

# Defford and Besford CE Primary School

## Newsletter 8th May 2026

Welcome to our latest newsletter! As we race through the summer term, the school is buzzing with energy. The children are seeing the fruition of all their hard work they have been putting in across the year and it's lovely to have so many children eager to show me their wonderful writing and the efforts they have been putting into their presentation.

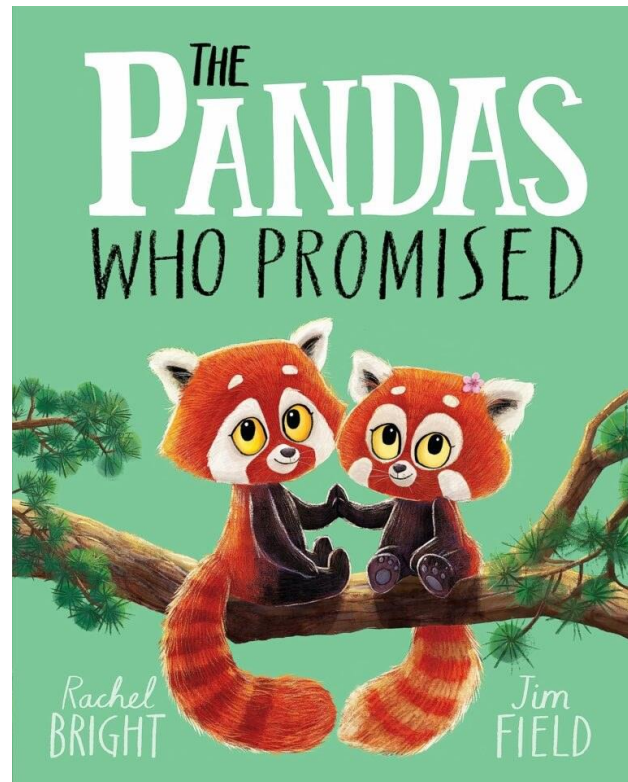
We also have many exciting events to look forward to. With our youngest children visiting the farm and our older children getting ready for bell-boating and an Adventure Day at Boundless Outdoors, there's plenty to look forward to. We will also be making preparations for sports day too!

It's sure to be a memorable term and we can't wait to see the children shine in the new environments and challenges.

Mr Hanson

### [Book recommendations](#)

Continuing our initiative to highlight high quality contemporary fiction to our families - here are two more books that are bound to delight!



*1 - High on a misty mountainside, red panda cubs Popo and Ketu live happily with their mama. As the sisters grow, they promise that they will ALWAYS stay close to home. But while Popo is content to stay in the family's cosy treetop nest, bold Ketu dreams of excitement and exploration. And so when Ketu creeps off down the mountain in search of adventure, Popo must make a choice: will she keep her promise to Mama, or look after her sister?*

*An epic tale about family, love and the power of keeping a promise.*



2 - In the first book of the Lightfall series, Bea and Cad are two unlikely friends who get swept up in a quest way above their pay grade to save their world from falling into eternal darkness. This graphic novel has the most beautiful illustrations and you can get lost just looking at the wonderful artwork.

*Book 4 has been released this week, and now is the perfect time to start this adventure!*

## Book Wishlist

Thank you to the wonderful members of our community who have purchased new books for us to refill our library or who have scoured charity shops looking for quality texts for our children to enjoy.

If you would like to support our school, the wish list is still [here](#)

## Screen advice

Some advice here for screen time with very young children. However, the points that children should not have phones, tablets or computers in their bedroom over night and that screen time should be avoided two hours before bedtime could be applied to all ages of child. Food for thought!

*'Bedtime stories are the best and healthiest way to settle your child'*

## Birth to 5 years

### YOUR TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCREEN TIME

'Studies have shown that too much screen time can cause babies and toddlers to **learn fewer words** and have **slower language development**. Excessive use of screens is also being strongly linked to **behavioural difficulties** in very young children.'

