

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School

Newsletter 27th February 2026

Welcome back! I cannot believe we are half way through this academic year - it's whizzing past at quite a pace!

The children have come back with a great attitude and have been getting stuck in to their new units of learning. Thank you to the FA for putting on another Hot Chocolate event today and raising vital funds for the school.

Here's to another half term of wonderful learning experiences in (hopefully) drier weather.

World Book Day 2026

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

We are looking forward to celebrating a love of books on Thursday 5th March. Please consult the separate letter regarding our plans for the day. We can't wait to see your creations and promote the importance of reading.

Additional note - Since distributing the letter, it has become apparent that some parents have already been organising a World Book Day costume. Therefore if any children would like to dress up as a character from a book, then this is fine and we will celebrate your costumes alongside our potato creations. But please do not feel it is mandatory to dress up.

Residential Trip

With us moving to a full Primary School that caters for children up to Year 6 age, we have decided to postpone the KS2 residential trip. This will allow us to offer a residential trip to children when they are in Ash class (Year 5&6) during the next academic year and make sure that all children get the opportunity to take part when they are that little bit older and more comfortable at staying away from home for a few nights. It also helps some of our families who could have received large trip costs over two consecutive years.

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%

Birch - 89.4%

Oak - 94.7%

Ash - 98%

Well done to Ash class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.4%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 95%

Exploitation & Online Safety Session for Parents and Carers

Exploitation & Online Safety Session for Parents and Carers

Hosted by: West Mercia Police

Format: Free online event

Who it's for: Parents, carers, and guardians of children and young people

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

[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

NHS Togetherness Resources

The Spring Term Togetherness update includes 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.**

SENDIASS programme of support in Wychavon

Our [SENDIASS](#) team have launched a new community-based programme, SENDIASS Connects Wychavon, designed to make Special Educational Needs and Disabilities information, advice and support easier for local families to access.

Running from January to March 2026, the programme will offer free training workshops, specialist advice drop-ins for parent carers, and youth drop-ins for children and young people with SEND. Sessions will take place in community venues across Pershore, Evesham and Droitwich.

SENDIASS recognises how important it is for families to receive support locally, and this pilot aims to bring guidance, information and practical help directly into communities. It is hoped that similar programmes will be rolled out across other districts in the future. Full details, including booking links for training sessions, are available at:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSconnects

Programme overview

Pershore – Pershore Riverside Centre

- Transitions Training: 12 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Advisor Drop-ins: 25 February; 16 March (10am–2.30pm)

Evesham – Evesham Library

- Guide to SEND: 26 February, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Transitions Training: 19 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Advisor Drop-ins: 3 March; 26 March (10am–2.30pm)

Droitwich – Droitwich Library / Workpays (Victoria Square)

- Transitions Training: 6 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Advisor Drop-ins (Workpays): 23 February; 11 March (10am– 2.30pm)
- Youth Advice (YPA) Drop-in: 18 March (10am–2.30pm)

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 4th March - Reception class eye tests

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

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 - Mothers day gift workshop

Wednesday 18th March - Reception class Music festival at Pershore High School

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day

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