



Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter 24th April 2026

What lovely weather we have received so far this term. It's been great to use the school field and give the children opportunity to really run around and our playtimes have been full of fun and laughter. Long may it continue!

Reading Workshop

Thank you to all the parents who attended our reading for pleasure workshop last week. Although small in number, the session was enjoyed by all and we received some positive feedback and suggestions about the event.

One piece of feedback was that parents are not always sure of what quality books are available and recommended. Therefore it was asked that we highlight a small selection of recommended reads each week on our newsletter, which they could then find in a bookshop or borrow from the library. You can find the first installment below!

Five Star Rating



I am delighted to inform you that we had an inspection from the food standards agency this week, and they have given our school a 5 star review regarding our food hygiene handling, premises cleanliness and management of food safety.


Poetry Festival

Children from Oak & Ash Class attended a Cluster Poetry Festival at Upton Snodsbury Village hall and Church where they joined pupils from other local schools to prepare and then perform a poem. It was a lovely afternoon and the children were a credit to the school!









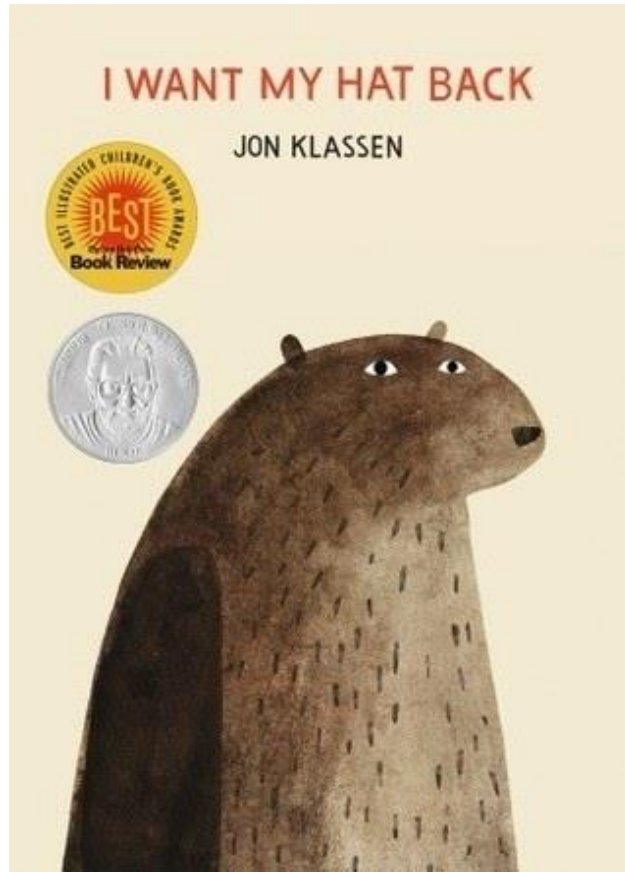
Boost your child's confidence, improve their communication and develop performance and oracy skills with in person or online LAMDA lessons.

Gain recognised qualifications, including UCAS points or just explore the world of speaking and performing; my tailored lessons make it fun and inspiring!

