

# Defford-cum-Besford CE First School

## Newsletter 16th January 2026

It has been wonderful to welcome back the children to school in 2026! There has already been lots of amazing learning opportunities around the school and the corridors and classrooms are filled with the happy buzz of children working and making progress in their learning.

Today, we welcomed a representative from Severn Trent who talked to the children in assembly about the water cycle, how water gets to their homes, and what they could do to help preserve water.

We also had a STEM workshop for KS2 which gave the children opportunity to practice their oracy, teamwork and creativity skills (more details below).

As we dive into a new year, it is the perfect time to think about fresh beginnings and maybe even a few New Year resolutions. Whether it is reading more books, eating fewer chocolates, or remembering where you put your keys, small goals can make a big difference. Encourage your children to set simple positive resolutions too - like trying a new hobby, being extra kind, or keeping their room tidy.

Here's to a year full of learning, laughter, and maybe even sticking to those resolutions ... at least until February!

Mr Hanson

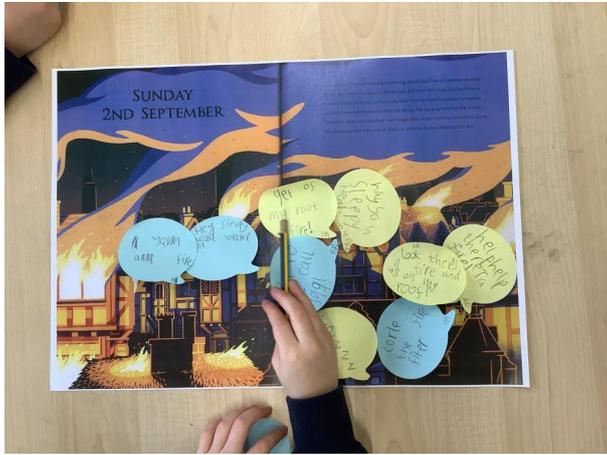
### Willow Class

Mud play - enjoying our construction area, exploring moving soil with diggers and tractors. In other news we are learning all about London this half term! We have created a London bus in the classroom and all enjoying deciding which landmarks to visit! Scruffy has also mysteriously gone missing!! He sent us a letter and we are trying to gather clues to work out where he has gone!!! We will keep everyone informed as we learn....



## Birch Class

Birch Class have started their work on the Great Fire of London! In History we have been learning about what life in 1666 London might have been like. In English we have been writing what the people caught in the fire might be thinking or saying.

