



## Defford-cum-Besford CE First School Newsletter 13th February 2026

Well, that went quickly! January has flown by and we're at half term already! Despite the miserable weather, the children have been enjoying their learning in the warmth of school and have definitely earned a break next week. Here's hoping the weather improves as we head towards Spring.

There are lots of exciting changes to share with you after half term regarding our transition to a Primary school and we look forward to revealing them to you soon.

In the meantime, have a half term filled with fun and adventure, and we'll see you back on Monday 23rd February.

Mr Hanson

## Christian Values

Our school's Bible verse shows that people are strong 'like a tree planted by a river. The tree produces fruit in season, and its leaves do not die. Everything they do will succeed.'

This leads us to this month's value of '**Goodness**'. This value focuses on us teaching the children how to support each other and how to look outside our local area and support worthwhile causes around the world.

## IT Upgrade

Our school will be undergoing a much needed IT infrastructure upgrade over half term, including a brand new cloud-based server. It should be completed by our return to school, however please forgive us if there are some teething problems when we get back.

## Willow Class Stay & Play

Thank you to all parents and grandparents for coming to play in Willow on Thursday! We had a fun packed hour and it was so lovely to see the children confidently showing their space to their families!







## Birch Class

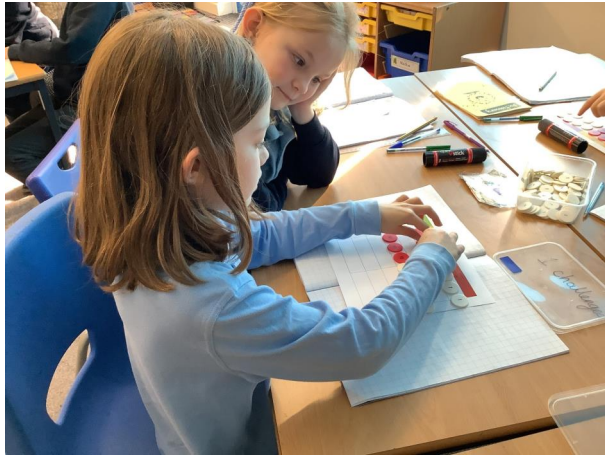
Printing fun in Birch Class

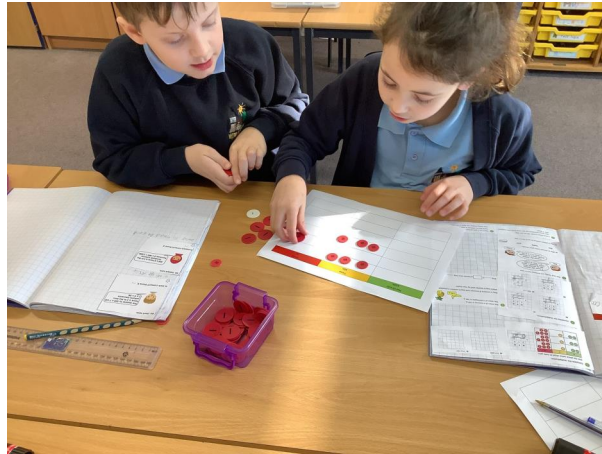




## Oak Class

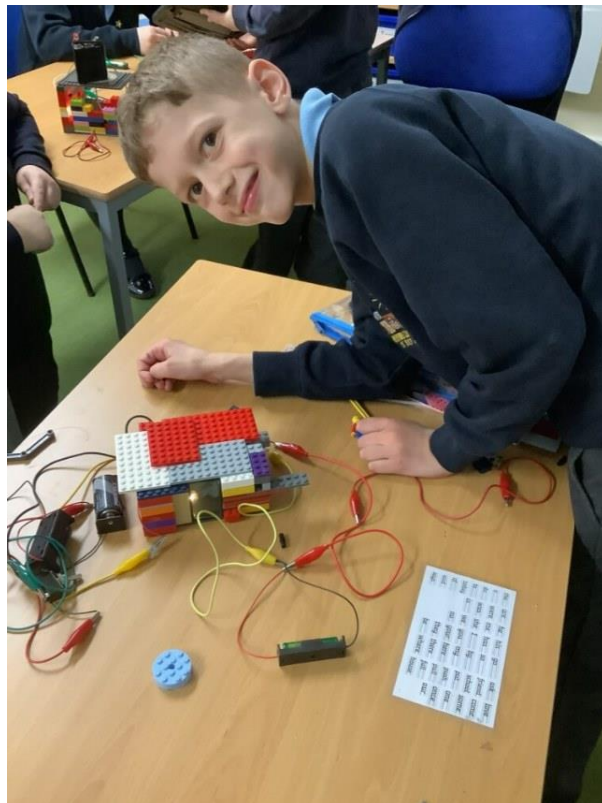
Oak class have been working hard this week on division and have also been investigating shadows in Science this week

