomorrow morning with ingredients listed and come and buy some cakes on Friday after school in the hall. Please name your tins and boxes so that we can return them to you!

Have a great weekend when we get there, everyone!

Rebekah May

FOREST SCHOOL WITH Y3





