

Birchwood Avenue Primary School's News



Issue 7, April 2026



Dates for your diary

Summer Term 2026	
Wb 11 th May	KS2 SATs
14 th May	Kin-ball workshops for all
18 th May	YR & Year 3 Herts Zoo trip
25 th -29 th May	Half-term
1 st June	Return to school
Wb 1 st June	Year 4, Multiplication Tables Check
Wb 1 st June	Year 6 swimming lessons
Wb 8 th June	Year 6 swimming lessons
Wb 8 th June	Year 1, Phonics screening check
15 th June	DRUMBA sessions for all
19 th June	Sports day
24 th June	Glow in the dark dodgeball for all
24 th June	District Sports
26 th June	(Sports day reserve date)
Wb 29 th June	Assessment week in school
1 st July	Year 6 production
2 nd July	Handball workshops for all
3 rd July	Fun Friday tbc
7 th July	Parent Consultations
8 th July	Parent Consultations
9 th July	Transition Day
14 th July	Rocksteady Concert
15 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
21 st July	Term ends @ 1:30pm
Looking ahead	
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	Children return to school
Wb 28 th Sept	Year 3 swimming

Message from Miss Hall

It has been a wonderfully busy and joyful time in school, with many opportunities for our children to shine. We have loved welcoming the golf sessions for all, giving every child the chance to try something new and develop their skills. Our recent talent show was a real highlight: the children were creative, confident and incredibly brave, showcasing a wide range of talents to an enthusiastic audience. In Reception, the Mother's Day activities were special and heart-warming, with the children taking great pride in sharing thoughtful creations, while the Easter Bunny's visit brought excitement and big smiles across the school.

Music has also taken centre stage with our Rocksteady concert, where the children performed fearlessly and demonstrated just how much progress they have made. It was a pleasure to see their confidence grow as they performed together and supported one another. These moments remind us how important enrichment and performance opportunities are in helping children develop resilience, teamwork and self-belief, alongside their academic learning.

Looking ahead, the summer term promises to be packed with enrichment activities, guaranteeing something for everyone. Pupils can look forward to Kin-Ball sessions, an inflatable fun day and new playground markings in the KS2 playground to further enhance playtimes. Year 6 will be completing their SATs in a couple of weeks, and we wish them the very best of luck; they have worked exceptionally hard this year, and I would like to thank the Year 6 staff for their dedication and support.

As always, we remain fully committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum while continuing to strive to improve our learning environment for all.

Reception Class

We had a wonderful time when our Mums, Nans and Aunties came into our classroom to learn about phonics. Then we enjoyed some special time with them, making paper flowers, sewing and decorating cakes. We hope you enjoyed your Mother's Day!



Wb 5th
October

Year 3 swimming

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.



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](#)



Rocksteady Concert

Once again, our budding rockstars gave us a wonderful show! The children are making good progress with their chosen instrument or vocals. Thank you for coming and supporting the bands.



Maths Easter Treasure Hunt

We opened our doors to parents and family to take part in the Maths Easter Treasure Hunt organised by Miss Brown, our math subject leader. It was fun, frantic and organised chaos but the children (and adults) loved it.

Year 3

"I liked how we got to do it with our friends and help each other to find out the answers to the clues."
- Elijah
"We all got to have a choice with the maths questions which helped me to challenge myself." - Isla
"Finding each clue was really fun! I liked that we had to figure out the answers then find the place to go."
- Ava-Lily
"I got through all the questions and got a prize at the end. It helped me to think about division more!" - Teddy

Year 6

Bianca – I really enjoyed how we could find clues on the ground and work towards winning prizes.
Atal – I liked that it was maths related and we got to practise maths whilst also having fun. I loved the prizes at the end. I liked that it had a lot of movement.

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.

Cycling Workshops

Wewlyn Hatfield Council have provided cycling workshops for our children. Many children who attended have now learnt how to ride a bike and are thrilled with themselves.



School Council

The School Council is currently gathering ideas from pupils about new playground equipment to enjoy during break and lunchtime. Pupils are encouraged to share their suggestions to help create a more fun and inclusive outdoor space for everyone!

Easter Bunny Visit



Mini Golf Workshops

The whole school took part in golf workshops. Many new skills were learnt.



Year 6

Elsie – It was fun and I learned a lot about golf.

Scarlett – I found the golf really fun and I had support from other children.

Ema – I learned new techniques and it was very enjoyable.

Year 1 – Alara- I had so much fun playing golf and collecting the cones.

Harvey- I have never played golf before it was really fun !



Year 4 PE Sessions with Onslow

We have been working in partnership with Onslow St Audrey's school. Our Year 4 children have enjoyed a series of PE lessons with a PE coach from Onslow.



