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Our Ref: CV203

Date: 11th July 2025

Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As the term draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for your dedication and hard work throughout the academic year. Your contributions have made a real difference. To those retiring or embarking on new adventures, we send our very best wishes for the future.

On Monday 7 July, the Secretary of State announced 2026 as [The National Year of Reading](#), a nationwide campaign which aims to reverse the decline in reading for pleasure among children, young people and adults. The National Year of Reading is a DfE initiative, delivered in partnership with The National Literacy Trust. Please encourage children and families to head to their local library and join our [Summer Reading Challenge](#), where children receive reading reward packs and can enjoy free events throughout the summer.

On Friday 25 July, enforcement of the Online Safety Act's Children's Codes will come into effect. The enforcement of the codes marks a major shift in how children will experience the online world. Tech companies will have to design their platforms with children's safety front of mind and will need to provide more protection against harmful content like self-harm, eating disorders, pornography, and online grooming. They will also need to implement stronger age checks to keep children away from age-inappropriate sites and content. More information on the changes is available on Ofcom's [parents explainer page](#) which we encourage you to please share with parents via your parent communications, to support them over the holidays.

The Department for Education will publish the *information version* of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 next month, ahead of it coming into force on 1 September 2025. It is expected to include links to updated guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education and gender-questioning children. While this year's changes are technical, future updates will reflect wider developments, including the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, the Casey Audit, and the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. Schools will continue to play a vital role in safeguarding as national policy and understanding evolve.

Wishing you all a restful summer break.

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Latest News from Schools

Worcester school celebrated as national 'Oracy Centre of Excellence'

Congratulations to St Barnabas CE Primary who have been announced as an Oracy Centre of Excellence by national oracy charity, Voice 21, for its work developing students' speaking, listening and communication skills. St Barnabas was chosen to receive the status of 'Oracy Centre of Excellence' out of the 1150 schools that Voice 21 works with annually.

As a Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence, St Barnabas acts as a beacon of good practice for oracy across the school system. Oracy, like reading, writing and arithmetic, is a basic skill that ensures students thrive at school and in life.

St Barnabas CE Primary are the only Primary School Centre of Excellence for Oracy in the whole of Worcestershire meaning they are setting the 'gold standard' for their children. The school have developed Poetry Slams, speechmaking events and classroom practice that develops children's speaking and listening. In addition to this, St Barnabas CE Primary founded and hosted the Worcestershire Primary Schools Debating Competition.

The Voice 21 Oracy Centre of Excellence award certifies and celebrates schools who are changing the face of education. St Barnabas CE Primary has demonstrated the quality of oracy education being provided across five areas of school life; their school's vision, culture, curriculum, learning and impact on students. This whole school approach is at the heart of what it means to offer high-quality oracy education which will enable every child to use their voice to thrive in school, work and life.



Regency High School - Have Your Say

Regency High School is running a consultation on the below proposed changes:

- Increasing the number of pupils the school can take (from 298 to 335)
- Extending the age range so it takes children from age 4 to 19 (currently 11 to 19)
- Opening a new primary satellite site at Stanley Road Primary School, using space that isn't currently being used (this depends on further checks and planning)

Parents, carers, and anyone else interested are invited to give their views.

The consultation runs from 7 July to 28 July 2025.

You can read more and fill out the feedback form on the school's website:

www.regency.worcs.sch.uk

Latest Education News and Updates

Edenred Portal Access for Summer Holiday 2025 FSM Vouchers

As confirmed by email to all schools on 1st April, FSM eligible pupils will receive £60 per child in vouchers for the upcoming summer holiday.

Edenred Portal access will be available from 7th July and close on Friday 5th September 2025. Schools will have access to issue a £60 voucher per child to cover the holiday period. They will expire one month after they have been issued.