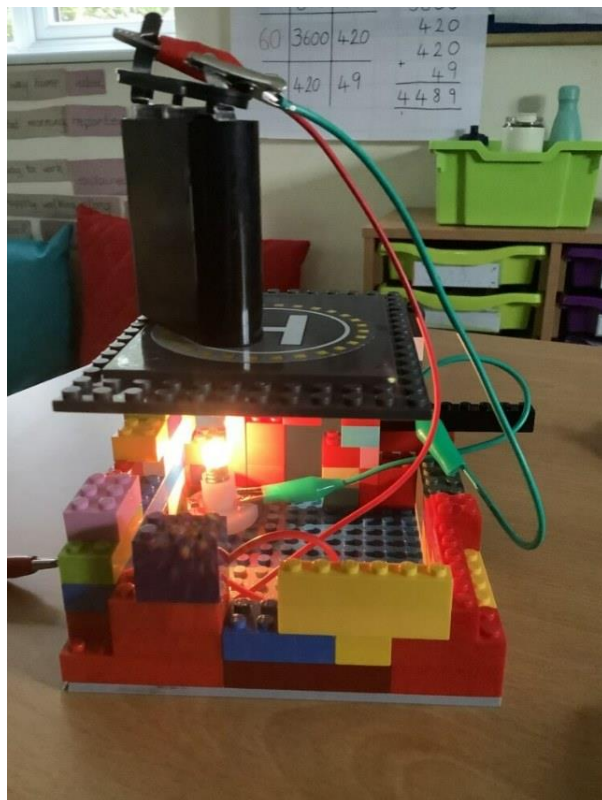
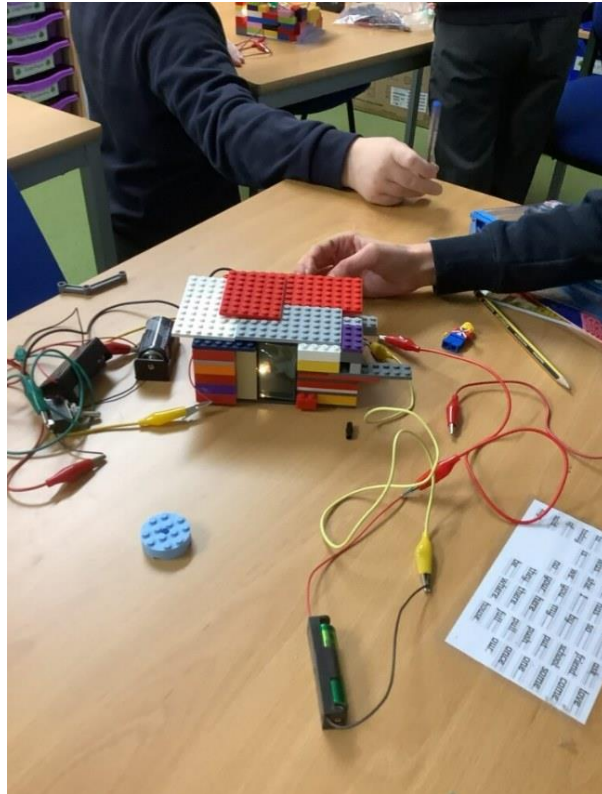


