

Defford and Besford CE Primary School

Newsletter 11th September 2026

Welcome back to the new academic year! It was wonderful to see the children come back to school feeling well rested with many tales of the adventures they got up to over the summer break. All the children have settled well into their new classes or year groups and are already enjoying new challenges. It is also lovely to welcome some new children and their families to the school. If you are new to Defford, then the whole community extends a very warm welcome and we are very excited to help your children flourish through their education.

This is a very exciting year as we are now a proper 'Primary' school as we have a group of year 6 children! As well as ensuring that they meet their potential in this final year, we will be helping them prepare for their successful transition to high school.

As part of our transformation to a Primary School, we are due to have a substantial extension to our building. The summer was busy with the installation of a new roof and skylights across the existing building. Disappointingly, the main build was still held up at the planning office. However, we are pleased to say that the issues that were causing the hold-up have now been resolved and we are soon meeting with the contractors to establish the start date of the next phase. We will inform the community of any further developments and impact to the school day.

With all changes, things may not work first time or go as expected. Thank you for your patience as we establish new procedures and routines. If there is any feedback of how we can make things go smoother, we are always glad to hear them.

Here's to a successful new school year!

Mr Hanson

Uniform



It was lovely to see the children start school proudly wearing their new uniforms and sporting our new school badge.

Please, please, please - name your child's uniform! Particularly jumpers and cardigans. We have already had children lose their jumpers, or we have found some and cannot find their owners.

PE Kits

Currently, Willow class will change at school for PE. Birch, Oak and Ash class will arrive at school in their PE kits on the days they do PE. After the October half term, Birch class will also get changed at school into their PE kits. By doing this, it will give our youngest children in key stage 1 the time they need to settle and establish routines, before then continuing to develop independence and life skills of self changing and organising their kit. Our Key Stage 2 children need additional spaces if they are to change in separate boys/girls areas which we do not have, so it is easier for them to arrive dressed ready for PE. Luckily our new PE kit is very smart as well as suitable for high activity!

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 97.6%

Birch - 97.5%

Oak - 97.3%

Ash - 98.9%

Well done to Ash class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 97.8%

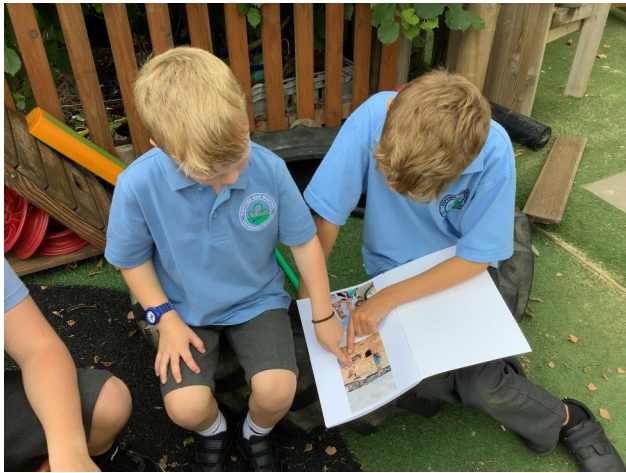
National - NA

Local Authority - NA

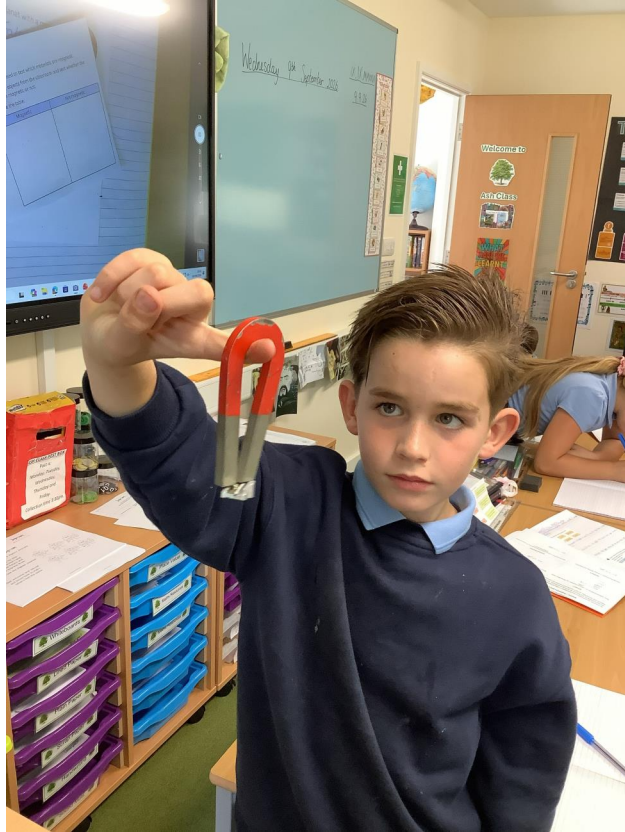
Ash class

In Ash this week, they have set personal best targets in P.E, with the aim of improving their personal best at the end of the topic. We have explored food packaging in art and tested the magnetism and transparency of different materials in Science. Ash also joined Willow so Willow children could share their scrapbooks with them and talk all about their summer holidays.









