



# Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter 19th June 2026

As we seemingly race toward the summer holidays, the school is buzzing with energy, especially with the FIFA World Cup finally kicking off. There is a wonderful sense of global community and excitement in the air, and we love seeing our pupils unite to cheer on their favourite teams.

With so much excitement around the school, it is the perfect time to introduce our new Christian caring value for this half term: **self-control**. This is an incredibly fitting value for the

end of the school year. Whether it means staying focused in class when the summer sun is shining, showing great sportsmanship during our upcoming sports day, or pacing ourselves through a busy calendar of end-of-term celebrations, practicing self-control helps us finish the year on a high note, feeling proud of our choices.

Speaking of choices, you may have seen the government's major recent announcement regarding a social media ban for under 16s. This landmark decision has sparked a lot of positive conversations about how we can best protect young people's wellbeing and encourage healthier childhood habits. At school, we view this as a fantastic opportunity to celebrate offline life. We want to channel our pupils' time and attention toward fulfilling real-world experiences—like sports, reading, outdoor play, and building deep face-to-face friendships.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we enter these joyful final weeks of term.

Mr Hanson

## Willow Class

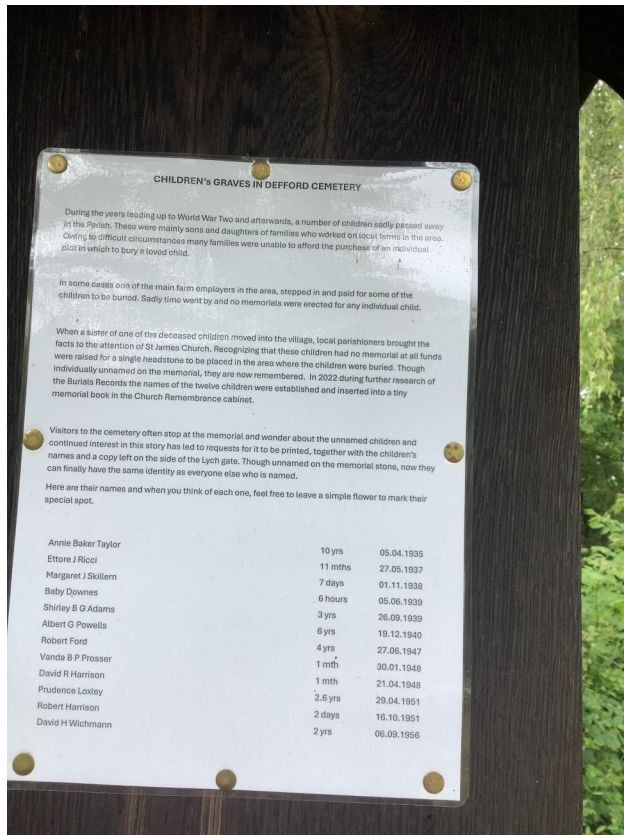
Willow class have been looking after the babies this week, changing their nappies, feeding them and changing their clothes. We have been learning about Jesus' love and how God believes all children are special, even before they are born.

We have also been doing lots of water play, water art and bubble painting!

