

# Defford and Besford CE Primary School

## Newsletter 22nd May 2026

It's been such a busy half term and it's been wonderful seeing the children grow in their confidence and ability over this time. A big thank you to the FA for organising and running their summer disco yesterday.

Have a wonderful half term and we'll see you in June!

Mr Hanson

### Staffing Update

After half term we will be welcoming a new teaching assistant to our school. Mr Weston is an experienced TA who will be supporting Birch class.

There are some additional changes in September:

Miss Hamblin will be leaving Defford to pursue new professional opportunities. We wish her the very best and know she will be sorely missed. We are currently advertising for a new member of the teaching staff and hope to appoint an excellent practitioner during this term.

Mrs Brighton will be working an additional day in Willow class from September. This will allow Mrs Standing additional time to support the children at Defford in her SEND Coordinator role. Mrs Brighton and Mrs Standing will work closely together to ensure that our youngest children continue to have an outstanding start to their education.

Mrs Phillips, who has been a lunchtime supervisor and teaching assistant will be leaving her school role but will still be part of our school community as a parent.

As we move into September with a Year 6 cohort, there will be a few logistical changes to the timetable. However, most of the staffing positions will remain consistent through the year. This will be communicated next half term.

# Pershore Sea Cadets

Ash class were pleased to welcome a representative from the Sea Cadets this week, who told them all about the organisation and the skills that the children would learn during their time as a cadet. Very interesting!



**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

Each week, across the UK, 1000 trained Sea Cadets volunteers commit their spare time to help young people launch themselves into new adventures.

Sea Cadets is committed to equality and diversity and take the safety of young people very seriously. Our safeguarding policy safeguards young people and places their health and welfare at the top of our priorities.

Through new adventures, you'll learn skills, try new things and find it easier to tackle more challenges in the future!

We've got spaces for adventurous 9-11 year olds to 25-UP!

Get in touch: today to arrange your visit and see what Sea Cadets is all about.

Find your nearest unit: [sea-cadets.org/units](http://sea-cadets.org/units) Or scan the QR code.

**JOIN US**



**LAUNCH INTO A NEW ADVENTURE**

**SEA CADETS**

## The Junior Programme

SKILLS YOU LEARN AT YOUR UNIT	THINGS YOU CAN DO ON THE WATER	COMMUNITY AND CITIZENSHIP EVENTS	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TO GET STUCK INTO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First aid</li> <li>Knot tying</li> <li>Code breaking</li> <li>Cooking &amp; food safety</li> <li>Marching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raft building</li> <li>Rowing</li> <li>Sailing</li> <li>Paddlesports</li> <li>Swimming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navigation</li> <li>Helping others</li> <li>Cultures &amp; religions</li> <li>Parades</li> <li>Emergency services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rock climbing</li> <li>Survival skills</li> <li>Camp craft</li> <li>Abseiling</li> <li>Sports</li> </ul>



**Pershore Sea Cadets**  
Aged 10-12? Looking for fun, friendships and unforgettable experiences?

**We have spaces available for spirited young adventures on Friday evenings 7-9pm**

- Build Confidence, Teamwork and Leadership
- Waterborne Activities, Learn Boating and Water Safety
- Outdoor Adventures: Explore Nature, Camping
- STEM, Art and Environment Projects
- Make a Difference In Your Community and Earn Badges!

**Be Bold - Be Curious!**

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[/PershoreSeaCadets](https://www.facebook.com/PershoreSeaCadets)  
[sea-cadets.org/pershore](http://sea-cadets.org/pershore)



Willow Bedtime Story afternoon









## Friends Association Half Term Smartie Challenge



The poster features the Defford Friends Association logo at the top left, which includes a circular emblem with a tree and the text 'DEFFORD AND BESFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL'. The main title 'Defford Friends Association' is in a colorful, playful font, with 'Smarties Challenge' in large, bold letters below it. Two Smarties tubes are shown on either side, spilling colorful candies. The text of the challenge is centered, and the Warner's Supermarkets logo is at the bottom right. The background is white with a blue border.

**Defford Friends Association**

**SMARTIES CHALLENGE**

We are giving you these **smarties** to eat.  
But the empty tube, you must keep.  
**20p** pieces (or **£1's & notes** 😊) you must find.  
Ask friends and family (if they don't mind).  
Fill up your tube, right to the top.  
Return it after half term for our charity pot.