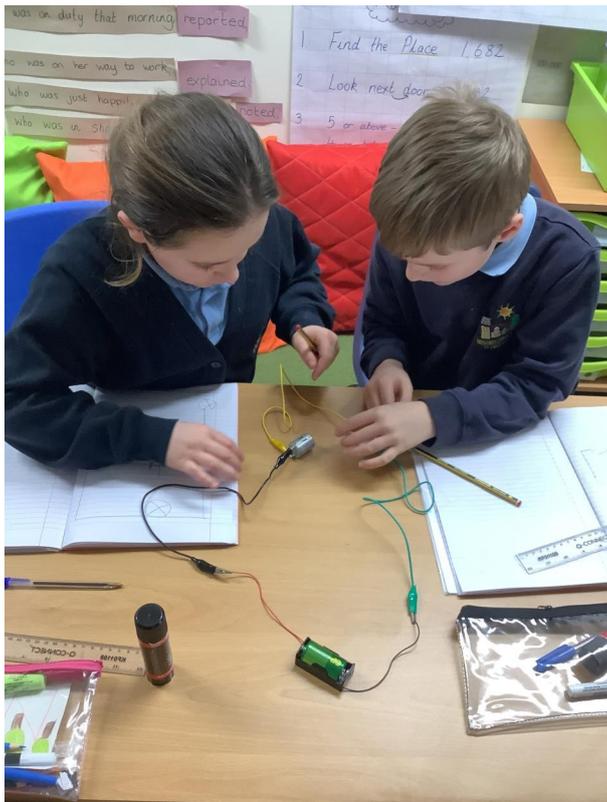
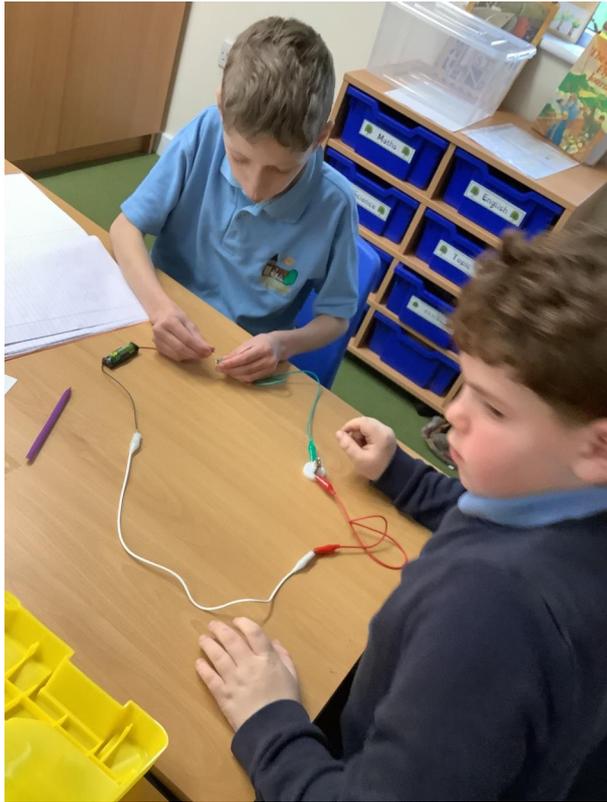






## Ash Class

Alongside starting to learn about trading, Ash have also been building their own electrical circuits this week. They independently created a circuit to power a fan and discovered how to add a buzzer into their circuits to create lots of noise.





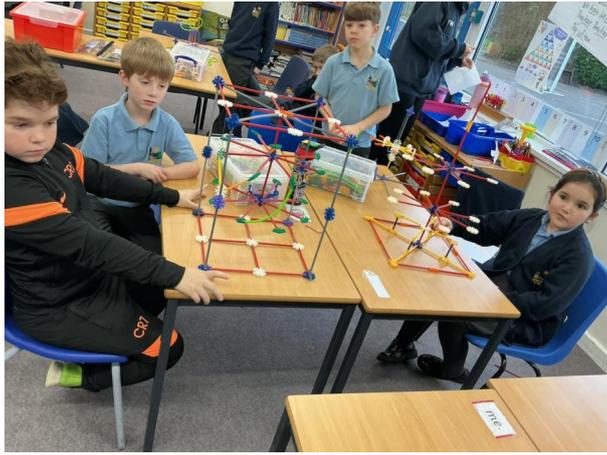


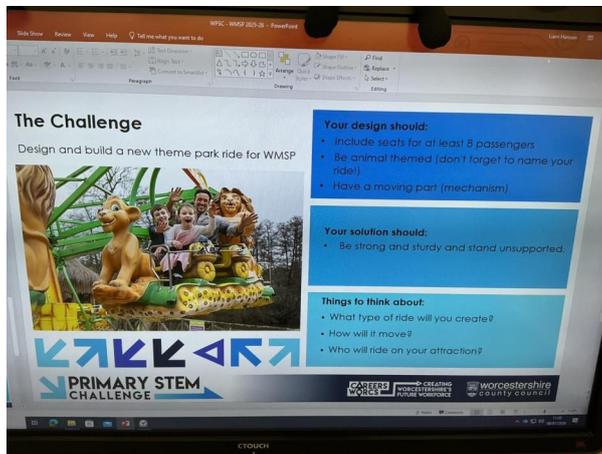
## Oak & Ash Class Stem Workshop

Oak and Ash classes had a brilliant time taking part in the Primary STEM Challenge. They had to design a new animal themed ride for West Midlands Safari Park. They all showed great teamwork, creativity and problem solving skills.