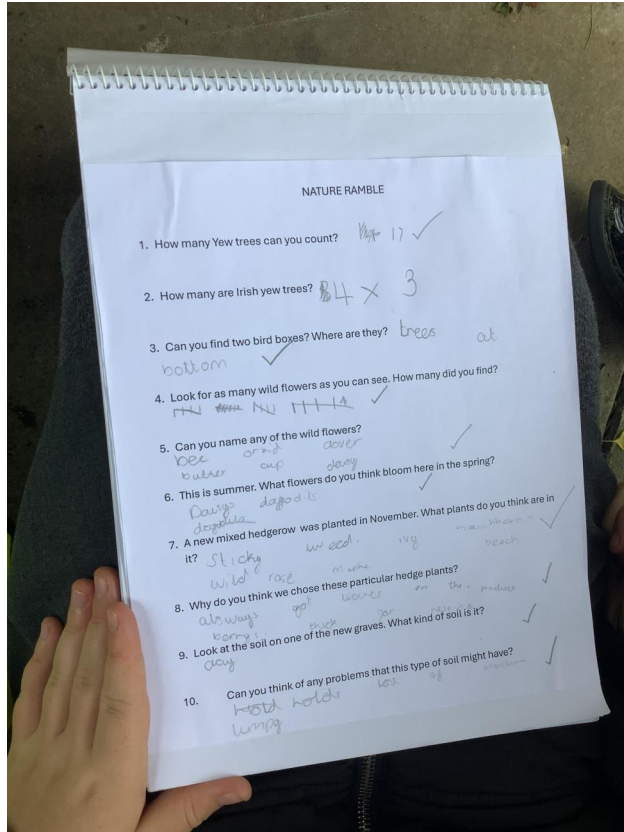
Ash Class

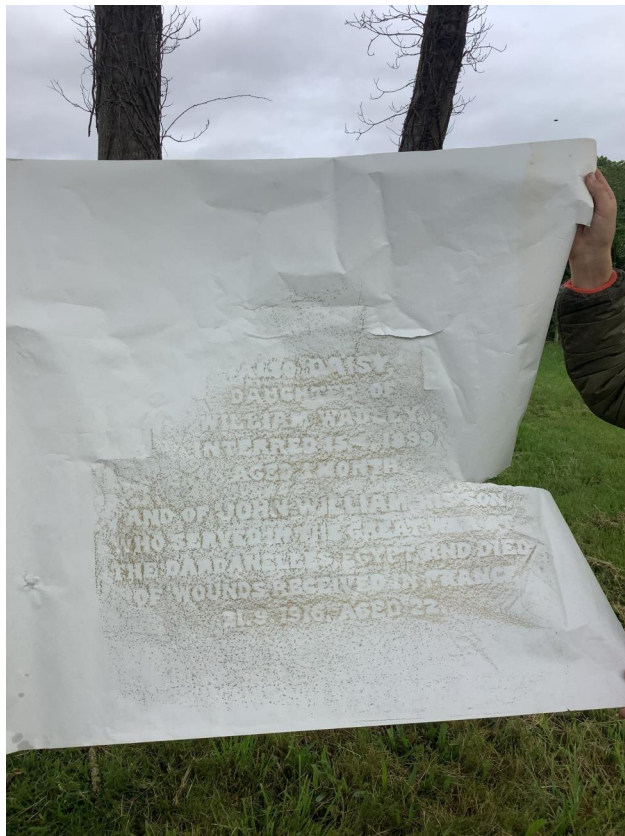


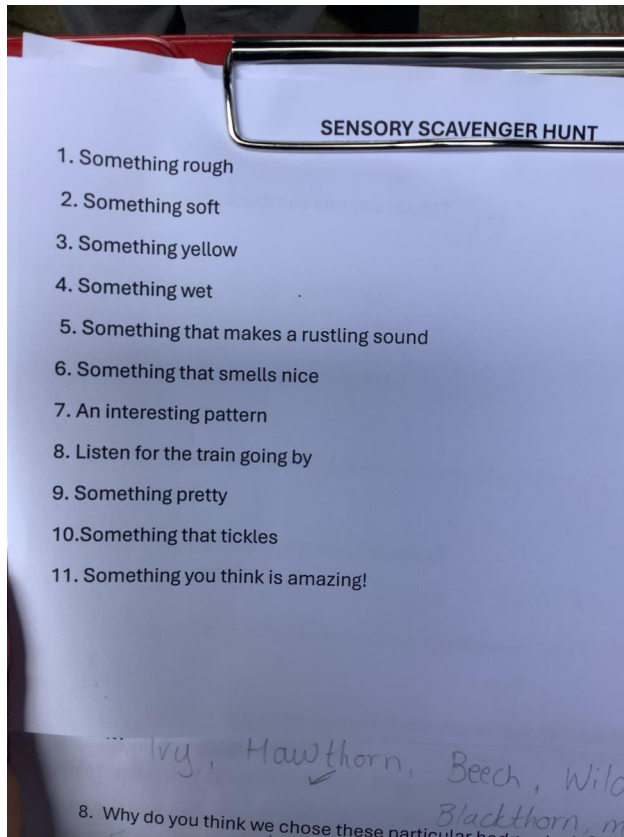












Ash class had a visit to the cemetery where they reflected on the lives of soldiers from World War 1 and 2 who lived in Defford, took part in a nature trail - answering questions along the way and a scavenger hunt.

We have been exploring the Battle of Britain in history and Anne Frank's life in English this week and are becoming journalists to create our own published newspaper report. In science, we are looking at the circulatory system and did a scientific investigation to see how exercise affects our heart rate.

