



Defford-cum-Besford CE First School Newsletter 21st November 2025

It's certainly felt like winter is approaching this week in the aftermath of the weekend storm! Therefore, it's prudent to remind our families to ensure that children bring a coat to school as well as a hat and gloves when required.

It was lovely to see the school take part in Children in Need last week and we raised £100 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you for your support.

Mr Hanson

Oak and Ash with their 3D models of 'The Twits'

















Ash Class

Ash have worked hard this week studying where the Maya civilisation lived and worked. They also used k'nex and a newton meter to investigate how levers reduced the amount of force needed to lift an object. Ash class also read a wonderful prayer and poem at the remembrance service while the wreath was laid.





Parking



Please be mindful of local residents when parking to drop off or collect your children from school. Parents should not park in resident parking bays/in front of garages, or across resident's driveways.

If there is no suitable parking spaces on Hill View, please park in the village hall car park and walk up to school.

Many thanks for your support.

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 97.9%

Birch - 95%

Oak - 97.6%

Ash - 97%

Well done to class

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 97%

National - 95.4%

Local Authority - 95.6%

Togetherness



Worcestershire County Council and the local Health and Care Trust jointly fund Togetherness (formerly inourplace.co.uk) to ensure that all parents and carers across Worcestershire can access free, NHS-endorsed online courses and wellbeing resources.

What is Togetherness?

Togetherness is a digital learning platform developed by psychologists and health professionals. It offers a wide range of accessible, evidence-based courses designed to support:

- Emotional wellbeing for parents, carers, and children
- Child development from pregnancy through to the teenage years

- Positive family relationships and behaviour management

These resources are proven to improve mental health, strengthen family bonds, and empower parents and carers with practical tools and insights.

The platform is:

- Free to use for anyone in Worcestershire
- Available 24/7 online
- Available in many languages
- Easy to use and provides an immediate response when a parent or carer reaches out for support and advice
- Endorsed by the NHS and aligned with local public health priorities

You can explore the platform here: [LEARN - Togetherness](#)

Best Start in Life: Parent Newsletter

Providing the latest updates, news and announcements about the Government support available for parents and carers, parents/carers can sign-up to receive the Parent Newsletter as well as a personalised email tailored to their child's age.

[Homepage | Best Start in Life](#)

Free SEND Workshops for Parents / Carers

[The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service \(SENDIASS\)](#) provide FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars for parent carers of children with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND).

The workshop What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP may be of particular interest to your families at the start of their SEND journey.

This free workshop provides parents and carers with essential knowledge about SEND processes, education and community support, and how to navigate services effectively. Parents/carers also have the opportunity to ask questions.

The next available workshop takes place on 21 January 2026.

Find out more here: [What you need to know if your child has an additional need or disability | HW SENDIASS](#)

Bedtime story with Santa at Nuyard Country & Garden Centre



Bedtime Story with Santa

We are very lucky to have Santa visiting us for Bedtime this year, to read lucky boys and girls a wonderful bedtime story.

You can give Santa your letter or make one here whilst you wait as he will have the post-box ready!

Santa will then read us all a wonderful bedtime story whilst we have a cosy drink and eat some tasty snacks made by Mrs Claus herself!

We can't wait to see you!

Please call the store to book your place.

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER AT 6:00PM

Mulled wine, festive snacks and drinks are available for grown ups!

Nuyard

Mental Elf 5k Fun Run / Walk

 **Mind** Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire

Supported by:



Mental Elf 2025 Kidderminster 5K Festive Fun Run

Sunday 30 November
Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster
10am - 1pm



Scan to buy
your tickets



Medal included



Join a festive, family-friendly 5K fun run (or walk!), at the stunning Bodenham Arboretum in Kidderminster, to raise awareness and vital funds for Coventry, Warwickshire & Worcestershire Mind.

Whether you're a seasoned runner or prefer a stroll in the park with the dog, it's for you.

Mental Elf is more than just a run. It's about your community. So, dust off your elf ears, gather your team, and make this the jolliest Mental Elf yet!

Prize for the best dressed elf and a best dressed dog competition.

Event Link: [Mental Elf 2025 - Kidderminster](#)

Festive Season at the Museum of Gloucester

Festive Fun at the Museum!

