

# Newsletter Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

[www.wfs.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.wfs.worcs.sch.uk)

[office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@wfs.worcs.sch.uk)

## Information for Parents



Happy New Year. I do hope you all had a lovely Christmas. It was lovely to catch up with everyone and see the children again.

I am so very sorry that we were forced to shut today due to unsafe staffing levels. The site was pretty bad this morning - like a giant slushie, but we would have all mucked in and cleared it. However, due to the number of staff having to stay at home with their own children, it just made it unsafe to open.

Staff at WFS come from all over the West Midlands; the four corners of Worcestershire, Birmingham, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Dudley, Staffordshire, Sandwell and Wolverhampton so it is very difficult to judge.

We also have pupils come in from Herefordshire, Malvern, Tenbury Wells, Birmingham, Oldbury etc so travel for them is really challenging.

Families that have been with us for a while know we do everything to keep WFS open - but outside forces just became too much this time. SORRY.

Stay warm and stay safe.

Mrs G

**PARENT POP-IN  
WFS PARENTS &  
CARERS**



**EVERY MONDAY  
FROM 2PM IN OUR  
FAMILY HUB**

COME ALONG TO ACCESS  
SUPPORT AROUND SEND,  
FINANCES, BEHAVIOUR, SLEEP,  
HOUSING, TRANSPORT AND  
MUCH MORE!

THE SUPPORTING FAMILIES TEAM CAN NOW BE  
CONTACTED VIA EMAIL AT  
SUPPORTINGFAMILIES@WFS.WORCS.SCH.UK

# Is my child too ill for school?



It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

For guidance on when a child should or should not attend school due to illness, the NHS provides helpful information at:



[www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school)

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone school on the first day of your child's absence and let us know the reason they are absent.



Government guidelines explain when children need to be kept off school for certain illnesses and when they can return. These rules help protect everyone's health and make sure children don't miss school unnecessarily.



## Calendar Dates

Please find information and times of school events for 2026 at the end of the newsletter.

Please don't forget to pre-book your child's dinner choices for next term through MyChildAtSchool



**WyreForestSchool**



For Early Years parents

You are invited to a session with the Speech and Language Therapy team on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** between **9.30-11am** at **Russell House**.

Come and meet the team and have a hot or cold drink.

The focus of this session is around:

- Intensive interaction
- Objects of reference



There will also be time for you to chat with other parents about strategies to support communication.

Please enjoy articles this week from classes in Early Years



# PEAR CLASS

WELCOME BACK PEAR CLASS!

WHAT A GREAT FIRST WEEK BACK WE HAVE HAD,  
ALL THE CHILDREN HAVE COME BACK VERY  
SETTLED AND GOT STRAIGHT BACK TO IT. THIS  
WEEK WE HAVE LOVED: EXPLORING THE ICE  
OUTSIDE AND WATCHING IT MELT, OUR BUBBLE  
MACHINE, EXPLORED WATER BUBBLE PLAY,  
MUSIC AND PLAYING WITH OUR FAVOURITE TOYS.



## Lemon Class

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

This half term our topic is 'Once Upon A Time', we have started this topic off this week with The Ginger Bread Man. The children have enjoyed decorating their salt dough gingerbread men and also reading the Gingerbread Man as a sensory story. We have also enjoyed PE, the MSR room and dark room.



# Orange Class

## WFS

### Spring 1

We've had a wonderful start to the new term in Orange Class! The children have been exploring the classic tale of Little Red Riding Hood, which sparked lots of creativity and imagination.

#### 🎨 Art Activities

The children created beautiful red-themed pictures using rollers and brushes. They loved experimenting with different textures and techniques to bring their ideas to life.

#### 🌲 Forest School Adventures

Our outdoor learning was full of excitement as we went on a hunt to find the Big Bad Wolf! The children worked together, using their senses and problem-solving skills to explore the forest.

#### 🌟 Sensory Circuits

We also focused on developing our gross motor skills through sensory circuits. These activities help build strength, coordination, and confidence in movement.

It's been a fantastic first week, and we can't wait to see what adventures next week brings!

