

Birchwood Avenue Primary School's News



Issue 6, February 2026

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2026	
5 th March	World Book Day
5 th , 12 th , 19 th March	Y4 PE at Onslow
Wb 9 th March	Assessment Week
8 th -11 th March	Year 6 residential
16 th March	INSET day
24 th March	Rocksteady Concert @ 2:30pm
25 th March	Talent Show final @ 2:30pm
26 th March	Pupil reports sent home
27 th March	Term ends @ 1:30pm
Summer Term 2026	
13 th April	Children return to school
4 th May	Bank Holiday
25 th -29 th May	Half-term
21 st July	Term ends @ 1:30pm

Please check the school diary on our website for updates for school events. This calendar can be synced to your phone.

[Calendar | Birchwood Avenue Primary School](#)

Uniform



In school, there is a growing collection of uniform with no names on. Please write your child's name or initials on the label of their uniform. This is costly and 'lost' uniform can be avoided.

Message from Miss Hall

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Open Afternoon before half-term as part of Children's Mental Health Week. It was wonderful to see such an excellent turnout and so many happy children proudly showing their parents around the school and taking part in some of the activities on offer. We will definitely do something similar to this again.

Some of our Year 6 pupils are off on their residential soon, and we hope they have a fantastic time together. I also hope that secondary school allocation news brought good news for our Year 6 families—an exciting (and also nerve-wracking) next step for them all.

Spring is certainly on its way, and the longer days are already inspiring lots of outdoor learning across the school. A little bit of sunshine is making all the difference! The children have also been busy with various sporting events, both here at school and at Onslow. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, every class enjoyed a calming and enjoyable yoga session too. All the children have also taken part in a gymnastics workshop.

We are now looking forward to celebrating World Book Day. Parents are warmly invited to join us in school to read with their child, visit the library, or take part in some book-related activities. Our doors will be open from **2:30pm on Thursday 5th March**, and we hope to see many of you there.

Have a look at some of the enrichment activities that have taken place this month...

Year 1- 'History of Toys' Workshop

One of Year 1's history units is 'Toys Through Time'. The children enjoyed learning about, and playing with many toys from years gone by.

"I liked playing with the Jack in the box; it scared me though!"

"Landing a penny on a number was hard!"

"I liked making a village out of the wooden houses"

"It was so much fun!"





I am also seeing too many children wearing white or brightly coloured trainers. Please be reminded that black shoes or black trainers are the expectation for school footwear.

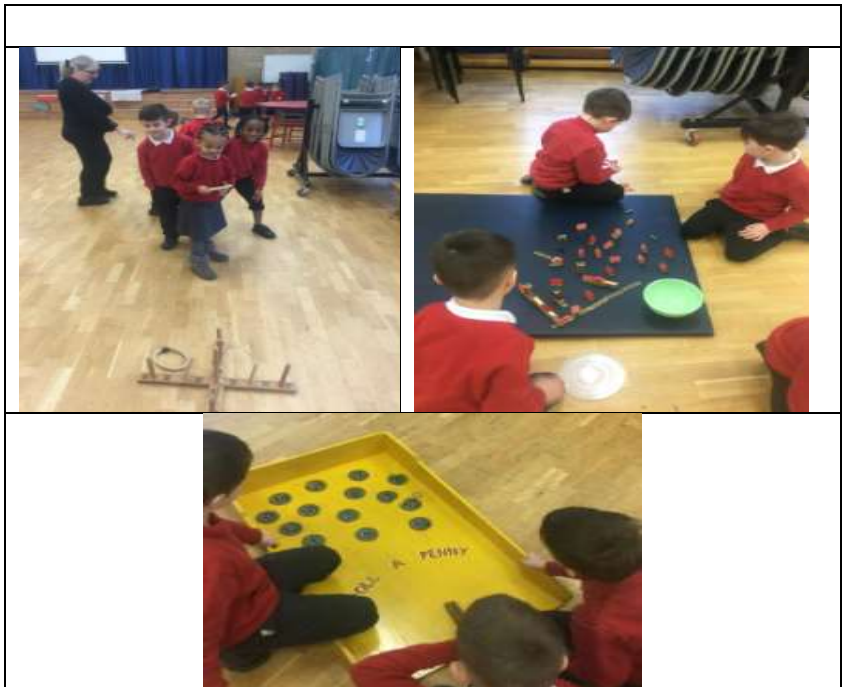
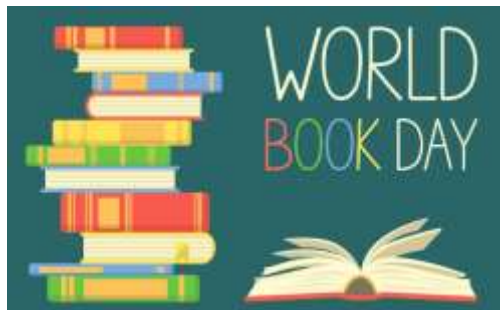
S Please follow the link below for
E a wealth of resources, websites
N etc. Miss James has created this
D page of useful information.