## Birch Class

Birch Class have been exploring how to prepare different fruits. We have developed our peeling, slicing, mashing and tasting skills!

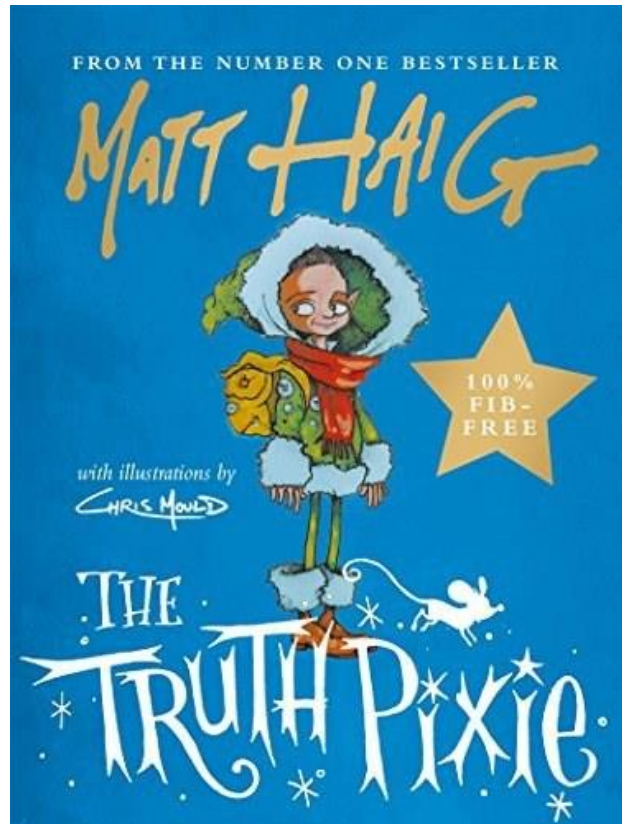




## Reading

We have had some very generous donations for our school library recently. Thank you to all members of our community who have donated a book(s) to expand our selection. If you would like to support our library, our wish list can be found [here](#).

If you are looking for some great books for the children to read over the summer holidays, here are a couple of recommended reads for KS1 and KS2:



1 - 'Wherever she is, whatever the day, She only has one kind of thing to say. Just as cats go miaow and cows go moo, The Truth Pixie can only say things that are true.'

*A very funny and lovable tale of how one special pixie learned to love herself. The Truth Pixie is an enchanting, rhyming story that will delight younger readers - with words by the bestselling mastermind Matt Haig and pictures by the inky genius Chris Mould.*



*2 - A fast-paced fantasy adventure that will set your imagination soaring!*

*Twins Arthur and Maudie Brightstorm receive word in Lontown that their famous explorer father has died in a failed attempt to reach the southernmost point in the world. Not only that, but he has been accused of stealing fuel before he died!*

*The twins don't believe the news, and they answer an ad to join a new attempt to reach South Polaris. It's their only hope of learning the truth ... and salvaging their family's reputation.*

*As the winged ship Aurora sets sail, the twins must keep their wits about them and prove themselves worthy of the rest of the crew.*

*But will Arthur and Maudie find the answers they seek?*

## Rainbow Raffle



The FA will be running a 'Rainbow Raffle' during Sports Day this year. To help raise gifts for this, we are running a non-uniform day on Friday 3rd July if children bring in a raffle prize(s) in a particular colour. These will be collected and be offered as prizes on Sports Day.

The colours to bring in are as follows:

Pre-school & Reception - Red

Year 1 - Orange

Year 2 - Yellow

Year 3 - Green

Year 4 - Blue

Year 5 - Purple

Thank you for your support!

[Free School Meal Factsheet](#)

**Free School Meals – Check if you are eligible**

The Department for Education has recently updated the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals. This means **some families may now qualify, even if they have not been eligible in the past.**

If you receive Universal Credit, you should apply. We strongly encourage all families to check their eligibility and submit an application.

To apply, you will need:

- Your name
- Your National Insurance number
- Your date of birth


Find out more and apply online here: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)

Please note: the application system will be unavailable from 9 July to 15 July.

