

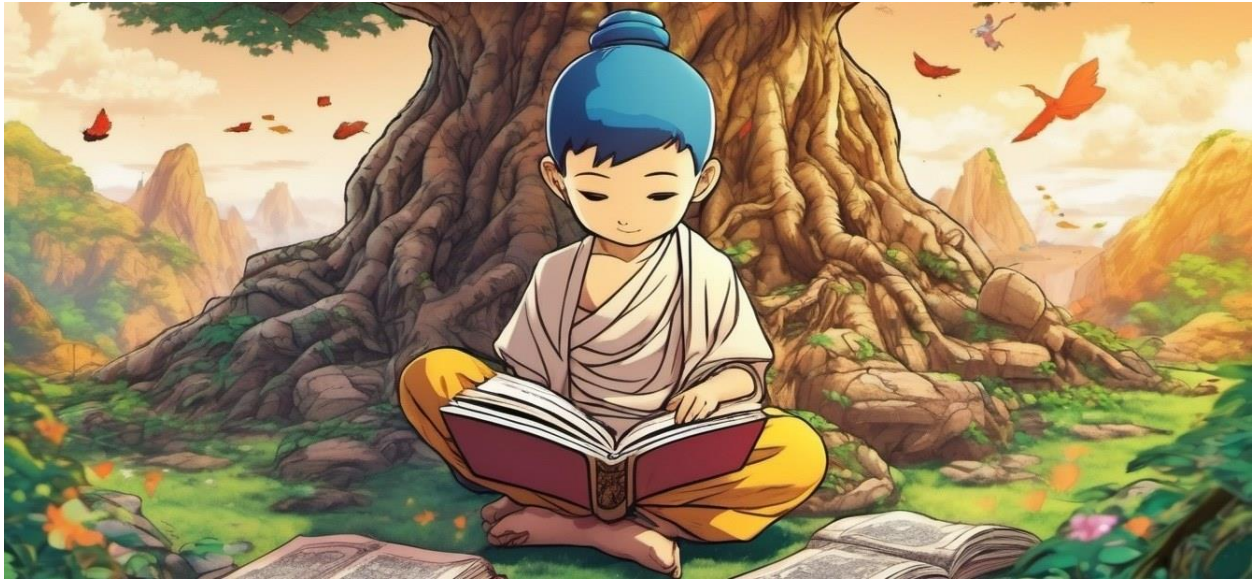


## Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter 27th March 2026

We can't believe that this term has gone so quickly! Thank you to our families who were able to join us for our Easter service in church - it was a lovely end to the term. Also, a big thank you to the FA for organising a lovely Easter Egg-travaganza! Have a wonderful Easter break (don't eat too much chocolate!) and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 14th April.

Mr Hanson

## Reading for Pleasure Workshop



On Tuesday 14th April at 2:30pm, Mr Hanson will be running a parent workshop all about reading for pleasure.

Developing a love of reading and promoting reading for pleasure is the single greatest thing you can do to improve your child's academic ability and improve their life chances.

During the workshop, we will discuss why reading has such an impact; look at the barriers that might face families and how to overcome these; and share different texts that promote reading for pleasure.

This workshop is suitable for parents of children of any age and will be completed by 3:15pm to allow parents to collect their children from school as normal.

[Year of Reading](#)

## Adventure Day



Although we are moving our residential trip to Year 5 & 6 and will be putting it on during the 2026-2027 academic year, we are excited to announce that KS2 will be going on an adventure day at Boundless Outdoors in West Malvern during the last week of summer term. This will be a day filled with exciting activities to push children's perseverance and determination as well as building stronger friendship bonds through teamwork and support. It will also be a wonderful way to finish the year.

More information regarding this event will be shared soon.

## Transition to High School



Whatever year your child is in, you may be thinking about what their next steps will be once they leave our school. As we turn into a Primary School, this jump may feel larger than it would have been under the three tier system. We are committed to making sure this process is smooth and manageable for all of our children. Not only will they not be at a disadvantage, they will have had longer to thrive in our lovely village school with the nurture, care and attention that they can only get in a place like ours!

We are following the same transition guidance that has been implemented by Worcestershire County Council as all schools and this will be clearly communicated to our community as appropriate.

This week we have been in contact with both Pershore High School and Hanley Castle High School to arrange a Q&A visit from one of their transition staff and to organise other events in the summer term. We have also prepared the RSHE transition materials to be delivered in our Year 5 PSHE lessons next term.

## Easter Prayers

These are the prayers that were read by Leanne, Ronnie and Harry in church this morning.

### 1. The Prayer of Celebration

Dear God,

Thank you for the joy of Easter morning and the new life we see all around us. As the flowers bloom and the days grow brighter, we celebrate the hope that Jesus brings. Thank you that even after the darkest times, light breaks through. Help us to carry this Easter joy in our hearts today and every day.