**0 - 24 months**

**2 - 5 year olds**

**30 mins**

**Watching lots of short videos is being linked to concentration difficulties in children.**

**Bigger is better**

**Try a cuddle or a game**

**Phones, tablets and computers should not be in any child's bedroom overnight.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 NO screen time** between birth - 24 months except for video chatting with family and friends.
- 2 30 MINS screen time.** Children aged 2 - 5 years old should not be on screens for more than 30 mins per day.
- 3 BIGGER screens.** If your child is ready to play a short game then try to use a larger screen like a tablet or computer screen. These cause less visual strain than a phone.
- 4 AVOID** using a device to settle your child down. Evidence shows this makes their anger and frustration worse in later life. **Instead try a book, a game outdoors, or just a cuddle.**
- 5 \*SLEEP HYGIENE.** Under 5s should **not use a screen** for at least **2 HOURS BEFORE BEDTIME**, to aid their natural sleep pattern.

## Transition

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Butler, who will be the new headteacher of Pershore High School in September, to our school to chat to our year 5 children about the transition to High School.

The session was very informative and covered all aspects of High School life, from what the canteen offered to eat, to what a typical day looks like, to the clubs and trips on offer, to what support is on offer if they are finding things tricky.

It was really positive and the children asked lots of questions and all felt much more confident after meeting a friendly senior member of staff and getting to know all about what will happen in the near future.

## Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 97.9%

Birch - 96.4%

Oak - 94.3%

Ash - 96%

**Well done to Willow class!**

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.3%

National - 94.8%

Local Authority - 95%

## Friends Association School Disco



The Friends Association are very excited to be holding a Summer Disco for the children on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We have professional DJ Les Croy coming in to take the disco and make sure a fun time is had by all! The disco will be at 4:30pm-6pm in the school hall and is open to all children at Defford School but we ask that pre-schoolers are accompanied by an adult. The cost of the Disco is £4 per child and they may come in fancy dress or party clothes, whichever they feel comfortable in.

Please return the reply slips and money to the school office by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the latest, you can either pay by cash, bank transfer or online at:  
<https://defford-cum-besford-first-school-friends-association.sumupstore.com>  
Bank Details: Sort Code 30-93-11 Account 01912350 **\*\*Please reference your Child's name.\*\***

Many Thanks,

*Friends Association Committee*

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### Summer Disco

Child/Children's name/s.....

Best contact number on evening.....

Parent Signature.....

Payment Total: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid Via SumUp  Paid Via Cash  Paid Via Bank Transfer

Defford cum Besford C of E First School Friends Association, Hill View, Defford, Worcester WR89BH Registered Charity number:1101986

The Friends Association are very excited to be holding a Summer Disco for the children on Thursday 21st May. We have professional DJ Les Croy coming in to take the disco and make sure a fun time is had by all!

The disco will be at 4:30pm-6pm in the school hall and is open to all children at Defford School but we ask that preschoolers are accompanied by an adult.

The cost of the Disco is £4 per child and they may come in fancy dress or party clothes, whichever they feel comfortable in.

**A letter will be coming home with children today, please return the reply slips and money to the school office by Monday 18th May at the latest**, you can either pay by cash, bank transfer or online at: <https://defford-cum-besford-first-school-friends-association.sumupstore.com>

Bank Details: Sort Code 30-93-11 Account 01912350 **\*\*Please reference your Child's name.\*\***

Many Thanks,

Friends Association Committee

## Pershore Foodbank

Dear Friends of Pershore Foodbank,

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that, strengthened by some keen new volunteers, we find ourselves in a strong position to face the uncertain future and still provide a service to people in crisis in Pershore and the surrounding villages.

Groceries are increasing in price all the time at the moment and it is becoming more difficult for our regular donors to pop the few extra items into the collection bins when their own bills are going up so much. We are very grateful for the generosity of those that do.

The Household Support Fund from Wychavon Council with which we used to purchase top-up supplies has come to an end. We await the results of Worcestershire's reorganisation to find out whether additional funds will be available to us. In the meantime we are, of course, grateful for any fundraising suggestions coming in from the community.

