



# Defford and Besford CE Primary School Newsletter Friday 23rd October

And just like that, it's the end of another half term!

Thank you to all of our community for your support so far this year. It was lovely to see such a great turnout for the Friends Association's Autumn Disco. We really appreciate the work of our FA in raising much needed funds to enhance our wonderful little school and that all goes towards making sure all children thrive. The FA are always looking for new members and we could really do with some representation from our younger children's families. The time commitment is not much at all, and if you are able to offer your support, please contact the office and we will pass on your details.

Another exciting development is that we have had our contractors on-site this week to make sure that their building area is safe, separate from the school, and ready to start more major construction work over half term. We are hoping that this project causes minimal disruption. However, please bear in mind that there may be limited parking along Hillview. Do not obstruct our neighbour's driveways and park at the village hall and walk if you can.

Have a lovely half term!

## Caring Value of the Month - JOY

This month, our Christian value is **Joy**. Joy is more than simply being happy; it is a deep sense of thankfulness and contentment that comes from appreciating the blessings we have, the people around us and the opportunities each day brings.

In school, we will be exploring how joy can be found in small moments of kindness, friendship, learning and service to others. We will encourage the children to recognise and celebrate the good things in their lives, rather than always focusing on what they wish they had next.

Parents can support this at home by taking time to talk with their children about what they are grateful for each day, celebrating acts of kindness and encouraging them to think about how their words and actions affect those around them. Helping children to understand that joy grows when we show respect, consideration and care for others can have a lasting impact on their relationships and wellbeing.

As a school, we believe that developing positive behaviour is a partnership between home and school. Children thrive when they receive consistent messages about kindness, responsibility and respect. By encouraging children to reflect on their choices, take responsibility for their actions and consider the feelings of others, we can help them become thoughtful members of our community who contribute to the joy of those around them.

*"The joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)*

## Zero Hero



Good attendance at school improves children's wellbeing, education and job prospects and even life expectancy! That's why every day counts.

To continue to promote children having excellent attendance at school, next half term we will be giving out 'Zero Hero' awards. These certificates will be given out every three weeks to children who have had zero absences and zero late marks. They will also get a small prize for their efforts in attending every day.

Please support us by arriving to school **on time every day**.

## Book of the Month

This month we are highlighting the book - '**You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!**' by Andy Stanton.

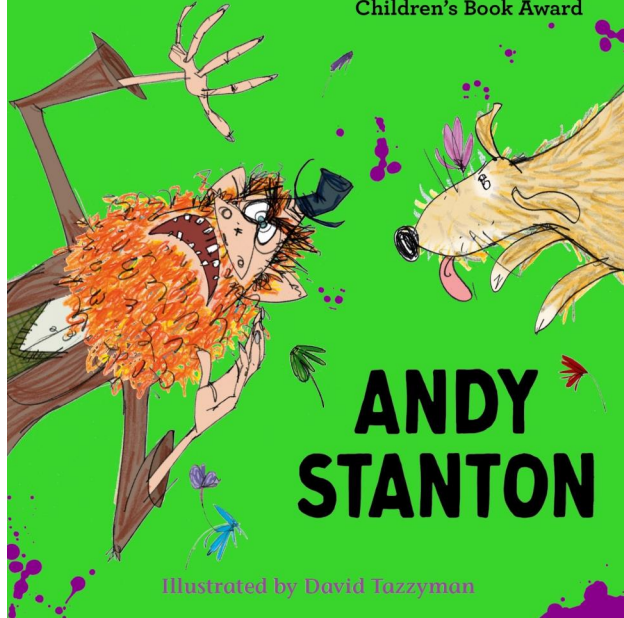
Mr Gum is a complete horror who hates children, animals, fun and corn on the cob. This book's all about him. And an angry fairy who lives in his bathtub. And Jake the dog, and a little girl called Polly. And there's heroes and sweets and adventures and EVERYTHING.

*You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!* is the first book in the internationally best-selling series by Andy Stanton, which has won everything from the Blue Peter Book Award (twice) to the Roald Dahl Funny Prize and the Red House Children's Book Award.

We definitely think this book would be a great hit with all the children, and if you have never read it, this is a great time to start.

You're a Bad Man,  
**MR GUM!**

Winner of the Blue Peter and Red House  
Children's Book Award



**ANDY  
STANTON**

Illustrated by David Tazzyman

## E Safety



We are still having issues with children messaging each other via mobile devices outside of school that is causing concern.

Please make sure that you are monitoring your child's use of technology and that they are using them in a public area of your home.