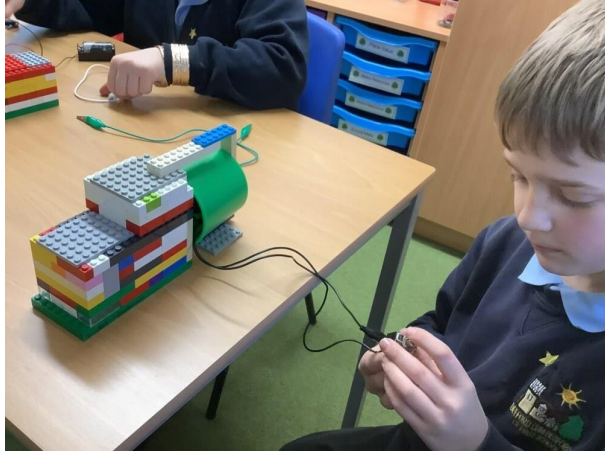


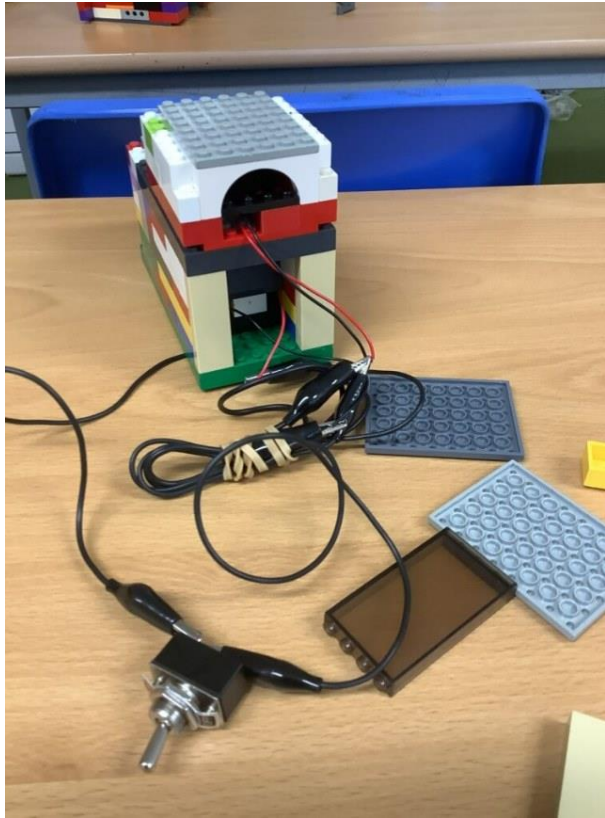
## Ash Class

Ash class have travelled back to 1777 to become investigators to solve the mystery surrounding the leading actor's accident during his performance of William Shakespeare's 'Othello'. We have been analysing clues and developing questions we want to find the answer too. We also became electrical engineers and built our own Lego houses then wired in a light and burglar alarm.











THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, COVENT GARDEN  
ON FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1777  
will be performed a TRAGEDY, called

# OTHELLO

as written by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.  
Directed by MR DAVID GARRICK, manager of the Theatre Royal  
assisted by MR DOMINIC GREENWOODE