After the portal access closes on Friday 5th September 2025, schools and parents will have until Friday 12th September 2025 for any outstanding voucher queries to be resolved, by emailing FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Key points:

- **Accessing the portal:** You must use the WCC ordering site with your existing **WCC account (22463)**, the login page can be accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)
- **Eligibility:** Vouchers are for FSM eligible children aged 4 – 16 and in years Reception to Year 11 (**not including nursery or 6th form students**).
- **Voucher expiry:** Advise parents to redeem vouchers promptly to avoid expiry. **All vouchers issued during this period will expire after one month from the date of issue.** Once redeemed, the supermarket eGift card will have a longer expiry date in accordance with their chosen supermarket T&Cs, see page 6 of [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- Make sure you have the **correct recipient email address** and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher.
- **Invoicing for overspend:** Schools will be invoiced for any overspend above the expected amount per school.
- Historic expired vouchers will not be paid due to budget monitoring and programme claiming requirements. Exceptions **may** be considered if there are extenuating family circumstances which the school will need to verify.
- Eligibility for vouchers is linked to FSM status. There may be families who have FSM status, but their circumstances have changed during the Universal Credit switch over protection of status. Please consider that vouchers are issued to those children and families who require support.
- To help monitor the vouchers issued under this scheme, please can you ensure you include the URN or UKPRN for the school when placing the order.
- Year 11 pupils with FSM status remain eligible for vouchers until the end of the academic year i.e. £60 voucher for the summer holiday.

For further help, see these useful links:

- **Edenred User Guide** - for ordering and supermarket details: [user guide](#)
- **Parent/Carer FAQs** - [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- **Forgotten Password** – [Password reset](#)
- **Redeem eCodes** - [Redeem eCodes](#)
- For any queries, refer to the guides first, then contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk

Please continue to signpost families to local support and information:

- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#)
- [Household Support Fund Worcestershire webpage](#)
- [Cost of living support](#) information is available on the council's website

HAF Summer 2025 bookings are underway - have you booked your places?

On behalf of the Worcestershire HAF Team can you please share the following messages with your parents and carers through your normal communication channels.

Make this summer unforgettable!

As HAF returns for the school holidays in just a few weeks, we're excited to share with you our provisions across Worcestershire - a mix of old favourites, new entries and absolutely, plenty to keep your children and young people entertained, engaged and excited for a summer of fun!

Each child receives 16 credits for the summer.

One session/activity is 1 credit. You can of course change your mind once booked and cancel places that you wish to change/can no longer attend via your account. We ask that if you need to do this, please do so as soon as possible - your unwanted place can no doubt be of benefit to another family. It's also worth noting, if you don't cancel, you won't receive a refunded credit to use elsewhere.

Stay updated on Facebook

If you aren't yet following us on [Facebook](#) - get involved! Here you'll see useful information, latest news and updates, links to HAF providers and what's running where.

What's new this summer?

We've partnered with your favourites but added a mix of newer/more niche activities across Worcestershire. We've also targeted more youth provisions (11–16-year-olds) and looked to further bolster our SEND provision, both mainstream and specialist.

We're expecting an AYOS return in Wyre Forest! We're also thrilled to welcome back more swimming & water safety groups, more outdoor activities, more forest school provision and further STEM activities to inspire the inventors, creators and designers of the future.

360 Play Town, Redditch is back - hurrah! It's indoor, noisy and the kids will be zooming, but for supervising parents/carers... there's aircon!

Matchday? We've got it. Redditch United are offering family matchday packages with some merch included - *back of the net!*

[View the HAF Summer 2025 What's on Guide](#)

Questions or feedback?

Please message via enquiries@hafworcestershires.co.uk - during go live response times may be slower due to volume of support required over the longer holiday period - we appreciate your patience with this.

And so, here's to a summer of making unforgettable memories. We really hope our offer this summer inspires, ignites new interests and adventure, and above all, provides lasting enjoyment to all.

[HAF & Short Breaks Booking Service](#)

School Climate Action Plans

The [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#), published by DfE in 2022, set out initiatives that work together for the education system to inspire, to support planning and to take the action needed to meet the challenges climate change presents. Please download the [Sustainability Support Programme postcard](#) which illustrates their initiatives.