Birchwood's Got Talent

Our annual talent show was wonderful. Thank you to Jude, Maya, Sohail and Moses for organising this. Thank you and well done to everyone who auditioned.

I was hugely impressed with the creativity and courage shown this year. There were some wonderful acts shared.

Congratulations to our winners and runners up.

1st place- Lyla & Evelyn

2nd place- Aarya

3rd place- Isla, Ruby, Julia & Nyla

4th place- Salar



Curriculum Focus- R. E. (Religious Education)

Kapow's Religious Education scheme helps children explore all major religions and worldviews through enquiry, reflection, and discussion. It follows a spiral curriculum, revisiting key ideas as pupils progress to deepen understanding. Lessons encourage children to think critically, ask questions, and appreciate how beliefs and values shape lives. By studying a wide range of faiths and perspectives, Kapow promotes respect, empathy, and curiosity, supporting an inclusive approach that prepares pupils for life in a diverse, modern Britain.

Here's a snapshot of what is being explored in some of our classes across the school.

Reception Class

We have been learning about Creation and we made plates to show how Christians believe the world was made.



The Hut class

We have been learning about the special places people go to worship, and we worked together to make a church using junk modelling.

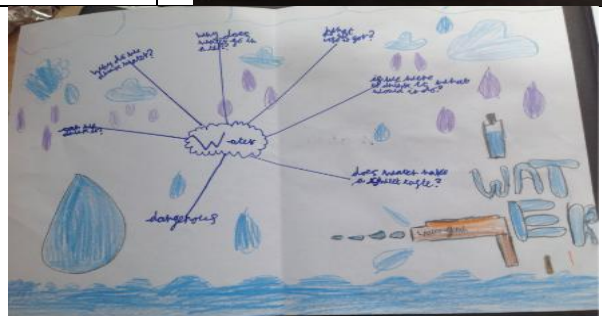


Year 1 has been building on their understanding of creation stories and exploring beliefs about the relationship between humans and nature.

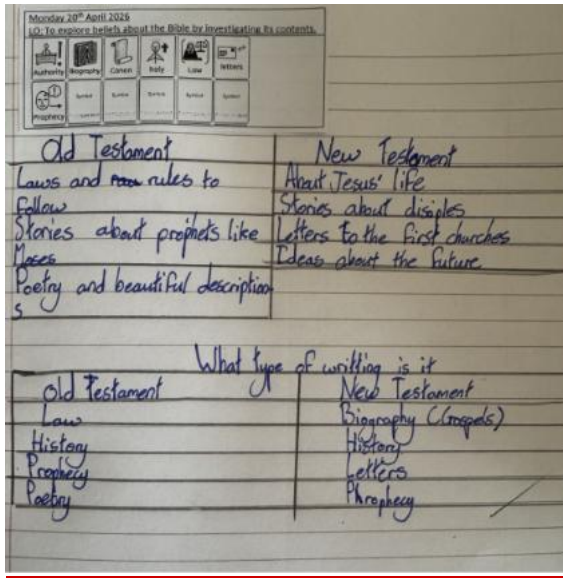


Year 3

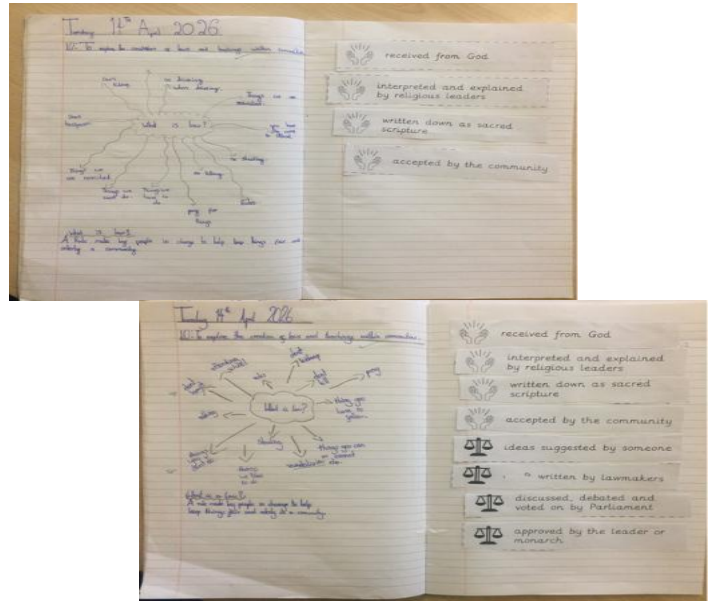
This term we are learning about the symbolism of water. We started off by recounting everything we could think of that linked to water. We looked at how people have different opinions of water and discussed how to keep safe. We then looked at five creation stories from different religions and identified where water was significant.