Regards,

Free School Meals team

[freeschoolmeals@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@worcestershire.gov.uk)

 **Free School Meals Information (September 2026)**

There are three types of Free School Meals: Expanded, Targeted and Universal Infant

Criteria	Expanded FSM	Targeted FSM	Universal Infant FSM
<b>Who qualifies</b>	Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income above £7400 per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families in receipt of Universal Credit, household income under £7400 per year</li> <li>• Other qualifying benefits</li> <li>• Certain immigration statuses.</li> </ul> See next page for details.	Based on child's school year: Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 where you don't qualify for Expanded or Targeted FSM
<b>Meals (term time)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Holiday Activity Food fund support (HAF)</b>	No	Yes register your child at <a href="http://www.haf-8.co.uk">www.haf-8.co.uk</a>	No
<b>Pupil Premium support – each school has it's own policy</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>Subsidised Home to school transport</b>	No	Possible, if additional criteria are met <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/school-and-college-travel">www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/school-and-college-travel</a>	No
<b>How to apply</b>	Apply online: <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals">www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals</a>		No application needed. Speak to your child's school
<b>When to apply</b>	From Mid June	From now	N/A
<b>Protected status until:</b>	August 2027, you'll be rechecked each summer for the next academic year		Finishes at the end of year 2
<b>Important note</b>	Our application system will be unavailable July 8 <sup>th</sup> until July 15 <sup>th</sup>		

## Detailed Eligibility Criteria

### Expanded Free School Meals

- You receive Universal Credit with a household income over **£7,400 per year** (over **£616 per month**) after tax (excluding benefits) based on your last 3 months' statements

### Targeted Free School Meals – Benefit-based eligibility

- You receive Universal Credit with a household income of under **£7,400 per year** (under **£616 per month**) after tax (excluding benefits) based on your last 3 months' statements
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance

### Targeted Free School Meals – Immigration-based eligibility

- Zambrano carers
- Families with no recourse to public funds (NRF) with leave under Article 8
- Families supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 with No Recourse to Public Funds
- Certain supported failed asylum seekers (Section 4)
- Chain carers
- BN(D) passport holders
- Spousal, work or student visa holders
- Individuals with no immigration status

### Financial criteria for immigration cases

- Annual income of less than **£22,700** for families with 1 child
- Annual income of less than **£26,300** for families with 2 or more children
- Savings must be under **£16,000**

## Attendance

**It can be always be tempting to take advantage of term time discounts that holiday companies promote. Please think carefully before taking your children out of school during term time. Every day lost has a significant impact on your child's education and a school is measured by its attendance figures. Support your children and your school by keeping holidays during holiday time. Any requests for holidays will obviously be unauthorised.**

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

*Class attendance since last newsletter:*

*Willow - 81.7%*

*Birch - 83.8%*

*Oak - 85.3%*

*Ash - 78%*

**Well done to Oak class!**

*Whole School Attendance this year*

*Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 91.9%*

*National - 94.9%*

*Local Authority - 95%*

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## WhizzPop

An invitation has been emailed to parents inviting families to a new Sunday afternoon Worshipping Community called WhizzPop starting on 28 June at St. Giles Church in Bredon at 4.00pm.

The team need to know the names and details of children who will be coming to this exciting new offering for children of the First Schools in Bredon, Eckington and Defford based around iSingPop. Please could you send your completed forms back to Alison Khan, Group Administrator for the Bredon Hill Group of churches at the following email address:-

'Alison Khan' [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com)

If you require a paper copy of this letter, please speak to the school office.

To exit full screen, press **Esc**

We invite you to:



*Make, Sing & WhizzPop!*

**A new exciting fun time for families**

**When:** 4pm on Sunday, 28th June

**Where:** St Giles Church, Bredon

**What:** iSingPop songs, craft, games, Bible story and snacks

**Future Dates:** 12th July

9th August

13th September

11th October

**Please fill in the registration form on the next page and return to:**

acbhteam@gmail.com  
Registration Form



*Make, Sing & WhizzPop!*

Please note that parents/carers are responsible for their children during sessions.

Full name of child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_  
Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Details:  
Parent/carer's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/carer's contact no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/carer's email address \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Information:  
Does your child have any allergies? \_\_\_\_\_  
If YES, please provide details. \_\_\_\_\_  
Is there any medical condition we need to be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_  
If YES, please provide details. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Carer)

## Sunshine Festival

**A Special  
SUNSHINE FESTIVAL  
Community Access  
OFFER**

**2026**

27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>  
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

Fish Meadow, Upton Upon  
Severn, Worcestershire

**KIDS GO FREE**

**GREENE KING**  
EST. 1752

**A SPECIAL SUNSHINE FESTIVAL COMMUNITY ACCESS OFFER FOR LOCAL SCHOOL FAMILIES**

Sunshine Festival reserves the right to amend or withdraw the offer at any time.