As part of this strategy, the department set out the expectation that all education settings are to have a climate action plan by the end of 2025. Climate action plans should take a holistic approach to climate action in education settings, encompassing the four pillars of climate education and green skills, decarbonisation, adaptation, and biodiversity. To help educational settings develop a climate action plan and progress on their sustainability journey, the department has commissioned three **free** initiatives:

- [Sustainability Support for Education](#): a digital platform that provides tailored signposting to appropriate resources that enable settings to take their first steps on their sustainability journey, or, to take their ambitions to the next level. For support with using the Sustainability Support for Education platform and further information on all the sustainability services offered by the department, please sign up to the free interactive webinars: [Action for Climate by Sustainability Support for Education | Eventbrite](#).
- [Climate Ambassadors](#) and the [Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisors](#): on the ground support from experts to help planning and delivery of climate action plans. Engagement with the Climate Ambassadors in West Midlands is led by Keele University, please contact climate-ambassadors.wm@keele.ac.uk
- [National Education Nature Park](#): digital tools and resources to empower children and young people to lead the way in decision making and action in their setting.

Further guidance: [Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK](#).

New Religious Education SACRE Syllabus (Primary) - Virtual Catch-Up Briefing/Workshop

Following the recent launch of our new RE SACRE at the conference in April, we are aware that some schools were unable to join us and so would like to offer you the opportunity to attend a short online introductory briefing/workshop to explore the *New SACRE with Stephen Pett, Lead Advisor for RE Today. During this session you will learn about the changes and discuss practical strategies for implementing the syllabus in your school.

Stephen will deliver this session on Thursday 25th September, 1pm – 3.30pm.

The cost of this session is £45+ VAT and places can be booked through CPD.

[Training, conferences and Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\)](#)

Access to New Religious Education SACRE Syllabus - Primary and Secondary

If you have yet to access a copy of the new RE SACRE Syllabus, please e-mail Rachael Baldwin rbaldwin@worcestershire.gov.uk stating your school, a named person to whom you would like the syllabus to be sent and their e-mail address.

Reducing Parental Conflict workshops

Harmony at Home has been Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Worcestershire County Council is no longer commission the targeted delivery. Therefore, please can we encourage you to visit our [Harmony at Home website](#) which we continue to update with advice and guidance, resources, helpful links and signposting. This is for both practitioners and families to access.

We are currently updating the Harmony at Home practitioner's toolkit which is being designed specifically for practitioners to support you in direct interventions with parents and includes assessment tools, questionnaires and templates for discussion. This toolkit offers guidance between 1-5 planned sessions for parents/carers who are parenting together or apart which can be adapted based on the family's needs, or to offer some intervention as part of your existing plan. Each session is designed for parents, carers, and families to explore specific themes together, with guidance from a practitioner.

The team are running Harmony at Home workshops to help them review how to best use the toolkit in practice to help our families reduce parental conflict, to improve family life and communication for children and young people. If you are interested in joining a workshop please book your place on - [Reducing Parental Conflict \(Harmony at Home\)](#)

Journeying Forward - Cohort 3 now open for applications

Are you a Headteacher in your first 3 years of headship?

Join a supportive and inspiring network of peers through *Journeying Forward – Cohort 3*, launching in Autumn 2025.

This programme provides:

- **Peer support** from other new Headteachers
- **Expert facilitation** to guide discussion and reflection
- A safe space to share experiences, challenges, and successes
- Opportunities to build confidence and leadership resilience

If you're interested in joining or would like more information, please download the [Journeying Forward flyer](#) or contact the CPD office at cpdeducation@worc.ac.uk :

Please note places are limited and the deadline for applications is Monday 29th September 2025.

Latest Attendance News and Updates

Attendance Conference 30th September 2025 - Booking now open

Join us for our annual attendance conference event open to all Worcestershire schools!

As schools continue to embed DfE 'Working together to Improve School attendance' statutory requirements to ensure attendance remains a shared priority this event will provide key updates for all SLT attendance leads working within the Worcestershire context.

This event will:

- Support school SLT attendance leads to ensure attendance remains a priority
- Feature schools sharing practice making impact
- Provide networking opportunities for all SLT attendance leads

To book your place (most relevant to your phase) please select from the links below:

[Primary/Middle deemed Primary Information and Booking](#)

[Secondary/Middle deemed Secondary Information and Booking](#)

Back to School September Support - Attendance Helpline

Many schools recognise that pupils who are absent in the first week of term are often pupils that continue to have further persistent or severe levels of absence.