Discover your Winter Window and dive into festive fun with creative workshops and seasonal trails- complete the trail and claim your special prize!



Winter Windows
Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan

A magical Christmas display of over 1,000 pupil-made cardboard windows, celebrating light, warmth, and winter traditions at the Museum of Gloucester.

Free!



Lights, Feasts and Fire Trail
Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan

A festive museum trail exploring global winter traditions through creative challenges, stories, and seasonal fun for all ages.

£2 per trail



Cracker Creations
Sat 20 Dec, 10am - 1pm

A festive kids' workshop where young makers craft unique, eco-friendly Christmas crackers filled with surprises and seasonal creativity.

£3.50 per child - adults go free!

**M MUSEUM OF
GLOUCESTER**

Scan me for more info!



What's On This Festive Season!

<p>Lights, Feasts and Fire Trail Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan</p> <p>A festive museum trail exploring global winter traditions through creative challenges, stories, and seasonal fun for all ages.</p> <p>£2 per trail</p>	<p>Winter Windows Tue 2 Dec - Sun 4 Jan</p> <p>A magical Christmas display of over 1,000 pupil-made cardboard windows, celebrating light, warmth, and winter traditions at the Museum of Gloucester.</p> <p>Free!</p>	<p>For parents only!</p> <p>Art After Hours: Retro Christmas Decorations Fri 5 Dec, 6pm-7pm</p> <p>Adults-only workshop to craft vintage-style Christmas ornaments with a nostalgic twist.</p> <p>£12 per person - hot drink included with ticket price!</p>
<p>Make Your Mark On until Sun 7 Dec</p> <p>Help create a bold, collaborative tape artwork in the Museum of Gloucester's gallery – a free, evolving installation celebrating creativity and community.</p> <p>Free - donations welcome</p>	<p>Ghosts & Giggles: Family Tour of Haunted Gloucester Fri 12 Dec, 5pm-7pm</p> <p>A family-friendly ghost tour uncovering Gloucester's haunted history, from museum mysteries to eerie ruins and hidden halls.</p> <p>Child: £10 Adult: £15</p>	<p>Brick Builders Club: Christmas Building! Sat 13 Dec, 10am-1pm</p> <p>Drop-in LEGO sessions for kids aged 5+. No rules, just brick-tastic fun!</p> <p>£3 per child - adults go free!</p>
<p>Medieval Mercenary Tour of Eastgate Chamber Sat 13 Dec & Wed 31 Dec, 2pm-3pm</p> <p>Join Sir Miles for an underground tour of the Eastgate chamber, uncovering its history, myths, and medieval superstitions.</p> <p>Adult: £7.50 Child: £5 Family: £25</p>	<p>Cracker Creations Sat 20 Dec, 10am-1pm</p> <p>A festive kids' workshop where young makers craft unique, eco-friendly Christmas crackers filled with surprises and seasonal creativity.</p> <p>£3.50 per child - adults go free!</p>	<p>Glorious Glevum Tour Tue 30 Dec, 2pm-3pm</p> <p>Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, a guided tour revealing the city's history, hidden treasures, and life as an auxiliary soldier.</p> <p>Adult: £7.50 Child: £5 Family: £25</p>



Scan me for more info!



The Hive Library Christmas Fayre




The Hive Christmas Fayre Sunday

**30th November 2025
10am - 3pm**

Come along to The Hive Library on the 30th November and hear Father Christmas tell stories, watch Christopher's Christmas puppet show*, make some Christmas crafts, shop for Christmas gifts at our local market and much more. Make this a family day out and get into the Christmas spirit.



*Booking required for puppet show. For more information visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/events/hive-christmas-fayre> or use this QR code



**Business & IP Centre
Worcestershire**



Sunday 30th November 2025 – The Hive Christmas Fayre

10am – 3pm

Come along to The Hive Library on 30th November to hear Father Christmas tell stories, shop for Christmas gifts, make Christmas crafts and much more! You can also book tickets for a production of Christopher's Christmas [HERE!](#)

Dates for your diary

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

Monday 15th December - Christmas Show 2pm (details to follow)

Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Show 2pm (details to follow)

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

Thursday 18th December - Last day of term