



Defford-cum-Besford CE First School Newsletter 30th January 2026

Welcome to our final newsletter of January! It has been a joy to see the children settled back into their routines and working so well together across all year groups.

As we move through the spring term, our focus remains on our core value of kindness. We are seeing so many wonderful examples of pupils looking out for one another, being considerate, and showing how a small act of caring can make a huge difference in our school community. Please reinforce this message at home to ensure that pupils understand that being kind costs nothing, but can make a huge difference to someone's day.

A big thank you to the FA for running the hot chocolate event after school today, and raising more funds for our school!

Mr Hanson

Willow Class

Marmalade sandwich making for Paddington





Exploring urban art - Marc Todd



Making maps for scruffy and a visit from some puppies



Posting our letters to King Charles III



Birch Class

Birch Class have been using different objects to explore ways to print.







Unlocking potential through reading



Did you know that reading for pleasure is the single most important predictor of your child's future success, even more so than their family's income or social background? When children choose to pick up a book, they aren't just practicing literacy; they are boosting their brainpower, improving their performance in subjects like maths and science, and rapidly expanding their vocabulary. Beyond the classroom, reading serves as a powerful tool for emotional health, helping children build deep empathy for others while providing a calming escape to reduce daily stress. By encouraging your child to read what they love—whether it's a graphic novel, a mystery, or a hobby magazine—you are giving them a "superpower" that builds the confidence and critical thinking skills they need for life.

Here is National Book Token's list of the [40 best children's books being released in 2026.](#)

Dealing with behaviour

There are lots of possible reasons for difficult behaviour in young children.

If problem behaviour is causing you or your child distress, or upsetting the rest of the family, it's important to deal with it.

The following information may be of use to support with this or signpost you to additional support networks.

[NHS - Dealing with behaviour](#)

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 95.8%

Birch - 94.8%

Oak - 97.9%

Ash - 100%

Well done to Ash class!

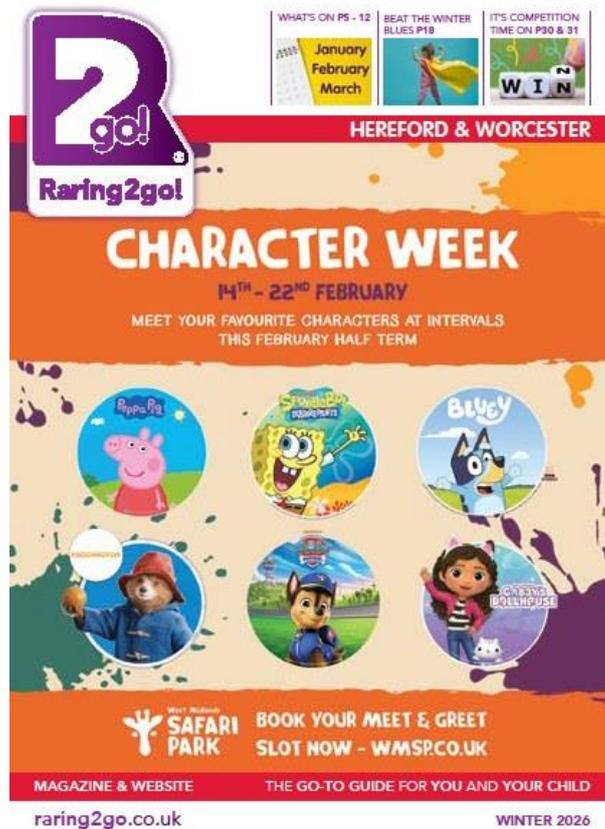
Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.9%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 94.9%

Raring2go! Winter edition



I am delighted to let you know that the winter magazine is now in circulation. The interactive digital version can be found here: <https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/herefordandworcester/winter2026/>

WorkWell- support for people with health conditions and/or disabilities



Funded by UK Government

WorkWell
Herefordshire & Worcestershire

NHS
Herefordshire and
Worcestershire

WorkWell

Are you finding it hard to manage work because of a health condition?

- Employed but struggling to keep up due to health issues?
- Off sick from work with a short term FitNote?
- Want to increase your hours but can't due to your health?
- Left your job because of health challenges?

WorkWell can help you get back on track!