Making plans to prioritise resource to be able to quickly identify pupils who may be missing in the first week of school and ensuring effective resource to provide a timely and robust 'support first' attendance approach to encourage pupil attendance are crucial for schools to ensure a strong start attendance drive.

To further support schools during the first week of September the LA attendance helpline will offer additional hours, opening daily from Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th September between 9am-12.30pm and 1pm-4.30pm.

Do call us on 01905 844 440 should you require any attendance related advice, guidance or support.

Penalty Notice Requests Reminder: Cut-off date Friday 25th July 2025

To meet the required legal timeframes all school penalty notice requests made to the LA for unauthorised leave/holiday absence must be received **before 5pm on Friday 25th July 2025**. Any requests received after this date will not be processed.

Worcestershire Attendance Support Feedback

Last chance for SLT attendance leaders to have your say!

Thank you to all schools who have already taken the time, through your SLT attendance leads, to complete the survey reviewing the attendance support and resources currently provided by the LA attendance team this year. Your feedback has been key in enabling us to refresh our LA delivery plans for 2025-2026 and we look forward to responding directly to any schools that have requested us to.

If you haven't yet had chance to respond, the survey will remain open until Monday 21st July and takes approximately 4 minutes to complete:

<https://forms.office.com/e/36UE7fsxve>

Thank you in advance for your time, we really value your feedback. The LA 2025-2026 attendance delivery plan will be shared with all schools in September.

Latest SEND News and Updates

Update from our Co-production Officers

Chanika and Amy, our Co-production Officers, have had a busy few months visiting schools, youth groups, and family hubs across Worcestershire. In June, they ran workshops in schools to hear directly from children and young people about what matters most to them, what “good” looks like, and what they need to live a happy and fulfilled life. This feedback will help shape the SEND strategy and quality assurance plans to make sure young voices are at the heart of everything.

They’ve already visited Heart of Worcestershire College, Fort Royal Primary, Perryfields Primary PRU, and Pershore High School, with more visits planned to Kempsey Primary, Pitcheroak, Wyre Forest School, and Christopher Whitehead. They've also visited children in their homes and at family hubs and are excited to hear that some young people are interested in joining the new SEND forum. The SEND forum will be a chance for children and young people to get together regularly to talk about the things that are important to them – the first meeting will be online and is being planned for July.

Chanika and Amy would love to meet more children and young people and will be holding a launch event at The Hive on 7th August. There will be fun activities for children and young people, and information stalls linked to different SEND services in Worcestershire. If you have a plasma screen please download this [plasma screen image about the co-production event](#) for sharing with families.

If you know a young person who would like to take part or find out more, you can email Chanika and Amy at SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction

GP SEND Handbook - updated version

A new version of the GP SEND handbook has been released.

It is available on the SEND local offer website:
[SEND health and wellbeing | Worcestershire County Council](#)

The direct link to download is:
[Worcestershire GP SEND Handbook V10 for publication 2025](#)

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

[HW SENDIASS](#) is the Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

SENDIASS have a dedicated team of trained advisors offering legally based information, advice and support on all matters relating to children and young people (**0-25**) who have or may have SEND. The service is **FREE, impartial, and confidential**.

If you identify children in your setting with SEND, you can signpost them and their families to SENDIASS for free information and support.

If you would like some free copies of SENDIASS leaflets and posters to display in your setting, distribute to your families, or include in your new starters packs, please contact SENDIASS@worcestershire.gov.uk

We also have digital copies available to download from [Google Drive](#).

SENDIASS can also provide general information, advice and support to professionals working with families of children/young people with SEND. You can contact them using the details below.

FREE SEND Training

HW SENDIASS also provide **FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars** for parent carers and professionals. These workshops can help build knowledge and skills for families with a child or young person with SEND and any professionals that support them.

They have released new dates for the Autumn Term.

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers**:

- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [How to check a draft Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)-HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [Supporting Young People with SEND: Preparing for Adulthood- HW SENDIASS](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals**:

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response in Schools Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)

All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.

Please direct your families to these opportunities. Flyers are attached for use in your newsletters or on social media.

If you would like SENDIASS to host a FREE session at your setting, please complete the [SENDIASS Training Request Form](#) or contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk for more information.