## CAST

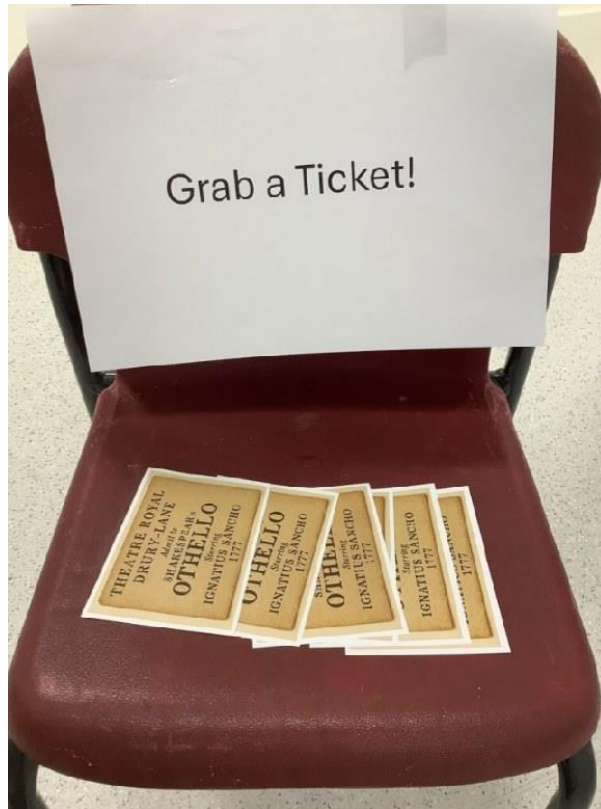
OTHELLO, the Moor of Venice, a General	IGNATIUS SANCHO
IAGO, a soldier, Othello's ensign	WILLIAM ASH
DESDEMONA, wife to Othello	MARY ROBINSON
CASSIO, Othello's lieutenant	RICHARD STEVENSON
RODERIGO, suitor to Desdemona	EDWARD LEWIS
EMILIA, wife to Iago, lady's maid to Desdemona	SUSANNA LAMONT

STAGEHANDS TOM JOHNSON, PUCK PATHAK  
With new music composed by MARY SANCHO

On this occasion the stage will be illuminated with near one  
thousand candles, thanks to a generous donation from  
LORD MANSFIELD, LORD CHIEF JUSTICE

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*The doors will open at half after five o'clock,  
the performance to begin at half an hour after six.*



## Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 96.8%

Birch - 95.2%

Oak - 94.2%

Ash - 96.5%

***Well done to Willow class!***

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.4%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 95%

PODYS next show



**PODYS**  
proudly presents



**WE GO TOGETHER  
GREASE<sup>®</sup>  
19 THE MUSICAL 59**

**SCHOOL EDITION**

**Friday 20th and Saturday 21st  
February 2026**

**Performances at  
2pm and 7pm both days**

**[www.number8.org](http://www.number8.org)  
01386 555488**



Book, Music, and Lyrics by  
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey  
"Hopelessly Devoted to You", "You're The One That I Want",  
"Sandy" and "Grease" used by arrangement with Robert Stigwood  
"GREASE" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance  
materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), [www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)

## February half term at the Museum of Gloucester

### February Half Term at the Museum!

It's a busy Half Term packed with hands-on activities, creative workshops and plenty for families to explore. Creative makes, family fun and brilliant ways to dive into history all week long.

**Art Explorers: Arts & Crafts Trail**  
Sat 14 - Sun 22 Feb | £2 per trail

Follow the trail through puppets, pottery and nature-loving makers, try creative challenges and design your own patterns. Finish it and you'll earn a nature-inspired stamper to take home.

**Making Folk: Crafting Charms and Folk Motifs**  
Sat 14 Feb, 1-4 pm | £5

Get creative with natural materials, beads and fabric as you make your own charms or stitch folk-inspired motifs. For all ages, proudly part of Gloucester Folk Trail.

**Hands On History: Object Handling with the Birdlip Mirror**  
Sun 15 & Wed 18 Feb | £1 donation

Take a closer look at our Birdlip Mirror replicas and discover their stories with our Visitor Experience Assistant. This relaxed drop-in is free, with a suggested £1 donation. Great for families aged 3+.

**Brick Builders Club: The Great Outdoors**  
Tue 17 Feb, 10am - 1pm | £3 per child

Get creative with nature-themed LEGO challenges inspired by our Arts & Crafts displays. Build landscapes, dream up wild creatures or invent something totally new. Pick up fun prompts and let your imagination take over. Suitable for ages 5+.

**Glorious Glevum Tour**  
Wed 18 Feb, 2-3pm | From £5

Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, our resident auxiliary soldier. Discover why the Romans chose Gloucester, what daily life looked like and the hidden treasures inside the museum.