Scan the QR code or speak to your GP surgery to find support, guidance, and resources to help you stay in or return to work.



www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/workwell

WorkWell is a joint scheme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).

The aim of WorkWell is to connect people with health conditions and/or disabilities to local support services so they can get the tailored help they need to stay in or return to work.

WorkWell is an early-intervention work and health assessment and provision of light touch, low-intensity support service. It will provide tailored support helping individuals to address their work and health needs, and to overcome barriers to work. People will be able to access general help, support, information, guidance and connections to services via the telephone and can receive additional face to face work and health coaching if required.

It is a prevention service aimed to support those most recently out of work due to sickness to return to work, or those in work who are at risk of being signed off sick.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/workwell>

Lumi Nova



We are delighted to share with you a new NHS funded service designed to support young people aged 7-12 who are experiencing worries or anxieties; **Lumi Nova**.

What is Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova is an intergalactic adventure game to support young people to fight fears and manage worries. Whilst exploring planets, customising characters and earning treasure your child breaks their fears and worries down into manageable steps, learning life-long skills and building resilience.

Watch this short animated video to learn more: [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#)

Who can use Lumi Nova?

Lumi Nova was created for 7 - 12 year olds (school years 3 - 7) who are having difficulties with fears, worries, or anxiety related to social situations, separation or phobias.

Lumi Nova is ideal for children who may:

- lack confidence to try new things
- seem unable to face simple everyday challenges
- find it hard to concentrate
- have problems with sleeping or eating
- have angry outbursts
- have negative thoughts about what's going to happen
- be avoiding everyday activities, eg. going to school, seeing friends
- become irritable, tearful or clingy

How do you access Lumi Nova?

Accessing Lumi Nova is quick and easy. Use the link below to register and you will receive a text message to guide you through getting started.

[Luminova.app/handw](https://luminova.app/handw)

To find out more visit luminova.app or join a [Parent Information Webinar](#).

Worcester Brick Festival



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!

LEGO

TICKET **BRICK FESTIVAL** TICKET

WORCESTER BRICK FESTIVAL

08 / 02 SUN

UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER ARENA

This poster features a collage of LEGO-related images. At the top, a large 'LEGO' logo is surrounded by colorful bricks. Below it, a person holds up a 'BRICK FESTIVAL' ticket. To the right, a green Creeper figure is shown. The bottom right corner includes the date '08 / 02' and 'SUN' with a location pin for 'UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER ARENA'.



8TH FEB

WORCESTER BRICK FESTIVAL

MILLIONS OF BRICKS

CHARITY TOMBOLA

LEGO DISPLAYS

RETIRED SETS

ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER ARENA

WORCESTER BRICKFESTIVAL.COM

This poster is a vertical collage of festival activities. From top to bottom: 'MILLIONS OF BRICKS' shows various LEGO sets; 'CHARITY TOMBOLA' features a large dinosaur model; 'LEGO DISPLAYS' shows a man and a child looking at a display; 'RETIRED SETS' shows a large collection of old LEGO bricks; 'ACTIVITIES' shows people at a table. On the right side, there is a red Lightning McQueen car, a large Iron Man figure, and a QR code. The date '8TH FEB' and 'WORCESTER BRICK FESTIVAL' are prominently displayed at the top. The location 'UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER ARENA' and the website 'WORCESTER BRICKFESTIVAL.COM' are at the bottom.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 3rd February - Reception children Heights & Weights check

Thursday 5th February - Oak & Ash class Art Workshop

Thursday 5th February - Willow class 'Stay & Play' 2pm

Friday 13th February - Friends Association 'Wear what you love' day. Non-uniform in exchange for a donation to the FA

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half term

Wednesday 4th March - Reception class eye tests

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

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

Wednesday 11th March - Dental survey (Aged 5 children only)

Friday 13th March - Friends Association - Mother day gift workshop

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

Thursday 26th March - Friends Association Easter Eggstravaganza

Monday 30th March - Monday 13th April - Easter holidays / Inset day

Tuesday 14th April - Children return to school

Tuesday 14th April - Ash class Poetry Festival (details to follow)

Thursday 23rd April - Oak & Ash class swimming starts for 10 weeks