**WESTONS**  
EST. 1852

## Sunshine Festival Local School Family Offer

Sunshine Festival is offering local school families access to a limited Community Access Offer for this year's August Bank Holiday festival at Fish Meadow, Upton upon Severn.

Families can buy an adult weekend ticket and bring children and teens aged 17 and under at no additional ticket cost.

Sunshine Festival is a family-friendly weekend event with camping, live music, entertainment, activities and a relaxed festival atmosphere.

### **How to book**

Visit [www.thatsthetickets.co.uk](http://www.thatsthetickets.co.uk) and add your adult weekend ticket, teen tickets and child tickets to your basket.

Then enter coupon code **FAMILYFUN** at checkout.

To find out more about Sunshine Festival, visit [www.uptonfestival.co.uk](http://www.uptonfestival.co.uk) or follow Sunshine Festival on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thesunshinefestival](http://www.facebook.com/thesunshinefestival).

This is a limited community access allocation and is subject to availability. The offer cannot be applied retrospectively to existing bookings and cannot be used with any other offer. All under-18s must attend with a responsible parent or guardian.

## Drowning prevention Week



Drowning is preventable. Nobody should drown. Always follow the Water Safety Code. We can all contribute to creating communities free from drowning.

This year, Drowning Prevention Week is expanding to reach 13-17-year-olds, as recent data from the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) reveals that drowning deaths of this age group have increased an alarming 67% between 2020-2022 and 2023-2025.

**Speak up. Be a mate** [Speak up. Be a mate. | Royal Life Saving Society UK \( RLSS UK \)](#)

Key message for teens is to #BeAMate and speak up when friends are taking deadly risks around water. Before a mate jumps in, messes around with inflatables, or does something risky in open water... **Speak up.**

- **You can't see what's under the water.** Rocks, drops, currents - it's not worth guessing.
- **Cold water hits HARD.** Even strong swimmers can panic and lose control.

- **Inflatables are not safe in open water.** One gust of wind and you're gone - fast.
- **Pressure isn't friendship.** Real mates don't push you into danger.

## Parent and Carer Home Fire Safety Advice

To exit full screen, press **Esc**

HEREFORD & WORCESTER  
**HWFR**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

inclusive  
workplace

 **PREVENTION**

### HOW SAFE ARE YOU?

Complete your **FREE** online Home Fire Safety Check now!  
[www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc](http://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc)

For further information about a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Visit call us on  
**0800 032 1155**

  
SCAN ME



	<b>SMOKE ALARMS</b> Get it, fit it, test it		<b>ELECTRICS</b> Switch it off
	<b>CIGARETTES</b> Put it out, right out		<b>COOKING</b> Take care when cooking
	<b>CANDLES</b> Never leave unattended		<b>ESCAPE PLAN</b> Plan a safe escape

Complete your **FREE** online Home Fire Safety Check now!  
[www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc](http://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc)

For further information about a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Visit call us on  
**0800 032 1155**








**PREVENTION**

[www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)
 [twitter.com/hwfire](https://twitter.com/hwfire)
 [facebook.com/hwfire](https://facebook.com/hwfire)

**What is a Home Fire Safety Visit ?** One of our Community Prevention Technicians or a Crew will visit an individual in their home and provide them with a **FREE** tailored Fire Safety Plan, including talking through kitchen, candle, electrical safety, nighttime routines and escape plans, as well as fit any equipment needed free of charge.

## Children's Commissioner's Survey

**As Children's Commissioner, I am asking for your support in ensuring children and young people take part in my national survey, The Big Future here:**

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

It is crucial that I hear from children in every school and college, in every community, across the country. Without hearing from your children, their experiences, views and aspirations risk being missing from the national picture that will help shape future policy.

At a time of significant change for children and young people, it is more important than ever that their views are reflected in policy making. Through this survey, I can take the voices of your children directly to the centre of government.

As ever, thank you so much for your support.

