



Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter 5th June 2026

Welcome back for the last half term of this academic year! It's already been a busy week that started with a bell boating trip for KS2. It was so nice to hear the staff give such positive feedback about the children's conduct, effort and behaviour following the trip, and the rain held off mostly to make a really enjoyable experience. Ash class also had a very fun STEM experience hosted by Bowbrook School.

Chicken Pox is still doing the rounds throughout the school, which is having an impact on our attendance. Whilst events like this are perfectly normal, it does hit home how important children's attendance is at other times of the year. The percentage of our school that are persistently absent or at risk of being persistently absent is much higher than it should be. When added to unavoidable illnesses, any extra days do add up and lead to lost learning and gaps in children's knowledge. Please help the school by ensuring your child attends school every day.

Finally, as the summer weather improves, please ensure that the children come to school wearing sun cream, have a hat and bring a water bottle. As children will often take off their jumper when it gets warm, please help by making sure they are named so we can easily find their owners.

Mr Hanson

Uniform update

We are excited to be putting our new logo on our uniform ready for September, and all our children have now registered for their free jumper or cardigan bearing our new badge. ***(Thank you to the governing body for securing the funds from local councillors Adrian Hardman and Dan Boatright-Greene to pay for this!)***

The new uniform is currently available to order from the School Shop along with our new PE kit.

As we also use MyClothing for uniform, we are in the process of updating this supplier and will let you know when they have our new badge available. As our lovely new PE kit is quite bespoke, this will only be available from the School Shop along with the PE rucksack. These will be the only suppliers of our branded clothing to ensure our uniform remains 'uniform'. None of our branded clothing is compulsory, and parents are welcome to purchase generic items from any supplier as long as it matches our colours and style.

In September, having the old school badge on clothing is still fine. We will phase it out over the next year. Hoodies and fleeces will no longer be part of our school uniform at that point, so they should not be worn in place of a jumper or cardigan.

