



Defford-cum-Besford CE First School Newsletter 18th December 2025

And just like that, the Autumn term is over! It's gone in a flash and what a wonderful start to my time at Defford it has been. It is a privilege to have been welcomed so warmly into the community.

Looking back on this term, there have been so many lovely events: Ash class visiting Stratford; Oak class visiting the Roman fort; Pumpkin Patch; Christmas Fayre; Christmas Show; Star Academy performance. So many happy memories made around some fantastic learning in the classrooms.

Looking to the future, we will be preparing next term for the imminent building work that is required for us to become a Primary school. It is sure to be a busy but exciting time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children, parents, staff, and community a very peaceful Christmas holiday and a very happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!

Mr Hanson

Surprise Santa Visit





Christmas Dinner





The Friends Association

We want to say a HUGE - THANK YOU!!!! to everyone that donated, volunteered and helped with our annual Christmas Fayre. We have raised £1,411.72 to go towards resources at Defford-cum-Besford CofE First School. In addition, we have received £750 from Ardonagh Community Trust through match funding via one of our parent's employers.

Your generosity is so appreciated and will benefit the children greatly. Thank you again to all those involved in making this years Christmas Fayre such a huge success.

Happy Holidays!!

from the FA

Star Project Spring term

SPRING TERM SING DANCE ACT AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

KPOP DEMON HUNTERS THE STAR PROJECT AFTER SCHOOL

MUSICAL THEATRE OPPORTUNITY
The Star Project will be back after Christmas with KPOP DEMON HUNTERS here at your school! An exciting story, with mischief and music! This theme offers incredible songs, quirky characters and upbeat dances to explore!

The Project will be available for children from ages 4+. There will be 30 spots available, to be filled on a first come first served basis. Students will work with an inspiring and talented Theatre practitioner and perform a show at the end of the term.

SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE
Please visit the payment page on our NEW website: www.thestarprojectevents.co.uk
SIGN UP for an account & LOG IN. Go to My Dashboard and complete "ADD CHILD"
Select "ENROL & PAY FEES" & then "YOUR SCHOOL After School Club" & complete payment

Cost: £87.50 must be paid in full to secure your place. A waiting list will be opened once full. Show tickets are not included in the course price and are £5 each. All proceeds from ticket sales go towards the children's show (costumes, set, props) and participation medals.
Tickets are purchased on show night.

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING:
Children will be immersed in a wonderful process nurturing their artistic bravery and skills!
They can also expect to:

- ignite confidence building
- Learn and improve acting skills
- Develop singing technique
- Sing as an ensemble and solo
- Learn scripts and songs from the show
- Learn choreography and fun dance routines
- Perform in a show with costume
- Receive a medal & show certificate on show day!

DATES AND TIMINGS
DATES: 8th January - 26th March
DAY: THURSDAY
TIME: 3.15pm-4.30pm
PLACE: SCHOOL HALL

SCHOOLS@THESTARPROJECT.INFO WWW.THESTARPROJECTEVENTS.CO.UK

Dear Families,

I'm excited to share our new flyer with key dates for our After School Clubs starting in January. The theme this term is **K-Pop: Demon Hunters** – a high-energy adventure that's always a huge hit with our students!

Inspired by the bold, dynamic world of K-pop, this term's club is packed with **fun, confidence-building activities** through **dance, drama, and singing**. Children will learn powerful routines, explore creative storytelling, and work together to bring their own superstar energy to life — all while developing teamwork, self-belief, and stage presence.

The first session will be Thursday 8th January

Show day is: Thursday 19th March

The final session will be Thursday 26th March which will be our after show party!

You can now book your child's place through our [EVENTS WEBSITE](http://www.thestarprojectevents.co.uk)

If you haven't already used the new site, you'll need to create an account to enrol your child. Spaces are limited and allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis**, so book soon to secure your spot!

To book your place:

1. Visit 🖱️ www.thestarprojectevents.co.uk
2. Create an account or sign in
3. Select 'Enrol and Pay Fees'
4. Choose your **relevant school**
5. **Pay at checkout** to secure your place

Book Gift Guides



Why not put a quality story or non-fiction book under the tree this year? A gift that is durable, sustainable and can be treasured for years. Also, a perfect way to get the children off screens this holiday!

The following posters show a great range of gift ideas for all ages and interests.