Congratulations to Robyn and Zara who won the challenge and are invited to the county final in June!







## Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 91.2%

Birch - 88.6%

Oak - 92.2%

Ash - 92.2%

**Well done to Oak & Ash class!**

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.8%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 95.0%

## The Hive Library STEM Competition



📣⚙️ 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.

## The Hive - STEAMFest

**STEAMFEST '26**  
Science|Technology|Engineering|Art|Mathematics

**01 What is STEAMFEST?**  
A celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics at  
**TheHive**

**02 How to attend**  
Free entry, with paid ticketed activities available:  


**03 When is STEAMFEST?**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
From 10am 

**04 What's On**  
VR Human Body Scans  
Three Little Pigs Building Challenge  
Lego Club  
Puppet Theatre Workshop  
Ratatat Story Time  
Make and Take Rockets  
Fizz Pop Science Show

**05 Featuring**  


**TheHive**  
a partnership between  


## SENDIASS CONNECTS: Wychavon Programme

**SENDIASS CONNECTS**  
Wychavon

**FREE**  
Training Workshops  
Advice Drop-ins  
Youth Advice Drop-ins

**Pershere  
Evesham  
Droitwich**

**WYCHAVON**  SEND Information, Advice and Support Service Herefordshire & Worcestershire 

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service




**SENDIASS  
CONNECTS  
WYCHAVON**

From January to March 2026, SENDIASS will be visiting venues across Wychavon to offer free, confidential support for parent carers and young people with SEND. Shining a spotlight on what SEND support is available to you and your community, and how you can access it.

**SENDIASS CONNECTS: Wychavon**

Find out more from our FREE training events and drop-in sessions in Pershore, Evesham & Droitwich.

-  **FREE one-to-one advice drop-ins**
-  **FREE practical training sessions**
-  **FREE Young Person SEND support**

**For more information please visit:**  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSCONNECTS](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSCONNECTS)






At the Special Educational Needs/Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service, [SENDIASS](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASS), we provide free impartial information advice and support for families of children/young people that have or may have SEND.

We have an upcoming programme of free, confidential support sessions taking place across Wychavon from January to March 2026.

SENDIASS CONNECTS: Wychavon, will be visiting community venues to support parent carers and young people with SEND, shining a spotlight on what SEND support is available locally and how to access it.

The programme will offer

- free training workshops
- specialist SEND advice drop-ins for parent carers
- youth drop-ins for children and young people with SEND

More information can be found on our website at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSCONNECTS](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSCONNECTS)

We're asking Wychavon businesses, services, and organisations to help spread the word by sharing or displaying our poster in your workplace or community space. Your support can make a real difference in helping families find the information and guidance they need.

I have attached a copy of our poster and a graphic for use on social media. Some possible wording for social media posts is also included below.

Many thanks for your support, we really appreciate it.

#### Social Media Wording:

SENDIASS CONNECTS: Wychavon will be visiting community venues in Pershore, Evesham and Droitwich to support parent carers and young people with SEND, shining a spotlight on what SEND support is available locally and how to access it.

The programme will offer

- free training workshops
- specialist SEND advice drop-ins for parent carers
- youth drop-ins for children and young people with SEND

Find out more here: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSCONNECTS](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSCONNECTS)

#SENDIASSconnects #Wychavon #SEND #Worcestershire

#### Dates for your diary

Monday 16th January - Severn Trent water assembly

Thursday 29th January - Writing information meeting for parents 3.15-4pm

Thursday 5th February - Oak & Ash class Art Workshop

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half term

Thursday 5th March - Level 2 Bikeability - Year 5 children

Friday 6th March - Level 1 Bikeability - Year 4 children

Wednesday 18th March - Reception class Music festival at Pershore High School (details to follow)