**Dame Rachel de Souza**

**Children's Commissioner for England**

## Pershore Cricket Club Summer Camp

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 15:30

£25 per day / £65 for 3 days / £375 for all sessions

**SUMMER HOLIDAY HARBALL\* & SOFTBALL CRICKET CAMPS**

\*must have experience in hardball cricket

**@Pershore Cricket Club**

For more information, contact Chris Ridings: [ridings9@hotmail.com](mailto:ridings9@hotmail.com)

Book Here

1871

🌟🏏 Pershore Cricket Club Summer Camps Are Back! 🏏🌟

Looking for a fun, active way to keep young cricketers engaged this summer? Join us at Pershore CC for our Summer Holiday Hardball & Softball Cricket Camps!

📅 When: Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

🕒 Time: 10:00 – 15:30

💷 Pricing:

- £25 per day

- £65 for 3 days
- £375 for all sessions
- ✓ Open to players enjoying both softball and hardball cricket
- ✓ Hardball participants must already have some experience

These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to build skills, make friends, and enjoy cricket in a fun, supportive environment 🏏

📍 Location: Pershore Cricket Club

📄 Book now via the QR code on the poster or link

<https://club.spond.com/landing/courses/pershorecricketc/B69297611D694745A8580152240713C8?source=direct>

✉ For more info: [ridings9@hotmail.com](mailto:ridings9@hotmail.com)

Let's make this a summer to remember! 🌟🏏

#PershoreCC #CricketCamp #SummerCricket #YouthSport #GetActive

## Summer Basketball Camp Opportunities



A promotional poster for Worcester Wolves Summer Camps 2026. The background is dark with a faint basketball court pattern. At the top, the text 'WORCESTER WOLVES' is in large orange letters, and 'SUMMER CAMPS' is in white. Below this, it says 'HAVE FUN, ELEVATE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE GAMEPLAY, MEET NEW PEOPLE AND SO MUCH MORE!' in white. The dates for the 'JULY SUMMER CAMP' (20th-31st July) and 'AUGUST SUMMER CAMP' (3rd-7th & 24th-27th August) are listed in orange and white. A circular logo with a wolf's head and a basketball is on the right. A QR code is in the bottom right. At the bottom, there's a photo of children playing basketball and a coach. Text at the bottom reads 'FOR MORE INFORMATION - WORCESTERWOLVES@WORC.AC.UK'.

**WORCESTER WOLVES**  
**SUMMER CAMPS**

HAVE FUN, ELEVATE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE GAMEPLAY,  
MEET NEW PEOPLE AND SO MUCH MORE!

**JULY SUMMER CAMP**  
20TH-31ST JULY

**AUGUST SUMMER CAMP**  
3RD-7TH & 24TH-27TH AUGUST

MINI-BALLERS | YEAR GROUPS 1-6 | 9AM - 12PM  
REGULAR | YEAR GROUPS 7-13 | 9:30AM - 3PM

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME  
COME AND GET INVOLVED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION - [WORCESTERWOLVES@WORC.AC.UK](mailto:WORCESTERWOLVES@WORC.AC.UK)

Worcester Wolves Basketball Club is delighted to announce that bookings are now open for our Summer Basketball Camps 2026, taking place at the University of Worcester Arena.

Designed for children and young people of all abilities, our camps provide a fun, safe and inclusive environment where participants can develop basketball skills, build confidence, stay active and make new friends throughout the summer.

### What will players learn?

- ✓ Dribbling and ball-handling skills
- ✓ Passing accuracy and decision-making
- ✓ Shooting technique and scoring confidence
- ✓ Footwork, movement and agility
- ✓ Defensive fundamentals
- ✓ Teamwork and communication
- ✓ Fun competitions, challenges and games

✔ Match play and skill contests

We have a range of camps for younger players to get involved with this Summer including:

**July Summer Camp | running the 20th – 31st July**

**August Summer Camp | running the 3rd-7th and 24th-28th August**

**Wolves Elite Basketball Camp | Running the 16th – 21st August**

For any further enquiries please reach out to [Worcesterwolves@worc.ac.uk](mailto:Worcesterwolves@worc.ac.uk)

**The Worcester Wolves Team.**

**Worcester Wolves Professional Basketball Club**

**University of Worcester Arena**

**Hylton Road**

**Worcester**

**WR2 5JN**

**Tel: 01905 542198**

**worcesterwolves@worc.ac.uk**

### [Dates for your diary](#)

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

Friday 3rd July - Friends Association Non-Uniform day for rainbow raffle prizes

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

Tuesday 7th July - Guitar assembly for families of children who take lessons 2.45pm

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

Friday 10th July - Willow Class trip to the park

Tuesday 14th July - Sports Day Reserve

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

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