



Defford-cum-Besford CE First School Newsletter 5th December 2025

Christmas Events



A huge thank you to the Friends Association for all their hard work in organising and running the fantastic Christmas Fayre today. It was a wonderful event that brought the community together and raised vital funds for the school.

This year, the **whole school** are putting on a *musical show* for Christmas as many children have already been acting in the 'Star Project' after school. The whole school will be performing on **Monday 15th December** and **Tuesday 16th December** at **2pm** in the school hall. We do hope you'll be able to join us for some fun, festive singing!

Willow class will also be creating a *Nativity* scene on **Thursday 18th December** at **2pm** in the church. The rest of the school will help them with narration and singing. We will be inviting families of Willow class to watch this due to the space in the church.

Parking



The school is still receiving complaints from local residents about parents parking along Hill View blocking driveways or using designated resident parking spots.

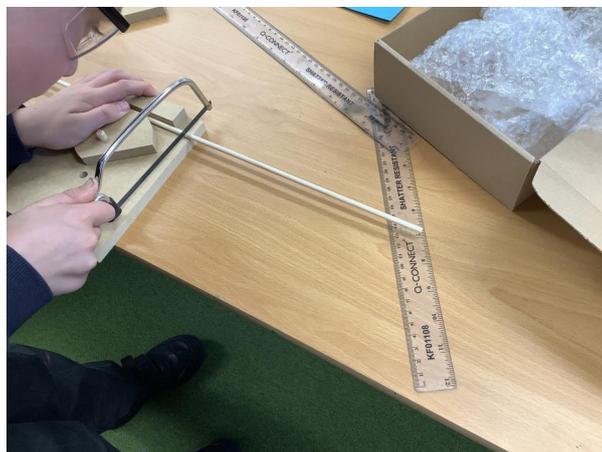
Please help us by being courteous to our neighbours, using the village hall car park when required and not stopping on the turning area at the end of Hill View.

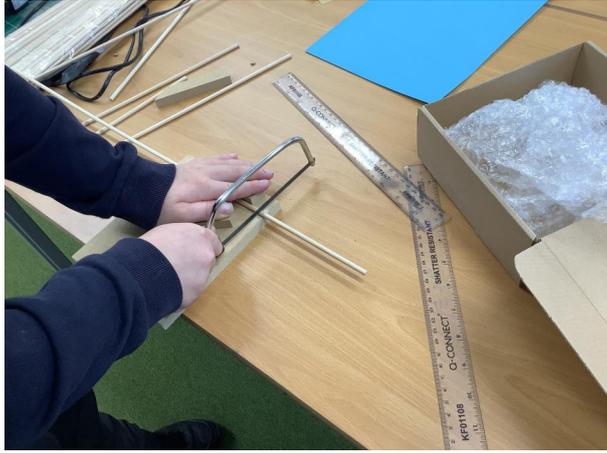
In addition, the staff car park is not for general parent use at the end of the day. Many small children will be exiting Willow class at this time and be walking across this area.

Thank you for your support!

Ash Class

Ash class have been measuring accurately then cutting the doweling using a hacksaw.







Oak Class

Oak Class enjoyed a virtual author visit - we drew an illustration from the book

In English, Oak Class are writing newspaper reports about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius so we practised being reporters interviewing survivors





Attendance



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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 96.3%

Birch - 97%

Oak - 95.3%

Ash - 98%

Well done to Ash class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 96.9%

National - 95.4%

Local Authority - 95.5%

Winter Infections in Children -



Winter infections in children – guidance for parents/guardians

This leaflet gives advice on illnesses that are currently affecting nursery and school children across the West Midlands

What are the symptoms?

There are two groups of symptoms:

- Diarrhoea and vomiting – usually lasting 1-2 days
- Fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore throat – lasting 3-4 days

What should I do if my child is unwell?

- If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms, they should not attend nursery/school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours
- If your child has a high temperature and is unwell, it is very important they stay at home and don't attend school until they have recovered. Children with mild symptoms like runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school.
- Ensure they drink plenty of fluids – taking sips rather than gulps, to avoid vomiting
- If they have a fever – give child paracetamol and/or ibuprofen, according to manufacturer's instructions. Your local pharmacist can also advise you about the best treatment for your child
- If your child is unusually sleepy, can't take fluids or has other symptoms, such as an unusual rash, headache or neck stiffness – seek medical advice immediately

Infection control advice

Handwashing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person caring for them. Hands should be washed using soap and rinsed under running water:

- Before and after caring for the child
- After using the toilet
- Before eating, preparing or handling food
- After cleaning up spills (vomit, diarrhoea or urine)
- Also – keep a separate towel for each family member who has symptoms, and change them regularly
- Dry hands thoroughly

Other control measures:

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue if possible – dispose of used tissues immediately and wash hands
- Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels at 60°C, using detergent – if possible, wear disposable gloves to handle contaminated items
- Surfaces and touch points (taps, toilet flush handle, door handles) should be cleaned then disinfected with bleach-based cleaner
- Check that your child is up to date with their [NHS vaccinations schedule](#)

For further information, visit [NHS.uk](#) and search for 'respiratory infections' and 'diarrhoea and vomiting'

St. Richard's Hospice Santa Dash

Santa Dash
Sunday, 14 December

St Richard's Hospice
Caring for life

Adults from £13, under 16s £7

Kindly sponsored by
SPA DECORATORS LTD
CARPENTRY & BUILDING SERVICES

Scan QR code to book your tickets

Get ready to jingle all the way around Worcester Woods Country Park
Warm-up with festive tunes in the car park of St Richard's Hospice, before taking on a one or two-lap dash of the woods!

www.strichards.org.uk/santadash
01905 958262 | appeals@strichards.org.uk

St Richard's Hospice Foundation, Wildwood Drive, Worcester WR5 2QT

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REGISTERED WITH
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Be prepared to dash around Worcester County Woods for St Richard's Hospice's festive fundraiser! This family-friendly fun-run is guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit.