Or visit [Books for Topics](#)

Primary School Book Gift Guide 2025  Recommended for ages 3-5

www.booksfortopics.com/gift-guides

- NEW for this Christmas**
- Recommended Bedtime Stories**
- Super Fun Stories**
- Classic Stories**
- Non-Fiction Books**
- Award Winning Books**
- Gorgeous Gift Books**

For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksfortopics.com



Primary School Book Gift Guide 2025  Recommended for ages 5-7

www.booksfortopics.com/gift-guides

- NEW for this Christmas**
- Recommended Bedtime Stories**
- Super Fun Stories**
- First Chapter Books**
- Non-Fiction Books**
- Award Winning Books**
- Gorgeous Gift Books**

For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksfortopics.com



Primary School Book Gift Guide 2025  Recommended for ages 7-9

www.booksfortopics.com/gift-guides

- NEW for this Christmas**
- Recommended Bedtime Stories**
- Super Fun Stories**
- Glorious Graphic Novels**
- Non-Fiction Books**
- Award Winning Books**
- Gorgeous Gift Books**

For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksfortopics.com



Primary School Book Gift Guide 2025  Recommended for ages 9-11

www.booksfortopics.com/gift-guides

- NEW for this Christmas**
- Recommended Bedtime Stories**
- Super Fun Stories**
- Glorious Graphic Novels**
- Non-Fiction Books**
- Award Winning Books**
- Gorgeous Gift Books**

For more book lists themed by age group or topic, visit booksfortopics.com



Willow class Christmas party









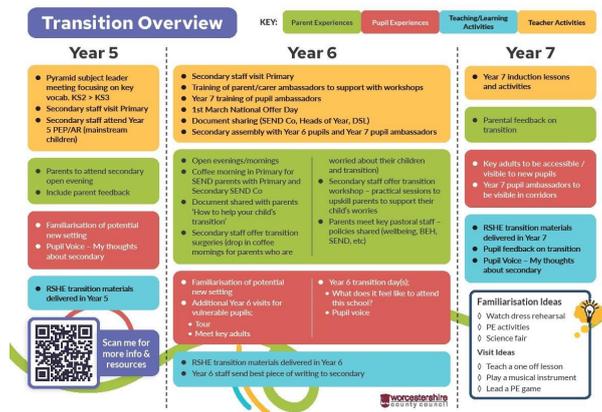


Transition Overview

With the move to becoming a Primary School and catering for the education of children up to and including Year 6, we have been working with Worcestershire County Council, Pershore High School and other First and Middle schools who are going through this transition to ensure that the process is as smooth and trauma-free as it can be.

Children across the country and in most of the county go from Primary schools (often quite small ones) up to large Secondary/High schools without any issue. However, we understand this can be quite strange and unfamiliar when many local families have successfully navigated the three-tier system.

Worcestershire County Council have shared the following [overview](#) of what a successful transition process will include at various points in a child's education. We will be working with our local High schools to ensure that our children are properly equipped to start High School successfully when the time comes. There will be absolutely no disadvantage to children at our school and we are excited to be involved in this step in their education.



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 - 95%

Oak - 91.5%

Ash - 96.7%

Well done to Ash class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 96.6%

National - 95.3%

Local Authority - 95.4%

Tiny Happy People

Tiny Happy People

[CBeebies Parenting](#) has lots of free festive inspiration; from support on financial costs and sensory overload to navigating the “Chrimbo limbo” days between Christmas and New Year, there’s something for everyone.

Resources include:

[Top tips for dealing with sensory overload at Christmas](#)

[15 creatives way to have fun with cardboard and wrapping paper](#)

[Festive games](#)

SENDIASS Christmas Tree in Worcester Cathedral Festival

The SENDIASS ‘All About Me Tree’ is now available to view at Worcester Cathedral's Christmas Tree Festival! The tree stands as a celebration of difference and individuality and showcases the voices of local children and young people with SEND.

SENDIASS have worked with the children and young people of [Voices United Worcestershire](#) and several local schools and settings to create this year’s tree.

The young people felt strongly that the tree should be accessible to everyone. The decorations include different communication methods such as text, pictures and braille and the tree includes different textures so that everyone can touch it, explore it, and read it in their own way. The young people created decorations that explain what is important to them or describe who they are.

You can visit the SENDIASS tree (and all the others) now until 6th January 2026.

Winter Health Resources

Reminder to all parents / carers, if you give your child Calpol before school, please inform a member of staff when you drop off or email the office so that we can make sure the relevant teaching staff are aware.

Stop norovirus spreading

Norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug', is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can spread easily through close contact, or by contaminated surfaces, food or water.

The main symptoms of norovirus include a sudden onset of nausea, followed by projectile vomiting and diarrhoea, usually 1 to 2 days after becoming infected. Other common symptoms include a high fever, a headache and aching arms and legs.

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading.

To stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food.
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least two days
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces

If you catch it, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear

<p>DO </p> <p>Wash clothes and bedding at 60°C</p>  <p>Wash hands with soap, clean surfaces with bleach-based disinfectants</p> 	<p>DON'T </p> <p>Go to work or school, visit care homes or hospitals</p>  <p>Prepare food for others</p> 
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Most people will make a full recovery in 2-3 days without needing any medicine. It is important to keep hydrated – especially children and the elderly.

Try not to visit A&E or GP surgeries if you have symptoms of norovirus unless advised to do so by a healthcare professional, as this may spread the bug to others. Call ahead to a GP or ring NHS 111 if you are worried about your symptoms.

Further information is available at NHS 111 or NHS.uk (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>)

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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](https://www.nhs.uk) and search for 'respiratory infections' and 'diarrhoea and vomiting'

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 6th January - Start of Spring term for children

Thursday 8th January - Oak & Ash class STEM workshop

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half term