

DOTHILL NEWS



Don't forget to check the school website for regular updates.

www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk

Check out our Facebook page: Dothill Primary School, Telford

21.11.25

Contact school on 01952 386870 or
by email on dothill@taw.org.uk

Dazzling Dotties **Weekly Update** **Attendance** **Reminders** **Mental Health** **SEND** **EYFS** **Internet Safety** **Important Dates**

This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



It's Friday again, and that means another group of incredible children being recognised for their hard work and dedication.

This week, we celebrated extra effort in so many areas: staying focused in lessons, helping others, completing work both in school and at home, and rehearsing for the Christmas performance!

We also heard inspiring stories of bravery, with pupils tackling the high ropes on a trip to Telford Town Park, overcoming nerves to achieve something fantastic.

Well done to all our stars this week—you make us proud!

The Dazzling Dotties award went to both year 5 classes for their fabulous representation of our school on their trip to the Town Park.

News and Highlights this Week



Winter is certainly on its way... we have had a colder but busy week in school. Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Ariel Adventure and High Ropes in Telford Town Park on Monday. They also visited the town library, and of course, spent time on the park itself. Staff were so proud of the way the children conducted themselves throughout the entire day. More photos are on the website!



Year 6 enjoyed a morning at the nature reserve – they loved carrying out some fieldwork in the streams and completed the morning with some shelter building. We really are so lucky to have this space on our doorstep.



Warm Clothes

As the weather is dropping ever colder, could we remind you to make sure your child comes to school in a coat (as well as their school fleece if they have one). All children will continue to play outside each day, and in Reception, children spend a lot of time outdoors as part of their provision. It is very important that children are warm and comfortable throughout the day. Please label any gloves, scarves and

hats clearly so that we can get them back to the correct child if lost. Thank you for your support with this.

Full Governing Body Meeting

The Full Governing Body met this week at school. These meetings happen three times a year and are an important opportunity for the governing body to review progress, discuss future plans, and ensure the continued success of our school community.

Additionally, please be aware that the School Fund Accounts for the 2024–2025 academic year have been audited and are now available for parents to view on our school website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our governors for their continued support.

KS2 Christmas Craft Events 🎄

We are excited to invite KS2 parents to join us for a festive afternoon of Christmas crafts! Please check the dates for your child's year group in the *Dates for Your Diary* section at the bottom of this newsletter.

There will be biscuits and hot chocolate or squash to enjoy. Any donations towards this would be greatly appreciated (please make these via ParentPay), and we kindly ask that you **bring your own mugs**.

For all events, please enter through the delivery room door. We look forward to celebrating the season with you and maybe wearing your festive jumpers!

Y6 CGP SATs revision guides 2025/2026

Year 6 parents, please see the separate letter which has been sent regarding SAT revision books available to order via ParentPay at a school discounted price. A link to the letter is below. Orders must be placed by Friday 28th November to ensure you have these before the end of the autumn term.

[y6-cgp-sats-revision-guides-2025-2026.pdf](https://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk/y6-cgp-sats-revision-guides-2025-2026.pdf)

If you have any questions, please speak with Mrs Willoughby.

Careful Driving and Parking Reminder

Please remember to drive and park with extra care on the school road. We ask all parents and carers to be mindful of speed limits, avoid blocking driveways, and ensure the safety of children and families during drop-off and pick-up times. Your cooperation helps keep our school community safe.

Head Lice Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers to check your child's hair regularly for head lice and nits. If any are found, please treat promptly to help prevent them from spreading. For guidance on how to check and treat head lice, please visit the official NHS page: [Head lice and nits – NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/)

In addition, here is the link to our previous letter on the school website: [Head lice reminder February 2025 | Dothill Primary School](https://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk/head-lice-reminder-february-2025/)

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community healthy.

I wish you all a lovely and restful weekend. We look forward to welcoming you all back next week 😊

Friends of Dothill News

WINTER MOVIE NIGHT - BOOKING NOW OPEN 🌟

We are excited to hold another Winter movie night for our children on: **Monday 1st December from 3:15-5:00pm** (please note the change of date to that originally advertised)

🎫 Reception and KS1 movies will take place in their classrooms

🎫 KS2 will take place in the big hall

This is an after-school event and tickets include a movie, popcorn, sweets, and a drink!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Please Read:

🌲 Bookings must be made online (link below or use the QR code)

🌲 Enter your child's full name in 'Your Full Name' to inform us which children are registered for the movie night, as teachers will receive a list.