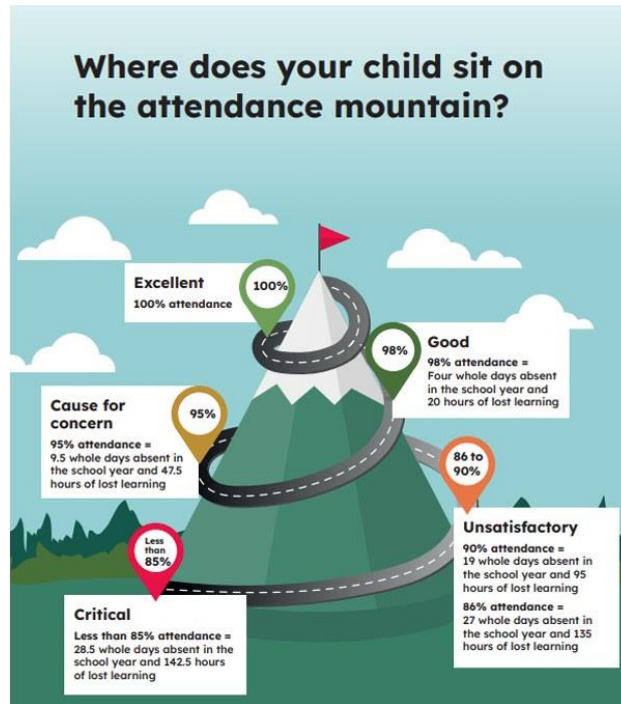
Here are some questions that might prompt some reflection of your use of technology with your child:

- Do you know which apps, games and websites your child uses most regularly, and have you checked them yourself?
- If your child received a message, image or friend request from someone they did not know, would they know what to do and who to tell?
- How often do you talk with your child about their online experiences, rather than only checking their device?
- What parental controls, privacy settings or screen-time limits are currently in place on your child's devices, and are they still appropriate for their age?
- Would you know if your child was experiencing online bullying, accessing inappropriate content, or feeling worried about something they had seen online?

Finally - **Grand Theft Auto VI** is releasing at the start of next month. This is a huge media event that is sure to be covered extensively online. Please remember that this is an 18 rated game because it is **not suitable at all** for children. Watching gameplay videos of it, even if you do not play the game is also not suitable for children. Please be vigilant around your children's media consumption at this time.

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 - 90.8%**

**Birch - 91.9%**

**Oak - 97.1%**

**Ash - 91.3%**

**Well done to Oak class!**

Whole School Attendance this year

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School - 95.7%

National - 95.9%

Local Authority - 96.1%

**Reminder - All absences must be reported directly to the school office either by telephone - 01386 750321 or email - [office@defford-cum-besford.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@defford-cum-besford.worcs.sch.uk)**