### Key Dates

- Forest School- Wednesday
- PE -Thursday

Next week's Sign of the Week is:



Please click on the link to watch Bev sign 'Ready'.

<https://video2.juniperwebsites.co.uk/files/ovw2/591/pmetcalf@wfs.worcs.sch.uk/WFS%20Core%20Signs/WFSCoreSigns6.mp4>

### Activities this Week





# Apple Class



## WFS

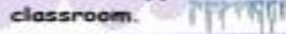
### Spring 1 - Week 1

Traditional Tales - The Three Little Pigs



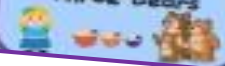
Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year! Apple class have settled back amazingly! It is like they have never been away and have got stuck in with engaging with our daily routine.

Our story this week has been The Three Little Pigs and we have enjoyed exploring this story with props, making our own mud bath for pigs using coco powder and cereal. Also creating our own little houses using either sticking with sticks, straw or printing with duplo bricks. We also have had chance to explore the cold weather, interacting with the ice that appeared outside our classroom.



### Next Week

Traditional Tales - Goldilocks and the Three Bears



### Sign of the Week

Please click on the link to watch Bev sign 'Choose'.

<https://video4.juniperwebsites.co.uk/files/ovw2/591/pmetcalf@wfs.worcs.sch.uk/WFS%20Core%20Signs/WFSCoreSigns7.mp4>

### Activities this Week





# Apple Class

PHOTOS



# FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Choice of activities throughout the week

Available Monday - Friday

Full Days 9am - 3pm  
Half Days 9am - 12pm  
12pm - 3pm

Costs Full Days £40 per Day  
Half Days £20 per Day

Both cooked & cold lunch available \*  
\*not available 9am-12pm

Age Range from 16 years

Criteria Mild-moderate disabilities, no challenging behaviour, independent with toileting.

Venue:-  
Odell Centre  
Plimsoll Street  
Kidderminster  
Worcestershire  
DY11 6TZ



## Art Club

All genres of arts & crafts



## Earth Craft

Rustic crafts & exploring nature



## Green Shoots

Outdoor gardening



## Odell Players

Performance arts  
(Music, Drama, Dance)

## Splinters

Woodworking skills



## Exercise Sessions

Kickboxing Tuesday,  
Zumba Wednesday,  
Yoga Friday



To book a place or for further information please contact:

Bernie Green, Office & Finance Manager on  
01562 69683 or email [info@odellcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@odellcentre.org.uk)



## The Vines Wrap Around

Last term in Wrap Around we were very busy with;

- painting
- Christmas decorating
- biscuit making
- video gaming
- building new tracks
- exploring outdoor area's and sensory rooms



**We are looking forward to lots of new activities this term!**



**If you are interested in Wrap Around club and would like any more information please email [jtownell@wfs.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:jtownell@wfs.worcs.sch.uk).**



# Communication and Interaction News and Information



Welcome back,

## Early Listening: Awareness of Sound

For children to be able to understand the difficult sounds of speech and language, children need to be aware of the sounds around them first. They can learn about sounds through the exploration of objects. They learn to link different sounds to different actions, people and objects.

### How can you help?

- You can start to use the words for noisy and quiet. To support with this, you could use pictures and signs. You could also exaggerate actions such as putting your hands over your ears for something noisy.
- Show your child different items at home that can make different sounds. Get your child to listen to the sounds such as dogs barking, doors slamming, running water etc.

### Exploring sounds

Things to bang

- ✓ Wooden/metal spoons and saucepans
- ✓ Empty tins
- ✓ Toy musical instruments

Things to blow

- ✓ Whistles/Kazoos
- ✓ Party blowers
- ✓ Toy trumpets etc.
- ✓ Musical balloons- let the air out and let your child feel and hear the sounds and air

Things to shake

- ✓ Sound shakers can be made by putting objects into containers and shaking them.



*Remember to keep small objects out of reach of children*

Kind regards  
Communication team



**Widgit**  
CENTRE

Accreditation -  
Specialist Level

**Speech and  
Language UK**



05.01.26

### Parent Carer Needs Assessment Survey

If you are caring for a disabled child up to the age of 16 years old, we want to understand your experience of requesting a Parent Carer Needs Assessment. Your responses will help highlight what is working well and where improvements may be needed.