### 2. The Prayer for Our World

Dear God,

At Easter time, we think of others near and far. We pray for people who are feeling lonely, sad, or afraid. Just as spring brings new life to the earth, we pray for peace and healing in places of conflict. Help us to be kind to one another and to be people who bring hope and friendship to our school and our community.

### 3. The Prayer of Growth

Dear God,

As we look forward to the holidays, help us to grow in wisdom and kindness. Just like a seed growing in the ground, help the good things we learn in school to take root in our lives. Guide us to use our talents to help others and to make the world a brighter place. Thank you for your love that never ends.

## Screen Time



With [this article](#) being on BBC News today - it's worth thinking about how much screen time children will be getting over the Easter break. Whether it is encouraging the children to play in the garden, go on family walks, play at the park, visit the library, visit a museum, play with toys, draw, make, paint - there are lots of ways to avoid reliance on screens and give children a break from them. Hopefully their holiday will be full of lovely opportunities to do these things and create wonderful memories.

[Things to do in Worcestershire over Easter](#)

[Easter Books](#)

## Car park & Parking

Please note that the staff car park is for staff cars, parents with prior permission given or parents who are using Wrap Round care only. Parents are politely asked to park considerately on Hill View, or in the village hall car park and not to block the entrance to the school or other residents' driveways.

Thank you for your support!

## Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 94.5%

Birch - 92.5%

Oak - 90.2%

Ash - 98.0%

***Well done to Ash class!***

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.3%

National - 94.9%

Local Authority - 95.0%

## Raring2go!

The spring edition of the Raring2go! Hereford & Worcester magazine is available now. Please follow the link below -

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/herefordandworcester/spring2026/>

# Healthy Family Fun Day

**Healthy Family**  **FAMILY HUBS**

**Fun Day**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 10am - 2pm  
Wallace House Community Centre  
Oat Street  
Evesham, WR11 4JP

 *Healthy snacks*  
*Glitter tattoos*  
*Fun activities* 

*Free goodie bag per family*  
*Friendly advice from our team*  
*Topics covered:*  
*Oral health, sleep, staying active,*  
*healthy food choices, maintaining a*  
*healthy lifestyle..*

**Free event**

**Everyone welcome, no need to book**

[worcestershire.gov.uk/FamilyHubs](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/FamilyHubs)    

Taking place on Friday 27th March at Wallace House Community Centre, Evesham, the Healthy Family Fun Day is a fun opportunity for families to access advice from the Family Hub team.

## The Children's Toothbrushing Guide



Developed in collaboration with the Early Years sector, the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry and the Oral Health Foundation, the newly launched [Children's Toothbrushing Guide](#) supports healthy routines from the earliest years and provides consistent, evidence-informed messaging for families.

### Family Hub Programme of Events

Parents and carers can access a range of services from their local Family Hub, including things such as Wellbeing Walks, Healthy You Healthy Baby sessions and Becoming 3 interactive play sessions.

Families can book via: [Book workshops, groups and courses run by family hubs | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## Meningitis Information

**UK Health Security Agency** **Meningitis now**

**MENINGITIS + SEPTICAEMIA**

Meningitis is a serious condition where the protective layers around the brain and spinal cord become inflamed. Septicaemia is when the bacteria enter the bloodstream to cause blood poisoning. They can happen to anyone, so it's important to know the symptoms and risks.

Early symptoms, such as fever, vomiting, aches, muscle pain, cold hands and feet and headaches, can look similar to common illnesses like colds or flu. But someone with meningitis or septicaemia will usually become seriously ill in a matter of hours. That's why it's crucial to keep checking on anyone who is unwell.

**MENINGITIS SYMPTOMS?**

- fever
- a very bad headache (this alone is not a reason to get medical help)
- vomiting
- stiff neck
- dislike of bright lights
- rash (DO NOT wait for a rash to appear before seeking medical advice)
- confusion, delirium
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness
- fits

**SEPTICAEMIA SYMPTOMS?**

- fever and shivering
- severe pains and aches in limbs and joints
- vomiting
- very cold hands and feet
- pale or blotchy skin
- rapid breathing
- diarrhoea and stomach cramps
- red or purple 'bruised' or blotchy rash on skin that does not fade under pressure - do the glass test. On dark skin, check paler areas of the skin, such as the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, inside the mouth (roof), and the eyelids
- difficulty walking or standing
- severe sleepiness, losing consciousness

If you become worried about yourself, your child, or a friend, particularly if symptoms are getting worse, seek medical help urgently.

**EARLY TREATMENT CAN BE LIFE-SAVING.**

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 14th April - Children return to school

Tuesday 14th April - Reading for Pleasure parents workshop 2.30-3.15pm

Wednesday 15th April - Birch class trip to Spetchley Gardens

Friday 17th April - Poetry Festival (/selected students)

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

Thursday 21st May - Friends Association Disco

Monday 25th - Friday 28th - Half Term