**The class that raises the most will win a prize. 😊**

Smarties and Class prize has kindly been donated by **warner's SUPERMARKETS**

Defford-cum-Besford C Of E First School Friends Association  
Hill View, Defford, Worcester, WR8 9BH  
Registered Charity Number: 1101986

## Friends Association EGM

The Friends Association will be holding an EGM on Tuesday 16th June at 2pm in school to enable them to change the name of the charity to the new school name. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

## Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 82.9%

Birch - 91.3%

Oak - 89.6%

Ash - 97.9%

**Well done to Ash class!**

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 94.9%

National - 94.9%

Local Authority - 95%

## Rob Clements - Guitar Teacher

Rob, our guitar teacher who attends school and teaches on a Tuesday is releasing an album on **22nd May**.

You can check out the links here: <https://linktr.ee/thegoodwater> Limited edition vinyl will be available from their online store from release day.

Also they are marking the occasion with an album launch show at the Hare & Hounds (Birmingham). Details and tickets are up on our website.

Rob hopes you enjoy the new record.

If you are interested in your child taking up guitar lessons with Rob, please contact him directly via email - [robclements44@hotmail.com](mailto:robclements44@hotmail.com)

## Worcestershire Wildlife Trust Holiday Fun

**Wild school holiday fun**  
Don't get bored in the school holidays - try our fun nature activities instead!

**Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**

**Make a nectar bar**  
No matter how big or small your space, there's a lot you can do to help our insects!

1. You'll need a window box (or two if you've got space) with drainage holes.
2. Use peat free compost in your window box.
3. Stock up on pollinator-friendly plants that are suitable for window boxes. Choose from lavender, thyme, sage, agapanthus and rosemary.
4. Water regularly throughout the summer!

**Make a butterfly painting**  
You will need water-based paints, brushes, sugar paper, marker pens and plenty of newspaper to cover your table.

1. Fold a piece of sugar paper in half (as if making a card) and open it back out.
2. Paint the shape of butterfly wings on one half. Fold the paper over again and press down.
3. Open out the paper and add more colours to one-side. Refold and press.
4. When the butterfly wings are dry, add a body and antennae with a marker pen.

**How to build a mini wildlife pond**

**You will need:**

- a water-tight container
- soil bricks, peat-free compost and shingles
- pond plants

**Steps:**

1. Choose a site. Your pond will need to be in a shaded area.
2. Dig your pond with a water-butcher or garden spade. Make it a base of pond liner.
3. Add a layer of pond-liner rocks.
4. Fill your pond with water. Add water snails (optional).
5. Add plants. You only need to add a few.
6. Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond in no time!

**Wildlife watch**

Dark Inhabits frogs, fish or new water from another pond as they are spread across.

[www.wildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk)

## The Hive Library - May Half Term events

**HALF-TERM EVENTS**  
23RD - 31ST MAY

**Scala Festival of Play**  
Saturday 23rd May, 10am - 5pm (free & drop-in)

**Lego® Club:**  
Every Saturday, 10 - 11:30am (free & drop-in)

**Elmer Day:**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 11:30am - 3pm (free & drop-in)

**Rat-a-tat Tales:**  
Every Saturday & Sunday, 11am & 3pm (free & drop-in)

**Wacky Wednesday:**  
Every Wednesday, 1:30 - 3pm (free & drop-in)

**Family Film:**  
Wednesday 27th May, 10am & 1pm (free & drop-in)

**Author Storytimes - Daisy Merle**  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 10am & 11:30am (free & drop-in)

**Story Carousel**  
Thursday 29th May, 2pm-2:45pm (free & drop-in)

**The Hive**  
a partnership between  
UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER WORCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

## Dates for your diary

Monday 25th - Friday 28th - Half Term

Monday 1st June - Oak & Ash class bell boating

Thursday 4th June - Ash Class STEM challenge at Bowbrook House School

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

Tuesday 16th June - Friends Association EGM at 2pm

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

Monday 29th June - Oak Class trip to Pershore Town

Monday 6th July - Oak & Ash Class trip to RAF Defford museum at Croome Court

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

Wednesday 8th July - Sports Day 1-3.15pm

Friday 10th July - Transition morning

Tuesday 14th July - Sports Day Reserve

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

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