🌲 In 'Note to Merchant', please specify your child's class details, e.g., 3J

🌲 For multiple children attending, separate bookings/payments are necessary to ensure an accurate attendance list for both nights.

Secure your child's ticket

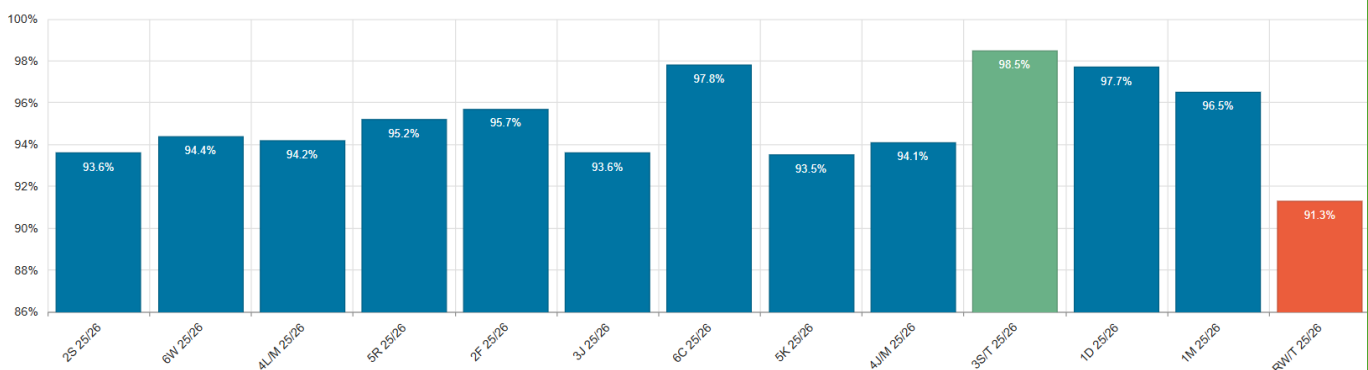
here: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QQA35TMA>

A big thank you to everyone booking a ticket - your support helps The Friends of Dothill Primary School fundraise for the school. 🐣



Attendance

Well done to 3ST for being the class with the highest attendance this week! 😊



The Importance of Being on Time

Arriving at school on time is essential for a successful day of learning. When children are late, they often miss valuable morning activities. We start our day with morning maths which is a session to further develop maths fluency and confidence. These sessions help build strong foundations and confidence in problem-solving. Being punctual ensures pupils start the day calmly, prepared, and ready to learn alongside their classmates. Let's work together to make every minute count! 😊

Unplanned Absence

Parents must notify school of the reason for any absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible, by calling the school admin staff, who can be contacted via 01952 386870. Parents must continue to inform school in this way on each subsequent day of absence.



We will mark absence due to physical or mental illness as authorised, unless school has a genuine concern about the authenticity of the illness.

Where the absence is longer than 5 days, or there are doubts about the authenticity of the illness, school will ask for medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription, appointment card or other appropriate form of evidence. We will not ask for medical evidence unnecessarily.

If school is not satisfied about the authenticity of the illness, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised, and parents will be notified of this in advance.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Winter Mindfulness Moments

Mindfulness helps children feel calm and focused:

- **Hot Chocolate Breathing:** Pretend to blow on a warm drink slowly.
- **Snowflake Focus:** Watch a snowflake melt and notice its details.
- **Five Senses Walk:** Indoors or outdoors, notice what you can see, hear, smell, touch, and taste.



☑ Wellbeing Challenge:

Spend 5 minutes noticing five things you can see, four you can touch, three you can hear, two you can smell, and one you can taste.

Early Help

Family Hubs Drop in Sessions

Drop-in sessions are **free, informal, and friendly**. You don't need an appointment—just go along during the scheduled times. At these sessions, you can:

- Speak to the Family Hubs team for **advice and signposting** on:
 - Parenting and behaviour support
 - Infant feeding
 - Mental health and wellbeing
 - Domestic abuse support
 - Online and community safety
 - SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
 - Financial advice and more
- Join **themed discussions**, hear from **guest speakers**, and connect with other parents through peer support groups.
- Find out about local activities, workshops, and online programmes.

These sessions are part of Telford & Wrekin Council's commitment to providing **the right help, in the right place, at the right time**, helping families feel supported and connected in their community.