Contact Marianne Campbell to find out more
07828140024

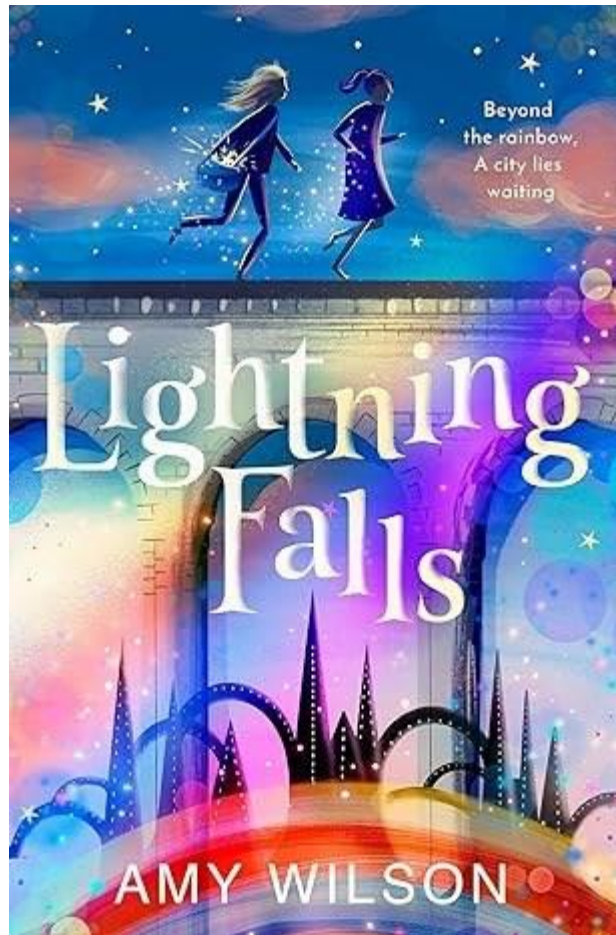
Reading Recommendations

Click on the caption to find out a little more about the book. If you do read it, I'd love to know how you found it. Even better, write a review and we can publish it in the library or on this newsletter!



1 - 'I want my hat back' by Jon Klassen.

A brilliant best-selling picture book full of deadpan humour and visual story telling. The story follows a bear who has lost his red, pointy hat. He asks various animals if they have seen it, before he realises where it is. It's darkly comedic ending makes this an absolute classic.



2 - '*Lightning Falls*' by Amy Willson.

Valerie has been living at Lightning Falls nearly all her life. She's perfectly happy helping Meg and the rest of the family to haunt the guests who come to stay there at the crumbling Ghost House. One night, she sees a strange boy, Joe, up on the viaduct. There she discovers that beneath the river is a bridge – one that will take her to the world of Orbis, which Joe claims is her real home. A world that is under threat. Plunged into a dangerous adventure, as the link between the two worlds begins to crumble, Valerie is forced to confront the truth about herself . . .

Suitable for more confident readers, or used as a bedtime story, this heartwarming magical adventure is fast paced and hard to put down.

Transition

On Wednesday 6th May, Mrs Butler from Pershore High School, will come into school to discuss the move to high school with our Year 5 children and answer any questions and worries the children may have.

Understanding your child - from toddler to teenager



This online pathway, normally £39, is likely to be free if you put in your postcode.

Suitable for parents, carers or grandparents, this is a journey of understanding emotional health, wellbeing and behaviour so we can raise confident, kind and emotionally aware and resilient young people.

[Understanding your child](#)

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 91.7%

Birch - 96.9%

Oak - 95.3%

Ash - 100%

Well done to Ash class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.3%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 95.0%

What I wish my parents or carers knew guide....

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a guide to help parents and carers navigate the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits. Written with direct input from children and young people, including teenagers consulted in schools and the Commissioner's Youth Ambassadors. The guide is designed to make difficult conversations easier and more regular.

The guide covers setting boundaries around phone use, talking about harmful content, and building ongoing communication that goes beyond a one-off conversation. The voice of young people runs through it, including this from one teenager: "Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting their behaviour, just take it that you know best, they don't."

https://issuu.com/childrenscommissioner/docs/what_i_wish_my_parents_or_carers_knew...a_guide_on

Free emotional health and wellbeing support for families

We're pleased to share the April edition of the [Togetherness Parent Wellbeing Newsletter](#)

The newsletter below includes a short round-up of helpful reads, videos and online support for parents of school-aged children.

SENDIASS Connects Family Hubs

The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) have teamed up with Worcestershire Best Start Family Hubs to deliver their brand-new training workshop at community venues across Worcestershire.

Supporting your child to cope with change and the transition to school is a 2-part workshop aimed at parents/carers of children 0-5 due to start school in the next few years.

The first session will focus on supporting children to cope with small everyday changes like moving from one task to another. The second session will focus on preparing your child for starting school.

You can expect practical guidance, tips and resources to support your child through change.

Kidderminster - Brookside Family Hub, 21st and 28th April 10am-12pm

Redditch - Holly Trees Family Hub, 7th and 14th May 10am-12pm

Droitwich - WANDS Family Hub, 11th and 18th June 10am-12pm

Find out more and book your free space here: [SENDIASS training at Worcestershire Family Hubs](#)

Dates for your diary

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

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday

Wednesday 6th May - Pershore High School in to talk to Ash Class about transition

Tuesday 14th May - Willow class trip to Sandfield Farm

Thursday 21st May - Friends Association Disco

Monday 25th - Friday 28th - Half Term