[SENDIASS Training delivered at your venue | Worcestershire County Council](#)

SENDIASS News

SENDIASS Worcestershire Young Person Advisor, Kelly Hill has been named this year's Careers Leader of the Year: SEND, AP & PRU Settings by the Worcestershire Careers Hub.

Kelly was recognised for her exceptional careers support and Preparing for Adulthood guidance for young people with SEND and those in alternative education settings.

Find out more about the [SENDIASS Young Person Advisor Service](#) on their website and in their leaflet attached.

SENDIASS have created a [Tips for Transition webpage](#) that might be useful to share with your families.

Contact SENDIASS

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service)

Email sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media: [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#)

HW SENDIASS also have lots of useful information on their website www.hwsendiass.co.uk

Latest Public Health News and Updates

Happy Healthy Holidays for Teenagers - Parents & Carers Guide 2025

Action for middle and secondary schools: Please circulate widely and promote to parents and carers before the end of term

Following the successful launch of this guide in 2023, Public Health have reviewed and updated the guide for 2025.

You can download it from the [Google Drive](#).

The guide provides parents and carers with information, advice and guidance to support their teenagers to have happy and healthy holidays and includes topics such as:

- Being active
- Food and nutrition
- Sleep
- Sun and water safety
- Summer infection risks
- Online safety
- Socialising
- Mental health and wellbeing

Trauma Informed Parents' Journey: 6-week course for parents

All First/Primary Trauma Informed schools can apply to deliver this new, innovative and exciting course for parents.

To express interest in attending a 2.5-hour staff training course in 2025/26 (Sept, Jan, Mar), please register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/52BYQausKL>

Schools will receive an electronic and physical training resource pack plus a small library for parents to borrow whilst attending the course.

Or, to find out more please [join the 30 minute webinar](#) on Tuesday 18th November at 4pm.

Delivering a whole school emotional wellbeing learning package (first/primary schools)

If your school does not have a whole school package for teaching and learning about emotional wellbeing and would want to deliver the Skills for Life Programme: [Home | Partnership for Children](#)

Please email ccharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk to express interest which involves training for up to 6 staff members on 14th October (3.30-5pm) as there are a small number of places still available.

Teenage Relationship Abuse: Building healthy relationships for life

Did you know that **16–24-year-olds** are the most at-risk age group for **domestic abuse**? [Source: CSEW]

Our teenage years are formative for identity, independence, and intimacy. But for too many young people, early relationships can involve unhealthy dynamics, emotional harm, and abuse.

Join us for this free, one-hour webinar hosted by The For Baby's Sake Trust in partnership with TLC: Talk, Listen, Change - exploring how we can recognise, respond to, and prevent teenage relationship abuse, and why building the foundations for healthy relationships early is vital for long-term wellbeing.

Tuesday 12th August 2pm-3pm online via MS Teams

Places are free to reserve by registering at: <https://bit.ly/4ehlcLK>

Solihull Approach: FREE Online courses for professionals in Worcestershire

Worcestershire has partnered with the Solihull Approach to sponsor FREE online courses developed by psychologists and professionals. Supporting a Trauma Informed workforce with these self-directed, 24/7 online eLearning courses for *all* professionals, in *any* setting.

- Understanding **trauma** introduces the complexities of trauma; recognising, processing and recovery
- Understanding **brain development** from antenatal to adolescence and its significance for mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and teenagers
- Understanding attachment supporting **healthy attachment** and the value of containment and reciprocity for the quality of attachment

Each of these three courses provides 3.75 CPD hours.

solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire/

Access code PARENTSROCK_PRF

Latest Training and Conference News

CPD Offer 2025/26 - Supporting School Success

Jessica Blakeman & Racheal Baldwin

We're excited to share our carefully curated CPD programme for the 2025–2026 academic year, designed with schools in mind, to empower staff and raise outcomes for pupils across Worcestershire. Whether you're looking to strengthen subject leadership, sharpen assessment practice, or boost classroom impact, we have ensured a comprehensive and robust training is on offer for all. Sessions are practical, purposeful, and rooted in educational research.

Courses begin this September: book now to secure your place and avoid missing out!