[Support for Parents of Children with SEND](#)

Hatfield Foodbank

If you are experiencing difficulties, please speak to Miss Hall or Miss James and we will support you with getting a code to access the Foodbank.

World Book Day 2026
 Thursday 5th March



Football

Both our boys' and girls' teams are doing well and holding their own on the pitch.

Maya – In our last match, we felt it was a little unfair because of a foul given. We kept going and didn't give up.

Mia – I took advantage of the situation to take the ball and score. We all worked really hard.



Year 5's Visit to the New M&S



Our Year 5 class visited the new M&S store. They were given a guided tour and had an opportunity to speak about different career opportunities in construction and retail.

Chioma: I liked wearing the protective gear and when we got to see inside the shop before anyone else!

Ife: I liked when we went into the giant freezer, it was so exciting.

Do you need to update your contact details?



If you have changed any of your contact details recently, please could you update the office with your new contact details. These may include:

- Mobile number
- Home address
- Email address
- Emergency contact details

There are some pupils who only have one emergency phone contact on their records. Please provide the office with a second contact if necessary.

STEM (science, technology, engineering & mathematics) activities at Birchwood

Year 5 have attended some computing sessions at Onslow.
Lexi: I liked being able to try new things on a secondary school computer!

Year 5 & Year 6- Minecraft Day

Year 5 and Year 6 really enjoyed the RAF Minecraft STEM workshop. Through Minecraft, we learned about some of the types of relief that the RAF provide in natural disasters. We worked in teams to create shelters to a design brief and restore power.

Jack: I enjoyed playing Minecraft, it was a fun break from lessons.

Nordell: It was fun to use Minecraft to learn what they taught us.



Children's Mental Health Week



School Council

School council have had their playleader and sports leader hats on at break and lunchtimes.

School council will also be involved in leading some activities on World Book Day.

Year 6- Hatfield Bunker Visit



Year 6 have been learning about WW2 and visited the WW2 bunker at Hatfield Police Station.

Catherine: It was really fun that we got to go inside the bunker, and learned about the history of the bunker and about the war at the same time.

Atal: I liked putting on the police equipment and learning how the police experience their job. We looked at a police car and got to sit inside. We learned about what they use and keep inside their cars.



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

The data below shows attendance for this term so far. It's quite concerning really in some classes. Lots of learning is missed here.

	Year 3	95.5%
	Year 6	95.43%
	Year 1	93.31%
	YR	92.56%
	Year 2	92.47%
	Year 4	92.22%
	Year 5	91.82%

Our whole school attendance figure for the term so far is at **92.4%**. This is becoming more of a concern and is significantly below the national average to date which stands at **94.6%**. Thank you to those of you for ensuring your child attends school daily and is punctual. There have already been many unauthorised holidays or long weekends.

Unfortunately, we have **21.9% of our children who miss more than 10%** of their lessons since September. This has a huge impact on their progress, attainment and future successes at secondary school.

Term Time Holidays

Families are reminded that Amendments to the 2006 Pupil Registration (England) Regulations, which came into effect on 1st September 2013, removed all references to family holidays and extended leave for holidays in term time. The amendments make clear that Headteachers may **not** grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Attendance

Attendance is still a concern across the country. It is part of the government's national agenda to improve pupil attendance in educational settings.



We are working with the DfE to improve our attendance.

As part of a national DfE initiative, our school is partnering with a RISE (Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence) Attendance and Behaviour Hub. These hubs are led by schools with strong, proven practice in helping pupils attend regularly and behave positively.

What Is the Rationale Behind the Programme?

The RISE programme exists because:

- Attendance is a significant national challenge and improving it is essential for children's learning and wellbeing.
- It aims to break the link between a child's background and their future success by ensuring all pupils can fully access education.
- Schools benefit from expert support, targeted guidance, and shared problem-solving within a community of schools working towards the same goals.

Please speak to Miss James, Miss Hall or Mrs Dyos if we can support you by helping you to ensure your child is in school.

From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. #AttendanceCounts"



Educating Hearts and Minds