Oak & Ash Class Bellboating



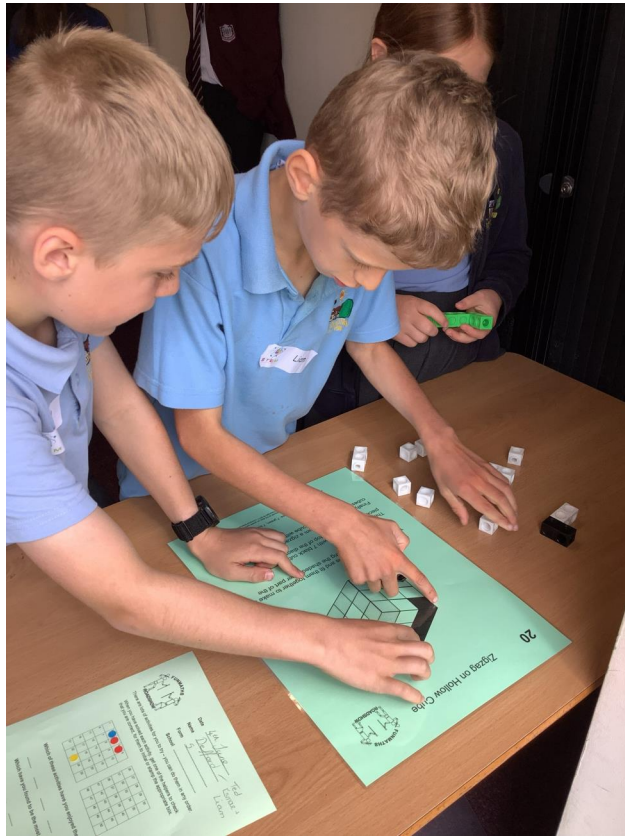


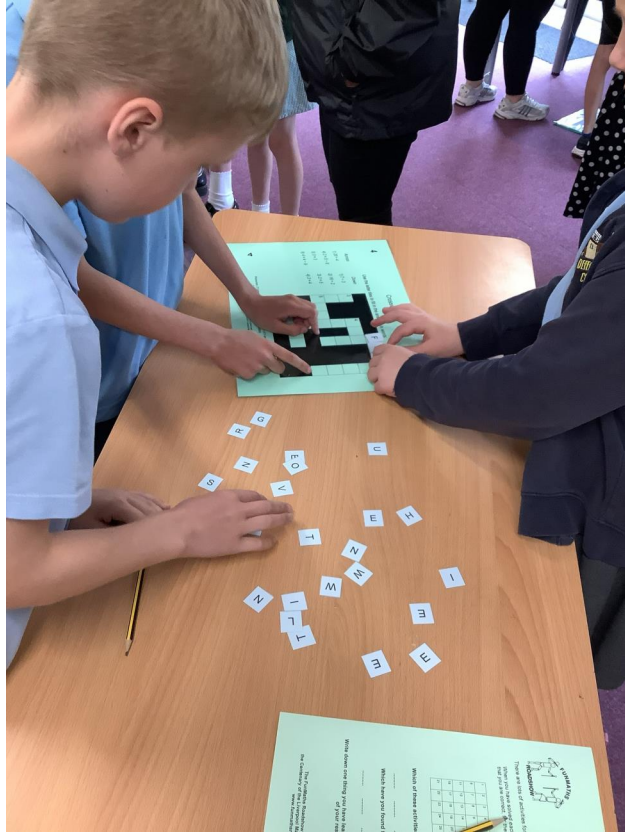


Ash class Maths & Science STEM day at Bowbrook House School

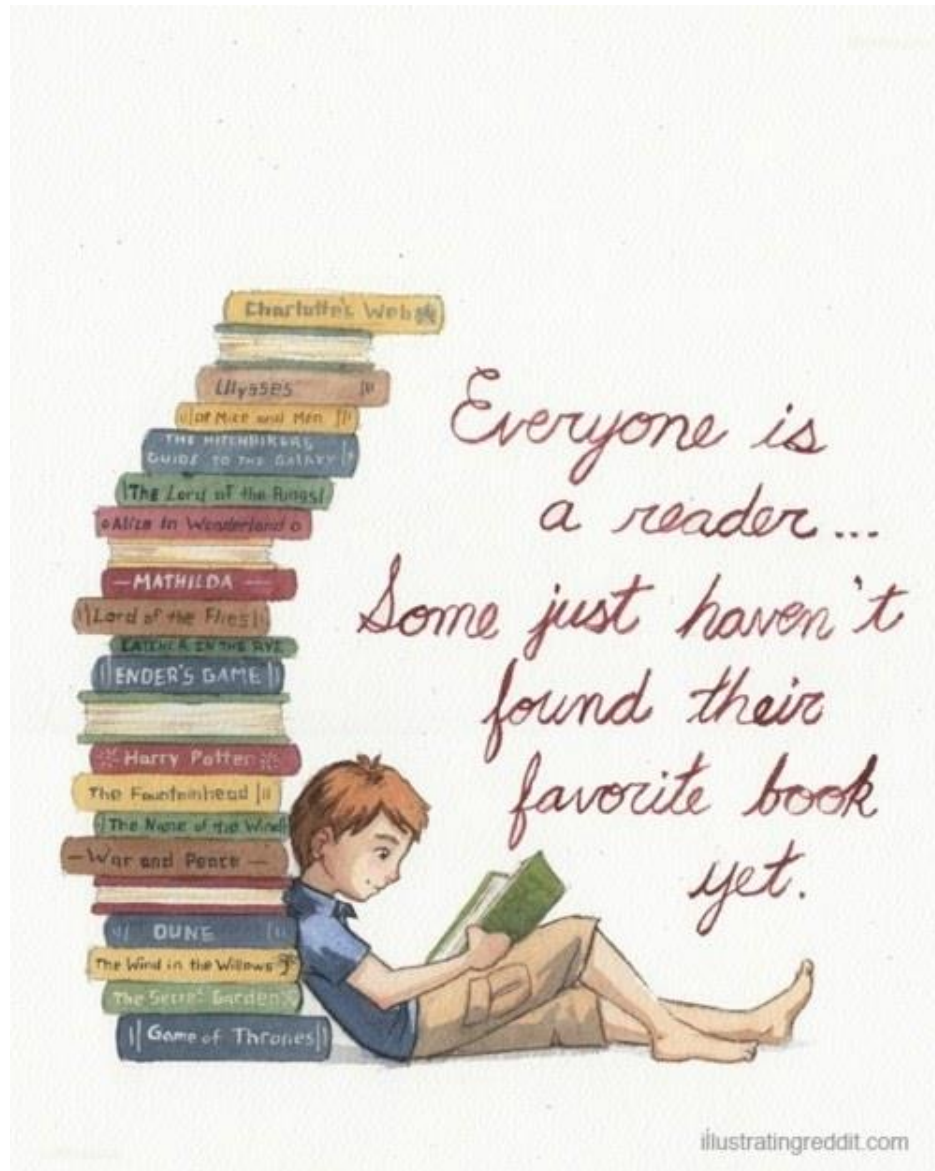








Reading wishlist



We still have our wish list for books to update our school library. If anyone is able to purchase a book for the school it will be greatly appreciated.

[Amazon Wishlist](#)

Measles



Cases of measles are rising in our area.

Here's some helpful advice from our Public Health colleagues on what you need to know.

- Measles spreads very easily. In some cases, it can make you very ill and lead to serious health problems if it spreads to other parts of the body, such as the lungs or brain.
- Check the list of symptoms below to know what to look out for. If you think you or your child may have measles or any of the symptoms, call your GP surgery or NHS 111 first, before turning up at a healthcare setting. This will help to stop the virus from spreading.
- Having the MMRV or MMR vaccine is the best way to prevent yourself from becoming very ill.

Ask at your GP surgery if you're not sure you or your child has had either of these vaccines. Your GP can vaccinate you for free on the NHS.

If any school aged children have missed their MMR vaccination or any vaccination given at school, parents can contact the Vaccination Team who will help arrange for the missed vaccinations to be given: 01905 390030.

For more information on the symptoms, vaccination, and what to do if you think you have measles or have come into contact with someone who has measles, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 88.3%

Birch - 89%

Oak - 96.2%

Ash - 90%

Well done to Oak class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 94.8%

National - 94.9%

Local Authority - 95%

Children's Commissioners's Big Future Survey



As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children take part in my new survey, The Big Future.

Your child can take part here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and your support will help make that possible. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I'll publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Thank you very much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner for England

Summer Activity Camp



Summer Activity Camp at Bowbrook House School

20th July - 21st August 2026

Book now at [apexactivities.co.uk](https://www.apexactivities.co.uk)

Dates for your Diary

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

Wednesday 17th June - Ash Class visit to Defford Cemetary

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

Monday 29th June - Oak Class trip to Pershore Town

Wednesday 1st July - Willow Class Stay & Play 2-3pm

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