Curriculum & Assessment Focus

- Assessment of Reading (KS1 and KS2)
- Assessment of Writing (KS1 and LKS2)
- Assessment of Maths (KS1)
- Building a Robust Reading Curriculum

Year 6 Support & Writing Development

- New to Year 6
- Y6 GDS in Writing
- Y6 Refresher Training (Writing)

Leadership & Professional Development

- English Subject Leader Network
- Worcestershire Pupil Premium Network Meeting
- An Introduction to Coaching for Improving Teaching and Learning

Power Hours – High-Impact CPD

- Power Hours – Supporting Effective Teaching
- Power Hours – Raising Attainment of Writing

This is a fantastic opportunity to invest in your team's development and drive whole-school improvement.

For further information and to book, please visit CPD:

<https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>

Leaders of Learning 2025/26

Our Leaders of Learning meetings bring together Headteachers and senior leads to provide an opportunity to share effective practice and gain updates and information on current topics.

Each workshop will be focused around a topic that the School Improvement team know is key in education, a 'quick win' to help reduce workload, updates on inspection patterns, a focus on a piece of research or project that might be of interest and that all important time to speak to other leaders in schools across the county to share experiences.

In addition, attendees will receive a newsletter from each Leaders of Learning workshop which will feature updates, advice and guidance on the latest research and projects being worked on in Worcestershire and across the country, receiving a total of three for the academic year.

To Access Leaders of Learning you will need to purchase the following SLA (Leaders of Learning) via eStore: <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/TradedServices/>

Once logged onto your account, click on Services & Products, select purchasing year 2025/26, click on Quality of Education & Improvements, you will now see the Leaders of Learning SLA listed.

Latest News from Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Reminder - Essential Information for ECT and Mentor Registration

Please see below the following important information if you have an ECT at your school from September 2025.

ECTE Changes from September 2025:

- September 2025 will see the implementation of the ECTE (Early Career Teacher Entitlement).
- There will be significant changes to the ECT CPD Training programme.
- There will be significant changes to the ECT Mentor experience.
- There are some statutory updates regarding induction and Appropriate Body services.

To find out more details please do the following:

Follow this [link](#) to the 'Early Career Teacher Entitlement' section of our website.

Registration of ECTs and Mentors:

- The DfE service is open so you should be able to register all participants fully for the next academic year.
- It is important that everyone is registered as soon as possible, preferably before September to ensure all communication is in place for the new academic year and to ensure participants are able to access everything they need.
- Follow this [link](#) to the 'Register an ECT' section on our website for more information.

Latest Local News and Updates

Reminder to help to keep your pupils reading this summer

Worcestershire's Libraries, in partnership with The Reading Agency, invite all schools to support this year's Summer Reading Challenge, the UK's biggest reading programme for children aged 4–11.

Why it matters?

We are facing a national crisis in children's reading. Recent research shows that only 1 in 3 children and young people now enjoy reading, a drop of 33% since 2005, and 1 in 4 children in the UK cannot read well by age 11. However, when children enjoy reading, they read more often — boosting confidence, wellbeing, and learning outcomes.

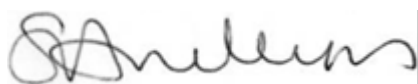
Taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge helps to prevent the holiday reading 'dip', keeps children reading and ready for the new school year, supports smooth transitions between year groups and key stages, and makes reading a fun, social, and inspiring part of their summer. This year's theme: Story Garden, launching Saturday 5 July at libraries across Worcestershire, Story Garden celebrates outdoor adventures and magical storytelling, brought to life with illustrations by Dapo Adeola.

How your school can help

- Engage parents & pupils by sending them the [Summer Reading Challenge flyer](#)
- Encourage all pupils to sign up at their local library
- Book a free assembly from your local library team by emailing: LibrariesHQ@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Set the Summer Reading Challenge as homework for the holidays, and celebrate pupils' success in September

How to sign up

The Challenge runs in all libraries from Saturday 5 July throughout the summer holidays. Children can sign up at their local library, borrow books, take part in fun activities, and collect free rewards and incentives along the way. For more information visit our [Summer Reading Challenge webpage](#).



Sarah Wilkins

Assistant Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Pupil Place Planning

