



Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter 13th March 2026

Look above. I hope you notice the difference?!

We are proud to present our new name and logo! This is an exciting time for our school as we transition from a First School into a Primary School and cater for Year 5 and 6 children in our wonderful setting before they move on to High School.

Our new school logo is rooted in our school's chosen Bible quote from Psalm 1 - 'He is like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding its fruit in season, whose leaf does not wither, and who prospers in all he does'. This verse illustrates the blessings of a life rooted in God's guidance and provision, symbolising stability and prosperity in one's endeavours. The logo also references the beautiful trees on our school site, which is also mirrored in the names of our classes, and our proximity to the River Avon.



This new logo will also mean that we will review our uniform policy ready for September. Jumpers and cardigans bearing the old logo will be still fine to wear initially and we are working with our uniform partners to implement the new design on a uniform and a redesigned PE kit. We are also pleased to say that the governing body has secured funding to purchase a new jumper or cardigan bearing the new logo for every child in the school. More details regarding this will come in the summer term.

The summer term is also when we hope the new building work will start to make our new Upper Key Stage 2 classroom and additional learning space. This will likely cause some disruption or changes to how we operate during the school day. We will communicate these to you clearly when we have a better idea of timescales.

It is certainly an exciting time as we go through this transitional stage, and we look forward to sharing more plans in the near future!

Mr. Hanson

World Book Day



We had a lovely day last week celebrating books and authors. The children did some fantastic potato book characters and many came dressed up as a character from a loved story. Well done and thank you to all who took part!











Books Books Books!



As it is the National Year of Reading, we had a very lovely donation from a local resident to purchase some new books for our library and classrooms. However, we would love some more high quality texts to fill our shelves, properly support our growing Key Stage 2, and foster a real love of reading.

If you are able to support the school by purchasing us a book(s), it would very much benefit our children. We have curated a wish list of texts that we would love to have. Amazon's partners also have a selection of quality second hand books for a couple of pounds each, so please do not feel obliged to purchase 'new'.

Many thanks for your support!

[Click below to view the wish list](#)

[Amazon Wish List](#)

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day 2026 takes place on Friday 20th March.

Children can come to school wearing something red on that day for a donation to the charity.

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 99.6%

Birch - 96.8%

Oak - 92.7%

Ash - 98%

Well done to Willow class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.5%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 94.9%

Pershore Foodbank

Dear Friends of Pershore Foodbank,

I would like to reassure you all that we are working hard at Pershore Foodbank not only to continue to provide emergency support to families in crisis but to remain mindful of our resilience in the face of forthcoming challenges. Looking forward to being able to keep the foodbank running for the foreseeable future is always a priority.

We have been supported in this by your amazing generosity which has continued to provide close to half of our food stocks in the form of donated goods despite the unrelenting upward

creep of domestic prices. Financial donations from both organisations and individuals have also been extremely generous. However, regular sources of funding from Wychavon Council are subject to a great deal of uncertainty due to the current reorganisation.

We have recently been joined by some new and enthusiastic volunteers; this has been very encouraging, especially as many of our stalwarts have been with us since Pershore Foodbank opened in 2014. Speaking of rest: one of our biggest challenges is the storage and transportation of the heavy produce that makes up our food parcels.

The "overspill" warehouse that we took on last year has proved unable to withstand the worst of the winter weather and so finding additional storage space is again a priority. Our distribution centre at St Andrew's Church does not allow for any reserves over and above those needed for the current session so having somewhere nearby where we can sort, prepare and store our additional stocks is very necessary. Any suggestions you might have would be very welcome.

Again, sincerest thanks for all your support.

Nicola Ainsworth

Pershore Foodbank

St Andrews Church Walk

Pershore

Office for post Abbey Office, 11 Broad St Pershore, WR10 1BB

Tel 01386 555347

OPEN Tuesdays 11.00 to 13.00

OPEN Fridays 13.00-15.00

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) bookings now open](#)

The Department for Education funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has been extended for a further three years (2026–2028), continuing to provide vital support to children and young people from low-income families.

This Easter, over 50 holiday club providers across Worcestershire will be offering thousands of FREE holiday activity places for children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM). The HAF programme supports children to:

- Access enriching experiences

- Stay safe and connected
- Be more physically active
- Enjoy healthy meals
- Remain engaged during school holidays
- Children aged 5-16 who are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals can book up to 4 FREE holiday club sessions over the Easter holidays.
- Bookings open Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 12 noon.
- There is no need to pre-register before bookings go live.
- Families can browse activities as they are added and book directly via the link below.

[Browse and book sessions for Easter 2026](#)

For more information about HAF, please visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HAF>

New SEND Newsletter for Parent Carers

We're pleased to share our refreshed SEND newsletter, published on behalf of the Local Area Partnership (Worcestershire County Council and NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire).

The newsletter is designed for parent carers and practitioners and includes updates on services for children and young people with SEND, along with progress against our improvement plan. Parent carers told us they wanted a clearer, more professional newsletter delivered through a modern platform. In response, we are now using Mailchimp to make our updates easier to read, access and share.

You can read the latest edition here: [SEND News and Updates - February](#)

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TEWKESBURY SPORTS CENTRE
KIDS CAMPS

TEWKESBURY ACADEMY
SPORTS CENTRE

**30TH MARCH-2ND APRIL 08.30
 16.00**
7TH APRIL -10TH APRIL 08.30-16.00

ACTIVITIES

- BALL GAMES
- BADMINTON
- DODGEBALL
- SWIMMING
- TEAM GAMES

AGES 5-13

£24.00 PER DAY

WEEK 1 WILL ALSO INCLUDE EASTER ARTS AND CRAFTS ON TUESDAY 31ST MARCH AND WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW:
BOOKWHEN.COM/EASTERHOLIDAYCOURSES**

Dates for your diary

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

Thursday 19th March - Art exhibition private viewing at Number 8 4-6pm (Oak & Ash children)

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day

Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th March - Parents evenings taking place

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)

Wednesday 15th April - Birch class trip to Spetchley Gardens

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