

## Worcestershire Virtual School News

### Issue 1

### Academic Year 2022-23

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### Our New Virtual School Headteacher

We are delighted to announce the arrival of our new Virtual School Headteacher, Matthew Stiles.

Matthew is an experienced leader in education with a broad and deep career across primary and secondary education, including Alternative Provision. He is a highly regarded leader, practitioner, trainer, and consultant with experience of a wide range of services including schools, colleges, alternative provision, local authorities, universities, health, and social care settings.



Matthew reported that “I’m absolutely delighted to be leading Worcestershire’s Virtual School on the next phase of its journey to becoming a flagship provision. The team is made up of incredibly dedicated, experienced, and skilful professionals and together we will work closely with our partners and stakeholders to improve the futures of all the children and young people we support. If you have any questions or feedback, then please feel free to get in touch.”

Matthew’s e-mail address is [mstiles@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:mstiles@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## Designated Teacher Training

The Designated Teacher training is due to take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. A feedback survey will be sent out to you all asking about previous experience with the training and also preferred times going forward. Please can you complete this feedback by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. From this, the time of the session(s) will be decided and you will be informed.

## Additional Funding Requests

If you wish to make a request for Additional Funding this must be recorded on the PEP in the "My Targets" section and linked to a SMART target. Following a discussion with your Learning Advocate they will seek approval for the funding from the Virtual School Head. Once approved a notification will appear on the PEP and your Learning Advocate will contact you to let you know that the funding has been approved. You are advised to not start the intervention that requires the additional funding until you have received confirmation of approval from the Virtual School to ensure that you will receive the funding.

## Educational Psychology Drop-in sessions

Worcestershire Children First (WCF) Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is working in collaboration with Worcestershire Virtual school and are pleased to offer a 'drop-in' consultation service to discuss concerns and needs for Children Looked after. If you would like to book a session to discuss one of your children, please speak with your Learning Advocate in the first instance and then complete the Consent and Information Form and select your preferred date and then return to [virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## Teaching Resources

Supporting Children's mental well being

This booklist from the National Literacy Trust can be used to support children's mental well-being and help them feel positive about starting school or nursery. It also includes titles that address ongoing concerns about COVID-19.

Back to School: Reading for pleasure

This is a fantastic resource for [Back to school: reading for pleasure transition activities | National Literacy Trust](#) for all ages.

Comic rules

All resources are free to download from the available files list on this page. Begin with the Comics Rule! learning sequence overview to plan how to integrate the sessions into your planning. It includes a guide to the sessions, learning outcomes, and curriculum links. It has been designed to cover key elements of the Key Stage 2 reading and writing curriculum and to build students' confidence.

Using the exciting world of comics and graphic novels, this unit teaches key comprehension and visual literacy skills alongside creative writing, as pupils work together to produce a comic of their own at the end of the sequence.

[Comics Rule! | National Literacy Trust](#)

**We are here to support you and our children looked after/previously looked after. Please call or email, using the details below or visit our website.**

**Virtual School Helpline 01905 844913 [virtuelschool@worschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:virtuelschool@worschildrenfirst.org.uk)**

**<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtuelschool>**