Willow class

Willow class have been exploring animals, creating their habitats and feeding the animals from the gruffalo story.





Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 22nd September 2.45-3.15pm - Parent Reading workshop for Reception children only

Wednesday 30th September - Harvest festival in Church (am)

Monday 5th October - Reception to Year 6 Flu vaccinations

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Halloween yoga & mindfulness gathering



A gentle day of movement, stillness and seasonal magic for little ones aged 5-10.

Friday 30th October

9.30-1.30pm

Defford Village Hall

Cost £20 per child.

To book a place, please visit [Bond Yoga – Connecting Body + Mind](#)

Swan Theatre - Dick Whittington



Kays Theatre Group are putting on their pantomime at The Swan Theatre from 21st January to 31st January next year – Dick Whittington.

Ticket prices have been kept at a very reasonable £13.50 each which hopefully gives more families access to the theatre.

It is a very funny show and the children can even choose a name for Dick Whittington's cat each night

Crisis and Resilience Fund

Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)

Are you struggling with essential costs, heating or housing?
Support is available through the
Worcestershire Crisis and Resilience Fund

Help when families need it most

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) can provide support for families experiencing a financial crisis and helps Worcestershire households build long-term financial resilience.

The fund can help with:

- Food and essential household costs
- Energy bills and heating emergencies
- Essential household items
- Housing-related financial difficulties
- Support to improve long-term financial resilience and money management

What support could families receive?

Depending on the circumstances, support may include:

- Cash payments
- Energy vouchers
- Supermarket vouchers
- Essential household goods
- Advice and support services



Scan the QR to find out more or visit:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/CRF



What support is available for families?

Oil and LPG Energy Support Scheme
Support is available for low-income households that rely on heating oil or LPG and are struggling with rising fuel costs.

Crisis Payments
If a family has experienced a sudden financial shock, such as illness, an accident, loss of income, or a household emergency, they may be able to receive urgent support to help meet essential needs. All applications are assessed based on individual circumstances.

Heating Repairs and Replacements Scheme
Help may be available if a family's heating system has broken down or developed a fault and they cannot afford the repair or replacement.

Housing Support
Housing Payments may be available if a family receives Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and needs extra help with housing costs, such as rent in advance or rental deposits.

Need advice?
Any family can contact their local Worcestershire Advice Network (WAN) partner:

- Food and essential household costs
- Energy bills and heating emergencies
- Essential household items

Free and confidential advice is available on benefits, housing, debt, energy costs and other cost of living support.

Find support
Worcestershire Advice Network: www.worcestershireadvicenetwork.org.uk
Cost of Living Support: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support
Energy Advice and Support: www.actonenergy.org.uk/area/worcestershire




Scan the QR to find out more or visit:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/CRF



Malvern Theatres

Classes return from **Monday 7th September**.

Top activities are:

Little Theatre Makers (5-7): Mondays 4.15pm-5pm

Creative Dance (Movement class 8-13): Mondays 5.15pm-6pm

Junior Theatre (8-11): Tuesdays 4.15pm-5.15pm

Junior Makers (Art class 7-11): Wednesdays 4.15pm-5.15pm

Junior Musical Theatre (8-11): Thursdays 4.15pm-5.15pm

HALF TERM POP UPS :

CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP (8-12 YEARS) Monday 26th October 10.30am-11.30am & 11.45am-12.45pm £10 Roll up, roll up and join us in Studio One for a half term spectacular of learning

circus skills and tricks like juggling and diabolo. Perfect for young people who are coming to watch **Barnum** during half term.

THE BIG DRAW (All Ages) Wednesday 28th October 10.30am-1pm FREE Drop in and join us in the foyer for some fun arty activities to celebrate this year's big draw festival.

Bookings can be made with our box office or on our website.

Link to our brochure:

<https://issuu.com/malvern-theatres/docs/take-part-workshops-classes-autumn-26?fr=sNTZlOTg0NDAwNzk>

Junior Theatre
Creative Drama Class
for 8-11 years
Tuesdays 4.15pm-5.15pm

Junior Musical Theatre
Multi-disciplinary Theatre Class
for 8-11 years
Thursdays 4.15pm-5.15pm

Junior Makers
for 7-11 years
Wednesdays 4.15pm-5.15pm

Creative Dance
Movement Class for 8-13 years
Mondays 5.15pm-6pm

malvern theatres
TAKE PART

To Book:
01684 892 277
malvern-theatres.co.uk