



Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter Friday 25th September

Another busy week in school, and lots of great learning going on throughout. It's always wonderful to visit classrooms and see the children excited to show me what they have been learning, making, or experiencing!

A big change this week is that we have altered lunchtimes to have two different 'sittings'. Willow and Birch class are going in for their lunch first, and then going for a play outside, while Oak and Ash class go for a play first, then come inside for their lunch. Not only does this make the hall a quieter space when eating, it also allows the children more space when playing outside. This will be important when the weather dictates that we can no longer use the field.

Organising the children this way does put additional strain on the amount of staff needed to facilitate this (see staffing update below), but it has been a successful start.

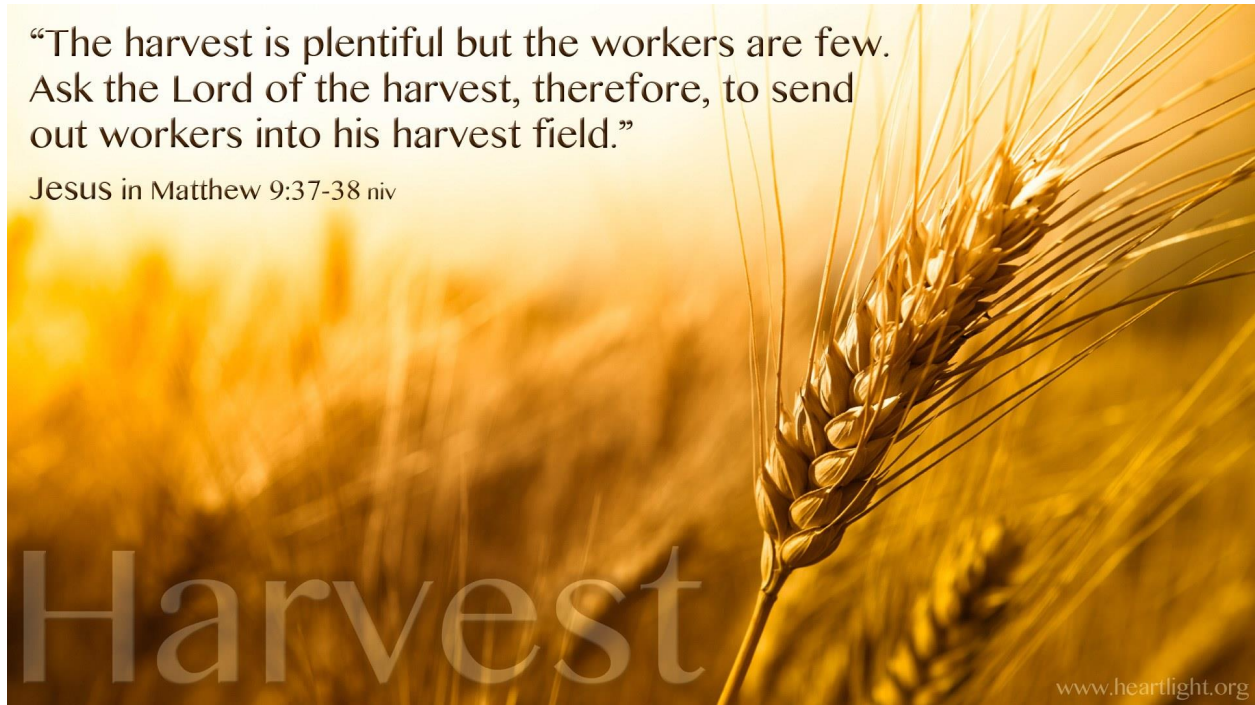
Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Hanson

Harvest Festival

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send
out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38 niv



All families are welcome to attend our harvest festival in church on Wednesday 30th September at 9am. Children will be presenting a short harvest performance in each class and singing some harvest songs.

Please be mindful that there is limited seating room in the church.

Children can bring food donations to school on this day and they will be taken to Pershore Food Bank.

Staffing Update

Unfortunately Mrs Smith has had to take some time away from school due to ill health. She has been diagnosed with appendicitis and has undergone surgery. Whilst we are hopeful that her recovery will be straightforward, she will be absent from school for a short period. We currently anticipate that she will be able to return in a couple of weeks, although this will, of course, depend on her recovery and medical advice.

To ensure continuity for the children in Ash Class, we have arranged for Mrs Askew, a regular supply teacher who has worked successfully with Mr Hanson previously, to cover some of the

teaching days. In addition, Mr Hanson will be covering the class as much as possible to provide consistency and support for the children during this time.

We know that the children will want to send their best wishes to Mrs Smith. We will be encouraging them to keep her in their thoughts and prayers as she begins her recovery. We are sure you will join us in wishing her a speedy recovery and a swift return to school.

Reading



If children bring a school reading book home, please endeavour to spend a short amount of time listening to them read. Even our older children benefit from being listened to regularly.

Thank you for your support!

Attendance

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

Class attendance since last newsletter:

Willow - 98.3%

Birch - 98%

Oak - 95.8%

Ash - 94.2%

Well done to Willow and Birch class!

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 97%

National - 96.3%

Local Authority - 96.7%

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 30th September - Harvest festival in Church (9am)

Monday 5th October - Reception to Year 6 Flu vaccinations

Wednesday 7th October - Oak & Ash trip to The Hive

Thursday 22nd October - Individual photos

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

Oak Class

Oak class have been role playing in English before they wrote a recount as a character from the book they are studying



Willow Class

Willow class have been balancing in PE, mark making using circles in the style of Kandinsky and exploring forest animals.





Colour mixing in Willow. We have been learning about primary colours.





Forest School

Birch and willow worked together to create natural habitats/home/nest/den/sett for fox, badger and owl. We knew that owls make nests in trees but it was safer and inclusive to make it on the floor





Harvest Festival Service - St. James Church, Defford

You are invited to the annual Harvest Festival service in St James Church, Defford. Come and celebrate our farmers and all our Harvest blessings with us on Sunday 27th September 2026 at 10.45 am



Join us for a non-communion service as we celebrate the Harvest.

We will also be remembering all those who are hungry and less fortunate than we are and ask that you bring one item of non-perishable food, which can then be donated to the Pershore Food Bank.

The Collection taken will be shared with the Charity FIVE TALENTS and yes, we do have a Card Reader for anyone who does not like to carry cash.