See poster at the end of the newsletter for days and times of the sessions 😊

SEND

Sleep issues in children with SEND

Does your child struggle to fall asleep at night? Do they wake regularly throughout the night and then struggle to get up the next morning?

Back in 2021 Health funded the Telford PODS group to undergo specialised sleep training so that they could Sleep Tight workshops to support parents and carers in improving sleep quality for the whole family.

The workshops run over 3 sessions, using strategies and methods designed to help your child fall and remain asleep through the night. They use tried and tested methods that take into account children's individualities and help you plan a routine that works for you and your family.

The course is 3 sessions long spread over 3 weeks, it is essential that all 3 sessions are attended, each one covers a different topic/aspect which will slowly allow you to build a plan that works for you. If you are interested in finding out more or to request a place, please email elaine@podstelford.org.



EYFS

This week in class, we have been exploring how technology has evolved over time. Our focus was on the record player, and the children were fascinated by listening to vinyl records and watching the disc spin as the music played. We enjoyed dancing and discovering music from different eras.

We also looked at an old telephone and camcorder and talked about how they were used and what we would use now instead.

To enrich this topic, we would love to examine more examples of older technology. If you have any items such as cameras or

other devices that you would be happy for us to explore respectfully in class, please speak to the class teacher before sending them in.

Thank you for your support in helping us make this learning experience exciting and meaningful for the children!

We would also like to invite EYFS parents to our next Stay and Play where we will be enjoying festive activities together.

The EYFS Team



Internet Safety

This free online safety guide focuses on conversation starters for parents and carers regarding online content. It considers approaches like cultivating a blame-free culture, asking children to 'be the teacher' and getting them to talk about the risks.



Conversation starters for parents and carers: ONLINE CONTENT



Trying to start a conversation about online safety with children can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why children may not want to talk to adults about it. One might be that they don't think you'll understand or that you won't know how to help if they came to you with an online problem. It can also be hard to start a conversation about something that you might have limited knowledge about. However, with screen time increasing during the lockdown, it's important now more than ever, to be talking to children about what they are accessing online.

1 ASK THEIR MOTIVATION

Sometimes it's easy to assume we know why children choose certain games or apps. It can seem obvious, like the child interested in football will be enthusiastic about the new FIFA game. But sometimes it can be more subtle than that. It could be that it's an outlet for their creativity or it might be that they like the look of the main character. Learning their motivation and knowing why they like it can help advising them on how to use it safely and help you discuss the pros and cons.



6 MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

When your child can't wait to tell you about their new game, always try and listen to what they say. We always have a lot on our minds, so it's easy for us to drift off onto other things which may be more important. However try to stay involved and ask them more details about aspects of the game/app. Children will appreciate your interest and the more questions you ask, the more you can find out. If you act uninterested, then they are less likely to tell you about it again in the future.



2 CULTIVATE A BLAME FREE CULTURE

Children can often blame themselves if they come across something that scares them or makes them feel uncomfortable. There will be times when your child has gone against something that you have forbidden, however, most children do not intend to put themselves at risk. Therefore, it's important that your child is able to come to you with a problem and won't be blamed for it. Try to understand what happened and why and warn them of the dangers once more. Engaging in a 'told you so' dialogue or suggesting they are in trouble for not listening may deter them from reporting any future concerns.



7 ASK THEM TO BE THE TEACHER

Showing an interest in what children are accessing online is a great opportunity for you to learn something new as well. Children on the whole love sharing their experiences so by asking them to teach you how to use an app or play a game is not only a great way to bond, but you will also feel more empowered to talk about it. It is easy to shy away from conversations when the child perhaps knows more about the subject content than you do. This can help to turn this around.



3 SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Starting a conversation by sharing something that you've seen or that has made you feel uncomfortable can be a great opener. Talking about your own feelings can help children realise that it isn't just them - adults can be affected too. You can then go into how you coped with it therefore indirectly giving children advice on how they can also cope in uncomfortable situations. You can also explain that the reason that you've chosen to talk to them about it is because talking helps. Children will hopefully be able to see the parallels in the experiences and mimic your behaviour in future.



8 USE SCHOOL MESSAGING

It might be that your child's school has sent out a message about the Childline number or to remind children to use the CEOP button to report content. Ask the children what they learned about these at school. When would they use the Childline number? When would they need to use the CEOP button? What does it look like? Asking the children why the school thought that the information was so important that they sent out a message about it reinforces what they learnt whilst at school.



