

Defford-cum-Besford Newsletter 5th September 2025

Welcome

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you to the start of a new academic year at Defford-cum-Besford First School. As your new head teacher, I feel privileged to join such a vibrant and caring school community during this time of growth and change.

With twenty years of teaching experience in village primary schools, I am eager to lead the school forward to ensure all of our children fulfill their potential and flourish in our new class.

When not at school, I am busy being dad to two energetic boys and spend a lot of time ferrying them around to sporting fixtures across the county; going on bike rides; or being absorbed in overly complex board games!

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to getting to know our pupils and families, and working closely with staff to ensure this transition is smooth and successful.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received - I am truly excited about the journey ahead and I look forward to celebrating our children's successes throughout the year.

With best wishes,

Mr Hanson



Reception - First week









Family Assembly

This year, we will be moving the time of our family assembly to 2:45pm on Fridays - starting on Friday 12th September. This is an opportunity to welcome our families into school and celebrate the children's achievements both inside and outside school.

Once the assembly has concluded, we would ask all our visitors to leave the hall and wait on the playground. The children will leave the hall to go back to their classrooms and be dismissed at 3:15 as normal.

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week.

Flu Vaccinations October 6th



FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and vulnerable friends and family from flu.

NASAL VACCINE



No needles - just quick, painless, effective flu protection (contains gelatine)

OR

THE INJECTION



We offer a PORK-FREE, GELATINE-FREE injection considered a faith-friendly alternative.

Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/worcestershire>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM



worcestershire@v-uk.co.uk
01527 390 030

Need more information?
Please see our FAQs sheet attached with this letter.



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, they can still receive this important vaccine by attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.



<http://www.schoolvaccinationuk.co.uk/flu>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=381090904>

PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccinationuk.co.uk/privacy-policy
For data protection queries, please contact: dp@vaccinationuk.co.uk



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?

Flu can make children feel very unwell and can sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia or ear infections. Some may even need hospital treatment. It's especially important for children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?

The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help your child build protection without causing illness. Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used for over 10 years in countries like the US without any major concerns. All vaccines available in United Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing measures. The regulators continually monitor them all the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?

Let us know if your child:

- Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain antibiotics
- Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is wheezy on the day
- Has a seriously weakened immune system

Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close contact with people who have very weak immune systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose, headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?

Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that contains no pork (porcine gelatine). While the nasal spray is generally more effective and painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out both.

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY

While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not generally considered better than vaccine-induced immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural immunity to one strain might not protect against a different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of flu viruses.

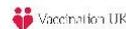
Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE

If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our team or attend one of our community clinics, all information can be found on our website: www.schoolvaccinationuk.co.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their questions. You can find information and how to join on our website.



Flu Vaccination – Action Required

Vaccination UK (NHS-commissioned) will visit our school on 6th October to offer the **Flu Nasal Spray or porcine-free IM injection**.

All students from Reception to Year 11 are eligible. This year, vaccinations must be completed by 12th December 2025, so please act promptly.

Consent Form – Required for All

All parents must complete the consent form, even to decline. Without it, your child may miss out.

Complete by 1 week before the session: [Click Here: Flu E-Consent Form Link 2025/2026](#)

Additional Info

- Had the vaccination elsewhere? Inform Vaccination UK directly, they do not get notified automatically.
- Missed the session? Call 01527 390030 for clinic options.
- Issues with the form? Contact: 01527 390030 or via email: Worcestershire@v-uk.co.uk

Kind Regards,

Worcestershire Immunisation Team

Guitar lessons

Mr Clements will be continuing his guitar tuition in September and there will be a number of spaces available for new pupils.

With over 12 years experience, Mr Clements teaches all aspects of the instrument while keeping the lessons fun and engaging. Students begin by learning basic chords, bass lines and simple pop/rock songs, then progress onto more complex guitar techniques using the Rock School grade syllabus.