Year 4 are exploring the Christian bible and the importance of it to Christians today.



In Year 5, our question is 'Who should be in charge?' We are looking at Religious and Secular laws and how laws are actioned. We will also be learning about a range of Religious and non-religious leaders and why these people are influential to their followers.



Safeguarding- What parents need to know about social pressures linked to 'appearance'

Social media has its benefits for connecting with friends, sharing experiences and widening their understanding of broader issues beyond their local community. The challenge with connecting and sharing experiences via social media is that these shared experiences are often via images. Wanting to fit in and caring about their physical appearance is a perfectly normal part of adolescence. However, with the easy access of image changing software and filters, this physical appearance is often not the reality, further increasing the pressure for young people to gain or portray unreal perceptions.

What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'APPEARANCE'

ONLINE APPEARANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH

The opportunity to change physical appearance through social media apps is creating a high level of perfectionism for children to portray themselves faultless and compare themselves to images which are sometimes unreal. This can lead to anxiety, depression and poor self-image and an overall sense of never feeling good enough. Having poor self-image can affect the way that your child interacts with others and how we care for ourselves.

AIRBRUSHING

Refers to the retouching done to an image that changes the reality of the photo. It may include removing people, objects, altering body shapes or erasing blemishes like acne or scars. The digital technology to enable airbrushing is now widely and easily available for desktop computers and social media apps. It is sometimes known as 'Photoshop'.

FILTERS

Filters applied to manipulate a photograph are another way of creating a delusion of what is real. Software within social media apps reconfigure your face and skin to look more aesthetically pleasing. As innocent and fun as these filters may seem, they are sending a message that we are more attractive when our features are modified.

APPS WHICH CHANGE APPEARANCE




These relate to free downloadable apps or options within social media apps which create a fun and easy way to alter your appearance. They are designed to be fun and can become addictive because once an altered image is used, it is very difficult to revert back to an unaltered version of themselves.

MULTIPLE PHOTOS FOR THE PERFECT IMAGE

Taking multiple shots to capture the perfect image to put onto social media is another way of disguising reality. Creating an image which receives approval from peers through multiple comments and likes exacerbates the desire for a perfect picture and the approval for continuing to achieve the perfect image.

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.

	Y3	95.71%
	Y6	95.03%
	Y1	94.68%
	Y4	92.79%
	Y2	92.77%
	YR	92.76%
	Y5	91.54%

Our whole school attendance figure for the term so far is at **92.7%**. 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 **20.7% 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.

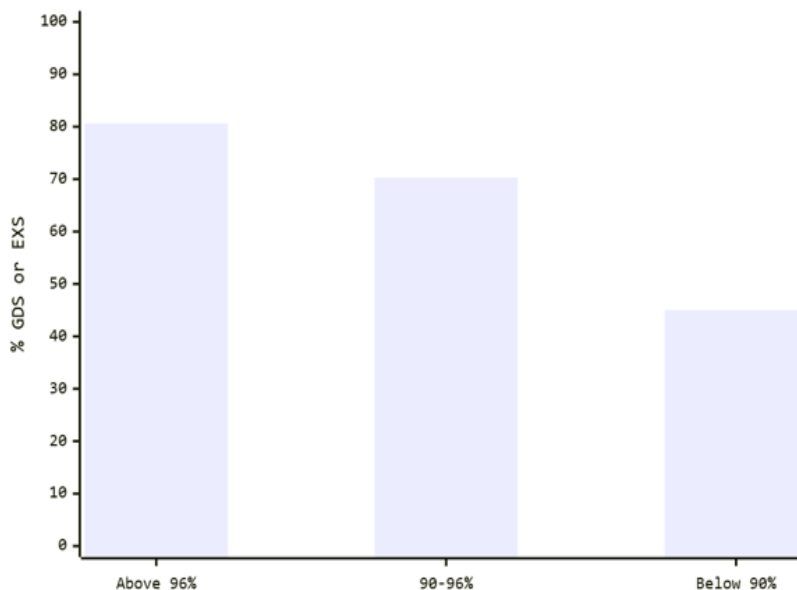
Attendance

Attendance is still a concern across the country. It is part of the government's national agenda to improve pupil attendance in educational settings. There is, as one would expect, a correlation between good attendance and good progress and attainment.

Analysis of Spring Data and the Correlation with Attendance

Key Message for Parents: Children who attend school regularly are significantly more likely to achieve the Expected Standard or Greater Depth. Where attendance drops below 90%, the proportion of children achieving these standards reduces noticeably. Strong attendance supports strong learning and helps children feel confident, settled and successful.

Percentage of Students at GDS/EXS by Attendance Band



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"