## Friends Association Autumn Disco





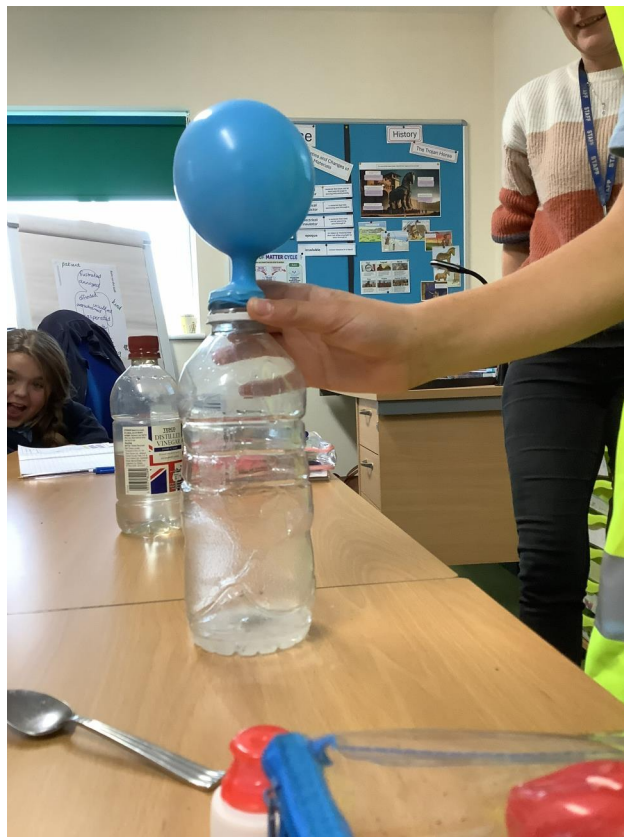


## Ash Class

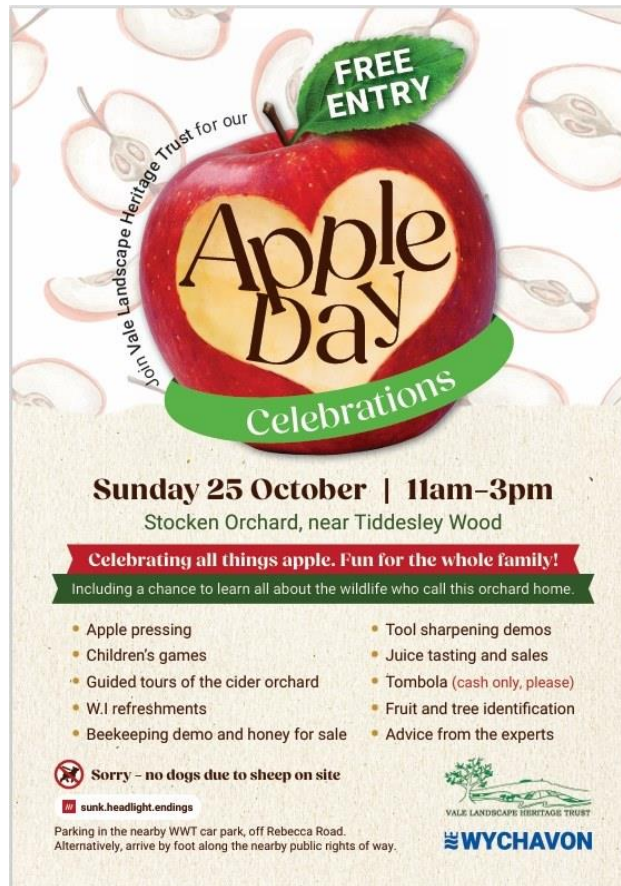
Ash class have been experimenting with dissolving, sieving and filtering in science and even caused a chemical reaction that created enough Carbon Dioxide to blow up a balloon. We have also designed and made our own Food packaging in Art and been taking part in some team building activities - the floor turned into lava!! We worked together to cross the classroom successfully.







## Apple Day Celebrations



Apple Day

Sunday Oct 25th

Stocken Orchard, next to Tiddesley Wood, Pershore.

This is a free, family friendly event. There are walks and talks in the orchard, stalls and children's games. The weather forecast is good and it should be a lovely way to start the half term holiday.

## Bridges of Light 2026



### Join us for Bridges of Light 2026

Looking for a free family-friendly activity this October half term? Bridges of Light is back on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 October, transforming Worcester city centre into a spectacular celebration of creativity, community and light.

From 6pm to 9pm on both evenings, families can explore a programme of interactive light installations, immersive artworks and creative experiences designed for visitors of all ages. With plenty of opportunities to get involved, discover something new and enjoy the city after dark, it's the perfect evening out during the school holidays.

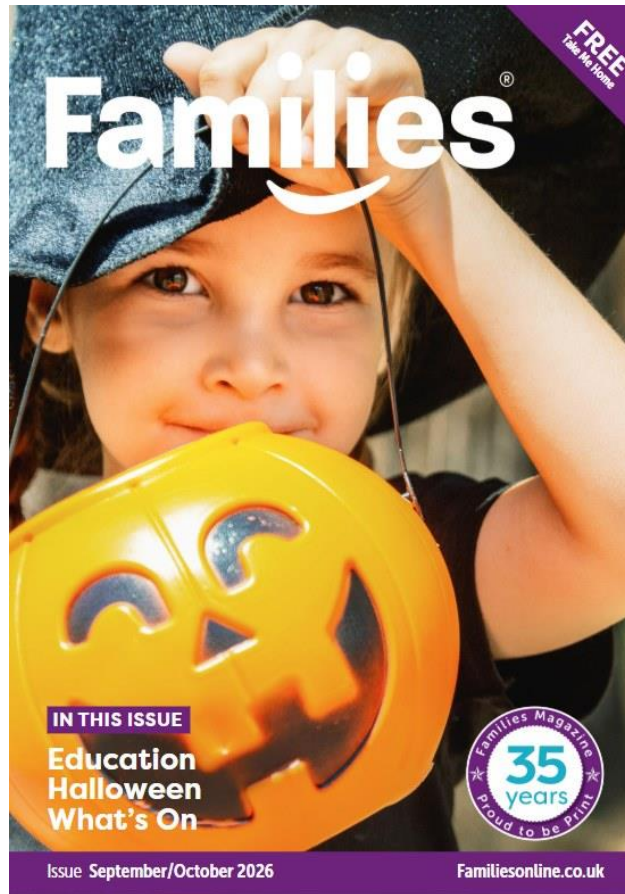
Grab a bite to eat and enjoy Bridges of Light with family and friends!

Free to attend with no ticket required, everyone is welcome!

[Find out more about Bridges of Light 2026 and download a map and programme](#)

Bridges of Light is presented by [Severn Arts](#) and part of [Local Voices, Creative Choices Programme](#).

Families magazine September/October 2026



[Families Magazine September/October 2026 by Families Magazine - Issuu](#)

## Raring2go! - Autumn edition



<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/herefordandworcester/autumn2026/>

### Dates for your diary

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

Tuesday 10th November - Book fair in school

Friday 13th November - Children in need - Non uniform

Friday 13th November - Heights & Weights - Year 6 children only

Tuesday 17th November - Severn Arts Music Box in school

Wednesday 25th November - Dick Whittington pantomime in school

Friday 11th December - Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 16th December - Christmas Dinner

Monday 21st to Friday 31st December - Christmas holidays

Monday 4th January - TED day