**Medieval Mercenary Tour of the Eastgate Chamber**  
Sat 21 Feb, 2-3pm | From £5

Join Sir Miles, our medieval mercenary, for a fascinating trip into the Eastgate Chamber. Explore its history, uncover old myths and hear the superstitions that have surrounded this hidden space for centuries.



Scan me for more info!



Time flies, and February half-term is approaching fast. At the Museum of Gloucester, we have got some exciting holiday activities coming up, which I would like to share with you:

#### **Art Explorers: Arts & Crafts Trail, 14th – 22nd February, £2 (includes prize)**

Follow the trail through puppets, pottery and nature-loving makers, try creative challenges and design your own patterns. Finish it and you'll earn a nature-inspired stamper to take home.

#### **Making Folk: Crafting Charms and Folk Motives (all ages), 14th February 1-4pm, £5 per person**

Get creative with natural materials, beads and fabric as you make your own charms or stitch folk-inspired motifs. For all ages, proudly part of Gloucester Folk Trail.

#### **Hands On History: Object Handling with the Birdlip Mirror, 15th February 12-1pm & 18th February 11am – 12pm, £1 donation**

Take a closer look at our Birdlip Mirror replicas and discover their stories with our Visitor Experience Assistant. This relaxed drop-in is free, with a suggested £1 donation. Great for families aged 3+.

**Brick Builders Club: The Great Outdoors, 17th February 10am – 1pm, £3 per child, parents go free**

Get creative with nature-themed LEGO challenges inspired by our Arts & Crafts displays. Build landscapes, dream up wild creatures or invent something totally new. Pick up fun prompts and let your imagination take over. Suitable for ages 5+.

**Glorius Glevum Tour, 18th February, 2-3pm, tickets from £5**

Explore Roman Glevum with Lucius Sita, our resident auxiliary soldier. Discover why the Romans chose Gloucester, what daily life looked like and the hidden treasures inside the museum. Suitable for ages 5+.

**Medieval Mercenary Tour of the Eastgate Chamber, 21st February, 2-3pm, tickets from £5**

Join Sir Miles, our medieval mercenary, for a fascinating trip into the Eastgate Chamber. Explore its history, uncover old myths and hear the superstitions that have surrounded this hidden space for centuries. Suitable for ages 5+.

You can also visit us for our regular **Quiet Mornings every Thursday 10am – 12pm**, our free **Discovery Centre** Exhibition in our upstairs gallery, and the temporary exhibition **‘The Time is Now’** in the community gallery.

All listings can be found here: [What's on – Museum of Gloucester](#).

## Exploitation & Online Safety Session for Parents and Carers

West Mercia Police are offering a free online session for parents and carers to help them better understand the risks of exploitation and online safety for children of all ages.

This accessible and informative session will help parents and carers build confidence in recognising risks and supporting their children to stay safe. It will cover:

- Spotting the signs of exploitation and knowing when something isn't right
- How to keep children safe online, including practical steps families can take
- The influence of online personalities and influencers on children's thinking, behaviour, and self-image
- Useful, easy-to-follow safety tips that parents and carers can use straight away

Book your place via: [Online safety \(Child exploitation\) session for parents and guardians Tickets, Fri 6 Mar 2026 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

The session is suitable for those caring for children of any age and will provide reassurance as well as practical guidance.

## Free Spring Term Togetherness Parenting Resources

Please find the link to download the [Spring Term Togetherness newsletter](#) — a set of free, NHS-developed resources to support children’s emotional wellbeing and strengthen parent–child relationships. These resources are fully funded in Worcestershire and can be accessed by families at any time through the [Worcestershire | Togetherness - Togetherness](#) – using free access code PARENTSROCK.

This term’s pack focuses on big emotions, healthy sleep, anxiety, kindness and teenage brain development. Schools and organisations working with children and families are encouraged to share these high-quality materials with parents as part of our wider ambition to improve children’s emotional health and their readiness to learn.

### Dates for your diary

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half term

Friday 27th February - Friends Association Hot Chocolate event at 3.15pm

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