4 TALK ABOUT THE NEWS

Asking children what their response is to news stories around online safety can be revealing. For example, there has been a recent survey conducted by the BBFC who are currently campaigning for the application of age ratings and content warnings on video sharing platforms. What do they think about this? Can they think of a time when this would have helped themselves or someone they know? Are they against the idea? If so, why? Could they be accessing something they shouldn't be?



9 ASK ABOUT THE RISKS

Many children may know what online risks are and will happily explain the potential dangers. Listen and try not to be overly shocked if they tell you something that disturbs you. This can then lead nicely into you asking the question about what steps they are taking to look after themselves or what help they could seek if something goes wrong. Sometimes it's just nice to know that your children know the dangers and have taken steps to help reduce the risk for themselves - this is the ultimate goal.



5 ASK FOR ADVICE

It could be that you really do have a friend at work who is debating whether or not to let their child do something online, or it could be that you're bending the truth slightly, but hopefully the outcome would be the same. Don't be afraid to ask others for advice. Not only why they should let the child use it, but also what would they tell the child to be aware of. What are the risks? This will help you understand the risks yourself and what to look out for in future.



10 ASK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES

Try asking open ended questions about roles and responsibilities online. Who is in control of the internet? Who is looking after you whilst you are online? Who decides what is appropriate for children to see? This can reveal a lot about a child's perception about who is responsible for their online safety. If they believe that it is up to everyone else to keep them safe, then you know you need to have a conversation about how they can reduce their own risk.



11 ASK ABOUT SCHOOL ADVICE

Sometimes it's hard to know what to warn children about. If there is a new app or game that your child has come across recently, ask them what they think their teacher would say about it. What advice would school give them? What have they been told about trusting people online or about fake news? Finding this out would be a good way to hear what advice they were given at school and help you reiterate the same message. Quick reminders about what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or who their trusted adults are can make all the difference.



Meet our expert

Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding children online and educating them around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.



Dates for your diary



Movie Night (Friends Event) NOTE DATE CHANGE	1.12.25
Y3 Gurdwara Visit	2.12.25
Open Evening for 26/27 EYFS intake 5pm	3.12.25
Y6 Height and Weight Checks with School Nurse	5.12.25
Year 4 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	8.12.25
Year 3 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	9.12.25
Year 5 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	10.12.25
*EYFS Christmas Nativity Performance 9:30am	11.12.25
Rainbow Room Christmas Crafts 2pm	12.12.25
Year 6 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	16.12.25
*KS1 Christmas Performance 2:15pm	17.12.25
*KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am	18.12.25
Festive Yes Day (Friends Event)	19.12.25
Last day of Autumn term (Christmas Holidays)	19.12.25

***Parents will need to book tickets via ParentPay in due course**

Spring Term 2026

PD Day (No children in school)	5.1.26
Return to school (Spring Term)	6.1.26
Young Voices	13.1.26
Wear what you love day (Friends Event)	13.2.26
Last day of Term (half term)	13.2.26
Return to School (Spring 2)	23.2.26
PODS Coffee Morning 9:30	24.2.26
Easter Raffle Draw (Friends Event)	27.3.26
Last Day of Spring Term (Easter Holidays)	27.3.26

Summer Term 2026

Return to school (Summer Term)	13.4.26
Fund 'Raisin' (Friends Event)	Month of May
Bank Holiday	4.5.26
Last day of term (half term)	22.5.26
PD Day (No children in school)	1.6.26
Return to school (Summer 2)	2.6.26
Class Group Photos	11.6.26
Non-uniform for Summer Fair (Friends Event)	26.6.26
Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26
End of Term (Summer Holidays)	17.7.26

**Ready
Respectful
Safe
BE YOUR BEST**

FAMILY HUBS DROP IN'S



Join us for advice, guidance and themed discussions with our
Family Hubs Team.

Please contact 01952 385465 for any enquires

Monday	Dawley Town Hall, Dawley TF4 3JR – Term Time	10am- 12noon
Tuesday	Silver Birch Hub, Sutton Hill, TF7 4HG – Term Time	10am- 12noon
Wednesday	Southwater Library- Children's section	9:30am- 12:30pm
Thursday	Arleston Community Centre, Wellington, TF1 2AB- Term Time	10am- 12noon
	The Hub, Newport, TF10 7BH	10am- 12noon
Friday	Donnington Community Hub TF2 7PR – Term Time	10am- 12noon