[📄 Parent Carer Needs Assessment \(PCNA\) Survey](#)



Please note: all the dates/times below are subject to change.

Please can we remind all Parents & Carers to keep the school office updated with any change of details, i.e, telephone numbers, addresses, list of contacts. Thank you

January 2026	
22	Early Years Parent Support Group at Russell House – Speech & Language Therapy Session– 9.30 – 11 am
23	Chinese New Year

February 2026	
4	Parents' Evening
4	Life Beyond School event – 3.15 – 5.00pm
6	Number Day – Non-uniform day – wear something with a number if possible
9 - 13	Mental Health week
10	Safer Internet Day
12	Early Years Stay and Play - Fairytales 1.30 – 2.30pm
16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
23	<b>PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>

March 2026	
3	Holi
6	World Book Day
13	Maths Day Mother's Day Gift Shop
17	Pathway 2 Easter Stay and Play – 10.30 – 11.30 – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.30 – 2.30pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
20	Year 9 - DTP vaccines – <b>more information to follow</b>
20	World Down Syndrome Day
20	Early Years Parent Support Group at Russell House - SENDIASS (Sleep Support) – Information, Advice & Support Service– 1.30 – 2.30pm
24	Pathway 1 Easter Stay and Play 9.20am-10.20am – Cedar, Alder, Larch 10.30am-11.30am – Lime, Yew, Fir, Pine 1.30pm-2.30pm – Holly, Beech, Fig, Elm
25	Pathway 4 Parent Pop In – 1.40pm
26	Early Years Easter Egg hunt – 1.30-2.30pm
27	Autism Awareness Day
27	<b>BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Half term

April 2026	
13	Inset day
14	<b>PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>
17	Vaisakhi
20	Pathway 2 Reading Celebration – 10.30 – 11.30 – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.30 – 2.30pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
21	Post 14 Coffee Morning – 9.30 – 10.20am
23	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Coffee Morning – 9.30- 10.20am

May 2026	
1	Vesak- Act of Kindness Day (Buddhism)
9	Spring Fair – 11.30am – 2.30pm
13	Pathway 4 Jobs Event – 1.25pm (pupils only, Year 7 upwards)
21	Early Years Teddy Bears Picnic – 1.30 – 2.30pm
22	<b>BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Half term

June 2026	
1	<b>PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>
3	Eid
4	Early Years Sports Day – 1.30 – 2.30pm
5	Y8 HPV vaccines – <b>more information to follow</b>
8	Pathway 2 Sports Day – 9.30 – 11.00am – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.15 – 2.45pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
10	Pathway 1 Sports Day – 1.15 – 2.15pm Secondary Playground - Cedar, Alder, Larch, Holly, Elm

	1.15 – 2.15pm – Primary Playground - Lime, Beech, Fir, Pine, Fig, Yew
12	PRIDE - 6 <sup>th</sup> Form
17	Pathway 3 & 4 Sports Day – <b>more information to follow</b>
19	Sparkle Day Father's Day Gift Shop
23	Post 14/16 Sports Day
26	Year 11 Leavers Party – 1.45pm

July 2026	
7	Pathway 2 End of Year Celebration – 10.30 – 11.30 – Ash, Poplar, Willow, Rowan, Hazel 1.30 – 2.30pm – Birch, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Maple, Cherry
8	Early Years End of Year Celebration – 1.30 – 2.30pm
9	Parents new to 6 <sup>th</sup> Form meeting – 9.30-10.30am
13	Pathway 1 End of Year Celebration and Summer Picnic – 1.15 – 2.30pm Secondary Playground – Cedar, Alder, Larch, Holly, Elm 1.15 – 2.30pm – Primary Playground – Lime, Beech, Fir, Pine, Fig, Yew
14	Post 14 End of Year Celebration – 1.30 - 2.30pm
15	Pathway 3 Celebration Assembly – 1.30pm
16	Pathway 4 End of Year Celebration - <b>more information to follow</b>
17	<b>BREAK UP FOR SUMMER</b>