



Defford-cum-Besford CE First School Newsletter 7th November 2025

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week and it is clear to see that they have enjoyed a restful Autumn break.

The days are now getting shorter, and there is a chill in the air reminding us that Winter is on its way. This shift in season brings a cosy, industrious feel to our classrooms as we all engage with our learning.

This half term promises to be a busy and productive one. We have a full calendar of academic challenges, Christmas events and extra activities to inspire and engage our pupils.

We look forward to working with you all over this term to ensure that every child thrives.

Mr Hanson

Ash Class

Ash class have been investigating water resistance this week in science. They researched and designed their own experiment, while working together to make sure it was a fair test. They have also been learning to play the keyboard.



Remembrance



The school will be selling poppies and other Remembrance Day merchandise in the library on Monday and Tuesday morning to children and parents. This is to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Items are priced at either 50p or £1. If you would like to purchase anything, please bring the cash into the library on these mornings. If children buy any poppies or wrist bands, they can be worn alongside their uniform for the rest of the week. Slap bands are to stay at home.

On Tuesday 11th November, the school will gather at the Defford War Memorial just before 11am to observe the national minute silence. All families are welcome to join us.

Children in Need



Children in Need takes place on **Friday 14th November**. On this day, children can come to school wearing something yellow or something spotty (or both!) They can also bring in a donation or parents can donate via the CIN website [here](#).

Courageous Advocacy

Courageous advocacy is defined as the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. It goes beyond simple charity by encouraging action-

taking to address root causes of problems and becoming an agent of change to strive towards a fairer world. It requires a level of courage and conviction to stand up for what one believes in, even in the face of opposition.

If children are engaged in aspects of courageous advocacy outside of school, we would love to hear about it and share their endeavours on our newsletter! Any descriptions or photographs can be sent to the office.

Some ideas to get started:

- Taking a proactive role in managing household recycling and discussing the importance of reducing waste with their families.
- Taking personal initiative to look after local natural spaces, such as litter-picking in the local park with family members.
- Performing random acts of kindness for family, friends, and neighbours, such as helping with chores or making cards for lonely residents.

Value of the Month



November's value of the month is '**Peace**'.

In school, children demonstrate the Christian value of peace, through active efforts to foster harmony and healthy relationships rather than just avoiding conflict. They exhibit this by practicing conflict resolution, offering genuine forgiveness, and showing consistent kindness and

compassion towards their peers. This includes respecting all individuals, ensuring everyone feels included, and following rules to create an orderly and just school environment. Ultimately, children embody this value by making positive choices in their daily interactions, showing empathy, and actively working to build a community founded on mutual respect and love.

Attendance



Please follow [this link](#) if you are unsure if your child is well enough to attend school.

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 100%

Birch - 96.7%

Oak - 88.3%

Ash - 90%

Well done to Willow class

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 92.1%

National - 95.7%

Local Authority - 95.8%

Autism events for parents in Evesham & Pershore

Coffee & chat for Worcestershire parent carers supporting children & young people with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25.

Worcestershire PARENT CARER FORUM

SEND Views & Voices 'Evesham'

Thursday 27th November 2025, 10am - 12 noon
at Evesham Volunteer Centre, The Lodge, Rear of Dresden House, Brick Kiln St, Evesham, WR11 4AA.

Plus meet Stephen Fessey, Autism Team Lead in the CCN Team from Worcestershire County Council

worcestershire county council

The poster features a dark blue background with white and pink text. It includes a photograph of a white coffee cup with a heart-shaped latte art on a saucer. A small portrait of a smiling man with glasses is visible in the bottom left corner. The Worcester's County Council logo is at the bottom left, and a pink arrow points from the text 'Plus meet Stephen Fessey...' to the portrait.

Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum is hosting 2 events - **in Pershore and Evesham** - where parents can speak and ask questions of the **Autism leads for Worcestershire County Council**. Stephen Fessey and Gemma Halstead jointly lead on autism for the Complex Communication Needs (**CCN**) team. These informal sessions are the perfect chance for parents to ask questions, seek advice and find out more.

A poster for these events is attached, and more details are below – including a link to reserve a free ticket. Coffee and cake are included, and parents are guaranteed a friendly welcome by local parent carer rep, Becky who will lead the event.

Evesham

 Meet Stephen Fessey, Autism Team Lead for Worcestershire County Council

 On Thursday 27th November 2025 at 10am

 At Evesham Volunteer Centre, WR11 4AA

 Reserve a place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1808989419049?aff=oddtcreator>

Pershore

 Meet Gemma Halstead, Autism Team Lead for Worcestershire County Council

 On Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 9.30am

 At Pershore Riverside Centre, WR10 1QU

 Reserve a place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1809398633019?aff=oddtcreator>

Pershore Foodbank

Dear Friends of Pershore Foodbank,

Full marks for all our Harvest Festival donors! This year we had such a large quantity of well-chosen items that we have been able to stock up our coffers for weeks to come. There were over 1,000 kilograms of stock for us from local churches and schools and less than 3% was out of date (don't worry, we found a safe use for that too). Another thing that really helped out warehouse volunteers was the way in which so many donor organisations contacted us in plenty of time to arrange collection.

Demand for our services doesn't slow down and, with your support, we continue to provide emergency help to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. So, I'm afraid we are going straight into another set of requests. The Christmas season may seem a long way off but we like to begin preparing our hampers in November. The shops are full of Christmas treats already so chocolates, sweets, biscuits and savouries will be very welcome. Please hold off on the mince pies for the time being as they have such a short shelf life and please - no crackers.

Thank you again for being such a wonderful & supportive community.

Dates for your diary

Friday 14th November - Children in Need (wear yellow and/or spotty clothes) for a donation

Friday 28th November - Friends Association Non uniform day for raffle prizes

Thursday 4th December - STAR project show for parents 4pm

Friday 5th December - Friends Association Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Dinner (please place orders with The Deli)

Thursday 18th December - Last day of term