Starting in the hospice car park, 'Dance with Ellie' will get you ready with some jolly tunes and fun festive warm-up. After the jolly jog you'll receive your Santa Dash medal, and a well-earned Christmas treat.

You may already have a Santa Suit from a previous year, so they encourage you to reuse it for this year or, if you wish to wear another festive outfit of choice you are more than welcome! Childs tickets include a Santa hat which can be worn with festive clothing of their choice. Santa suits/hats will be distributed on the morning of the event.

For more information including prices and how to book your tickets, please download their Santa Dash flyer or visit the event webpage: www.strichards.org.uk/santadash

Free School Holiday Activities - HAF Christmas 2025

Free School Meal eligible families are invited to book free activity sessions this Christmas. There's lots on offer with various Christmas family events and activities including SEND provision... all free! All activity clubs include a healthy lunch.

To find out more and sign up, visit: [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme website](#)

SENDIASS launch brand new FREE SEND Webinars for parent carers



SEND Information, Advice and Support Service
Herefordshire & Worcestershire

PINS in
WORCESTERSHIRE

Free SEND Webinars

SCAN ME

www.hwsendiass.co.uk

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire
worcestershire county council
Worcestershire PARENT CARER FORUM
SEND Information, Advice and Support Service Herefordshire & Worcestershire



Information, Advice and Support Service
Herefordshire & Worcestershire

SEND

Training and Development

Inform • Empower • Improve

Free SEND Training Workshops for Parent Carers & Professionals

Do you have a child/young person with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)?

Join one of our workshops across Worcestershire to increase your knowledge and understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Workshops available include

- Autism and Me
- What does a good Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) look like?
- SEND- what you need to know
- SEND-Preparing for Adulthood

Visit our website
hwsendiass.co.uk or
scan the QR code to
find out the next
available sessions

SEND Information, Advice and Support Service Herefordshire & Worcestershire
www.hwsendiass.co.uk

ADULT LEARNING WORCESTERSHIRE

worcestershire county council

As part of the Worcestershire Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project [SENDIASS](#) will be delivering three brand new FREE webinars for ALL local parent carers.

The new webinar topics requested by Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum include:

- A Guide to SEND
- How to have an effective meeting

- Introduction to dyslexia

These webinars will run throughout January and February 2026 and will include a daytime and evening session for each. Places are already available to book here: [Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) | SENDIASS](#)

Kays Theatre Group Pantomime - Goldilocks and The Three Bears

Just a reminder that our pantomime makes a wonderful Christmas present and great value at £13.50 a ticket.

We will be at the Crowngate Christmas party on Saturday 13th December from 11 am to 3 pm where there will be music and lots of activities (just opposite Iceland as you come out of the carpark). We also currently have a competition running throughout Crowngate where children can find letters on bears in shop windows to spell a word. They can then win the chance of free tickets to our show.

We would love to see you there!



KAYS THEATRE GROUP
This is our 71st Anniversary Production
Registered Charity Number 1146930

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Thursday 22nd January to Sunday 1st February 2026
at The Swan Theatre, Worcester

NODA

DATES and TIMES

Thursday	22nd January	7.15pm	£13.50
Friday	23rd January	7.15pm	£13.50
Saturday	24th January	2.30pm	£13.50
Saturday	24th January	7.15pm	£13.50
Sunday	25th January	12.00 noon	£13.50
Sunday	25th January	5.00pm	£13.50
Tuesday	27th January	7.15pm	£13.50
Wednesday	28th January	7.15pm	£13.50
Thursday	29th January	7.15pm	£13.50
Friday	30th January	7.15pm	£13.50
Saturday	31st January	2.30pm	£13.50
Saturday	31st January	7.15pm	£13.50
Sunday	1st February	12.00 noon	£13.50
Sunday	1st February	5.00pm	£13.50

For BOOKINGS please call 01905 611427 or visit Huntingdon Hall Booking Office or book online at www.kaystheatregroup.co.uk/tickets

Design and Print by The Medahouse - 07855 686740 - www.the-medahouse.co.uk



The Hive Library -Design an All Terrain Vehicle Competition

STEM Competition:
Design an all-terrain vehicle!

For children ages 7-14.

The grand prize will be a Lego® Land Rover Defender, donated by Listers Land Rover Droitwich.



The Hive
A Learning Hub
UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER | WORCESTERSHIRE

📣⚙️ Calling all young STEM enthusiasts!! ⚙️📣 We are excited to announce a special competition aimed at children aged 7-14. Participants are asked to design an all-terrain vehicle that can cover water, deserts, jungles and maybe even the moon!

Plans must include: - An annotated drawing including at least 6 technical features - A detailed description of the vehicle

The grand prize is a Lego Land Rover Defender, donated by Listers Land Rover Droitwich. Entries to be delivered to The Hive between Friday 2nd January and Sunday 18th January. The winner will be announced at STEAMfest on Saturday 24th January.

3D models will be accepted alongside a written plan but are not essential. If included, they must fit inside a shoebox. Entry forms can be collected from The Hive.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8th December - Last Art & Craft club

Tuesday 9th December - Last Recorder Club

Friday 12th December - Willow Christmas party in the Village Hall

Monday 15th December - Christmas Show 2pm

Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Show 2pm

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

Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th December - Christmas jumpers can be worn with school uniform

Thursday 18th December - Willow class Nativity (Willow families only)

Thursday 18th December - Last day of term

Tuesday 6th January - Start of Spring term for children

Thursday 8th January - Oak & Ash class STEM workshop