If you are in a position to organise any collections we are always grateful for:

tinned goods of any variety  
dried goods such as pasta, rice & cereals  
sauces & condiments  
toiletries and cleaning materials

thanking you so much for your continued support.

sincerely

Administrator

Pershore Foodbank

St Andrews

Church Walk

Pershore

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

Tel 01386 555347

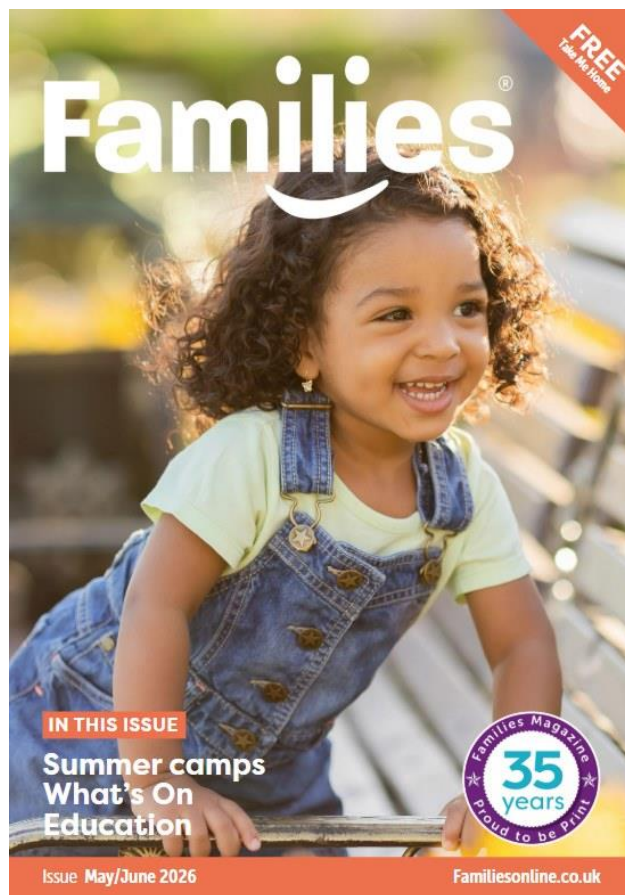
OPEN Tuesdays 11.00 to 13.00

OPEN Fridays 13.00-15.00

## Families Magazine

Here is the link to the May / June Families Magazine -

[Families Magazine May/June 2026 by Families Magazine - Issuu](#)



## Community Donations Appeal – Supporting People Across Wychavon & Worcestershire

Across Worcestershire — including Wychavon communities such as Evesham, Pershore and Droitwich — we are continuing to see growing demand for support from people experiencing homelessness, crisis and severe hardship. While homelessness is often associated with larger towns and cities, we know that hidden hardship and financial pressure are affecting people across rural communities too. At the moment, we are particularly struggling for donations of basic everyday essentials, including:

- Shower gel and soap
- Shampoo and deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Razors and shaving foam
- Men's underwear and socks
- Tea, coffee and squash
- Sugar and long-life milk
- Pot noodles and easy-to-prepare food

These simple items can make an enormous difference to somebody accessing support, helping provide comfort, dignity and a sense of normality during incredibly difficult times.

Further information can also be found here: <https://www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/latest-news/donations-wishlist/>



## Pinvin Performance Club Years 1-6

Does your child love to sing, dance and act?

As a local Arts and Wellbeing CIC, we are writing to inform you of a local performance club that we run at Pinvin Memorial Hall every Thursday.

These classes are for year 1- year 6 and comprise of Dancing, Singing and Acting in a non examination environment. The classes are fully inclusive and we use the arts to help build creativity, confidence and resilience within communities.

Each year the children work towards 2 shows, one at the end of the summer term and one at Christmas.