If your child is interested in guitar lessons please contact Mr Clements directly on 07748230045 or email robclements44@hotmail.com

Notice to parents

At Defford-cum-Besford CE First School, we are committed to fostering a safe, respectful and caring environment for every child and family. We kindly remind all parents and guardians to speak and act with kindness in all interactions within our school community. Abusive or

disrespectful language or behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Together, we can model the values of respect and compassion that we wish to instill in our children.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Free School Meals Factsheet

There are two types of Free School Meals, Universal Infant Free School Meals and Free School Meals due to the families' situation.

Eligibility Criteria	Universal Infant FSM	Benefit Related / Immigration Status qualifying FSM
Based on child's school year: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2	Based on child's school year: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2	Parents must be in receipt of qualifying benefits or have qualifying immigration status, see next page. Families with children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 need to apply to get the other benefits listed below.
Do I need to apply?	No, just inform your school you wish for your child to receive these meals.	Yes, online application for parents on benefits at: https://ems.worcestershire.gov.uk/OnlinePortal/Login.asp , or use the QR code below, same account as you used to apply for your child's school place. Parents eligible through immigration status, your child's school can get a paper application form for you to complete.
Eligible for Pupil Premium (extra funds to support your child at this school)	No	Yes – once eligible for Free School Meals your school will claim this for your child.
School Holiday Vouchers	No	Yes – via your school's office.
Holiday Activity Fund	No	Yes – register your child at www.haf4.co.uk
Clothing Grant – at participating schools	No	Yes – speak to the school office.
Protected status	Finishes at the end of year 2	For those eligible claims between 1 st April 2018 – 31 st August 2026 your child will remain eligible. 1 st of September 2026 the expanded criteria will come into force and protection will cease for all children.

March 2025

Worcestershire's Citizen Portal



Benefit related criteria

- Universal Credit, and your annual household income is £7,400 per annum (£616 per month) or less after tax, and not including any benefits.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income is less than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC.
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run-on

Immigration status

- Zambrano carers
 - families who have no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
 - families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
 - a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Chan carers
 - families holding a [EU/EEA passport](#)
 - spouse visa holders
 - work visa holders
 - student visa holders
 - those with no immigration status
- Families must also meet the following financial criteria:
- £32,700 for families with 1 child
 - £26,300 for families with 2 or more children
 - No more than £16,000 in capital and savings

March 2025

Worcestershire's Citizen Portal



Pershore Foodbank

Dear Friends of Pershore Foodbank,

Best wishes for a lovely Harvest Festival Season, and thank you in advance for all your wonderful generosity to the Foodbank.

Do please make contact if you would like us to arrange collection. Alternatively, if you prefer to drop them off yourself at one of our sessions then it would be helpful if you got in touch first. At other times, the back of Pershore Abbey (to the left of the main door) will be checked regularly.

Please make sure the donations are appropriately labelled. All non-perishable foodstuffs are welcome, especially tinned staples such as meat, fish, vegetables and fruit.

We have managed to find some very necessary additional storage space and so we can also accept extra cleaning products and toiletries.

Thank you from all of our volunteers.

Nicola Ainsworth, project Leader

Pershore Foodbank

St Andrews

Church Walk

Pershore

Office for post Abbey Office, 11 Broad St Pershore, WR10 1BB

Tel 01386 555347

OPEN Tuesdays 11.00 to 13.00

OPEN Fridays 13.00-15.00

[Dates for your diary](#)

Tuesday 9th September - Guitar lessons with Rob restart

Wednesday 10th September - SMASH HIT! lessons restart

Thursday 11th September - The Star Project after school club starts 3.15-4.30pm

Friday 12th September - Friends Association AGM in school 2-2.45pm

Monday 15th September - Oak class trip to Chedworth Roman villa

Monday 6th October - Flu vaccinations for Year R to Year 5 children

Monday 27th -Friday 31st October - Half term