If your child is interested, please email Clare on [info@rubixartsandwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:info@rubixartsandwellbeing.co.uk)



**Rubix**  
Arts & Wellbeing

**PINVIN PERFORMANCE CLUB**  
RUBIX ARTS AND WELLBEING CIC

**Pinvin Performance Club**

Year 1- 6 (5-11 yr olds)  
Thursdays @  
Pinvin Village Memorial Hall,  
Pinvin, WR10 2ER  
4:30- 5:15pm  
FIRST CLASS FREE

**Dance, Act, Sing**  
Build confidence, have fun,  
learn new skills

To register your child's  
place email Clare on:  
[info@rubixartsandwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:info@rubixartsandwellbeing.co.uk)

## May half term holiday club - Monkeys in Motion



Dance, perform and shine like a pop star! Inspired by Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodrigo and Dua Lipa, this high-energy workshop features concert-style routines, games, creative fun and an epic Glow Concert Party!

A colorful graphic with a yellow background and red and blue wavy lines. It features several yellow stars and a pencil. The text is arranged in a list-like format, providing details about the event dates, times, and ticket prices.

**Two DAYS!**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
Norton Parish Hall

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
Leigh & Bransford Hall

Learn concert-style dance routines  
Perform like a Pop star  
Create your own accessories  
Glow concert Party finale!

9.00-1.00pm age 3 & 4 £20  
9.00-3.30pm age 5-11 £30

Book tickets: [www.monkeysinmotion.co.uk](http://www.monkeysinmotion.co.uk)

## Summer Drama Academy



**ACTING UP!**  
**SUMMER  
DRAMA  
ACADEMY**

28th - 30th July, 9:00am - 3:30pm  
Tewkesbury Baptist Church

Acting! Singing! Dancing! Games!  
Musical Theatre! Arts & Crafts!

Showcase performance  
on the final afternoon!

Suitable for children and young people aged 6 - 18 years!

£10 off all bookings taken before May 1st 2026.

For more information, or to reserve your place, please  
contact [emily@actinguptheatre.co.uk](mailto:emily@actinguptheatre.co.uk)

[www.actinguptheatre.co.uk](http://www.actinguptheatre.co.uk)

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 12th May - Willow class trip to Sandfield Farm

Thursday 21st May - Friends Association Disco 4.30-6pm

Monday 25th - Friday 28th - Half Term

Monday 1st June - Oak & Ash class bell boating

Tuesday 9th June - September intake Year R Parents information meeting 3.30-4.30pm

Friday 12th June - Preschool Open morning 9.30-11am for prospective new families

Thursday 25th June - Oak & Ash class bell boating regatta (Swimming in the afternoon)

Wednesday 8th July - Smash Hits concert for families of children who take part 9.30-10am

Wednesday 8th July - Sports Day 1-3.15pm

Tuesday 14th July - Sports Day Reserve

Wednesday 15th July - Oak & Ash Boundless Outdoors Activity Day

Monday 20th July - Tuesday 1st September - Summer Holidays

## Term Dates for 2026-2027 Academic Year



Defford and Besford CofE Primary School

'Through faith, friendship and fun we learn and grow'

Term Dates Academic Year 2026/2027		
<b>AUTUMN TERM 2026</b>		
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026	Teacher Education Day (TED)	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026	Autumn Term Starts	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026	Break up for Half Term	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026		Half Term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2026		Back to school
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026	Autumn Term Ends	
<b>SPRING TERM 2027</b>		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	Teacher Education Day (TED)	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	Teacher Education Day (TED)	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	Spring term starts	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2027	Break up for Half Term	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027		Half Term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2027		Back to School
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2027	Spring Term Ends	
<b>SUMMER TERM 2027</b>		
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2027	Summer Term starts	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027	Bank Holiday	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2027	Break up for Half term	
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027		Half Term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2027		Back to School
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2027	Teacher Education Day (TED)	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2027	Summer term ends	
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2027	Teacher Education Day (TED)	

TED days are government policy to enable staff to be trained for the ever changing needs of education, and are taken off school holidays. They do not reduce the number of days children spend in school each year. Where possible we endeavor to ensure that dates remain fixed. However, in unavoidable situations they may be subject to change. We will give as much notice as possible of any changes to the dates.