

DOTHILL NEWS



3rd July 2026

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

www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk

Check out our Facebook page: Dothill Primary School, Telford

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

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News and Highlights this Week

Parent Picnic Lunch – Monday 13 July 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Family Picnic Lunch. Parents are invited to join their child for lunch on the school playground from **11:45am–1:00pm**.

Important Information

- To help manage numbers and ensure everyone's safety, we ask that attendance is limited to a maximum of two family members per child.
- Parents/carers should **enter and leave via the rear gate**, which will open at **11:45am**.
- Parents who can attend will collect their child from their **classroom door**, as we do at the end of the school day, before finding a spot the playground.
- Please bring a **picnic blanket, rug or towel** to sit on.
- Children should bring their **water bottle** with them as they will likely eat outside – though some spaces in the hall will be available if you prefer a seat (water will be available).
- Please do not bring any fast-food / hot meals onto the school site.
- We ask that families do not share food with other children due to **allergies** and dietary requirements. As a nut-aware school, please do not bring any food containing nuts.
- Any food brought from home remains the responsibility of the family who has brought it and we appreciate you taking your **rubbish** home with you please.

School Picnic Lunch: We would like to encourage all children to still have a school meal. Donna and the team will be preparing a special picnic-style lunch box, which will include:

- Sandwich, sausage roll, slice of pizza, cookie

Children will order lunch in the usual way through their class teacher on the day.

Children Without Family Attendance: Children whose families are unable to attend will still enjoy a picnic lunch with their friends. Please send them with a small blanket or towel to sit on if possible.

Sun Safety: Please ensure your child comes to school with sun cream already applied, brings a sun hat and has a named water bottle in school.

End of Picnic: At 12:55pm, a bell will signal the end of the picnic. Children will line up with their classes in their usual places and be escorted back into school by staff ready for afternoon learning.

Parents/carers should leave promptly via the rear gate at this time. Please note that gates cannot remain open beyond the designated times for safeguarding and security reasons.

We look forward to sharing this special event with you.

Important: After School Clubs – Autumn Term 2026

Sadly, we are going to have to **cancel all autumn term after school clubs**. Unfortunately, we have not had enough numbers for any of the clubs advertised to be able to afford to run them despite the extended sign-up deadline and extra promotion.

I appreciate how disappointing this is for families who did sign up. We will be reviewing how we can offer extra-curricular activities in the new year.

In the meantime, those families who have booked already will be refunded by the admin team in the following way: we will raise a school fund cheque for all parents (not refunds via Parent Pay as these can take longer). Cheques will be made payable to the main payee on PP and parents asked to call at the office **from Monday 13th July** to collect their cheque from admin.

Transition Days

Next week we look forward to our **whole school Transition Day** which will take place on **Tuesday 7th July**. This is an exciting opportunity for children to meet their new teachers. Exciting activities have been planned, including artwork to make their new classrooms their very own personal spaces from the very start of the new year.

We also look forward to welcoming our new Reception children and their families too.

Year 6 parents, please remember to check with your child's new secondary school when their transition days are taking place. We look forward to hearing all about their exciting visits when they return!

Year 6 SATs Results Delay

Unfortunately, we have been informed that there has been a national delay in the release of the KS2 SATs results by the Department for Education.

Normally, SATs outcomes would be included within your child's end-of-year report. However, as I do not wish to delay the distribution of reports any further, reports will be issued without SATs results.

As soon as the results are released to schools, we will communicate your child's outcomes to you separately by letter. We anticipate this will be on the last day of term.

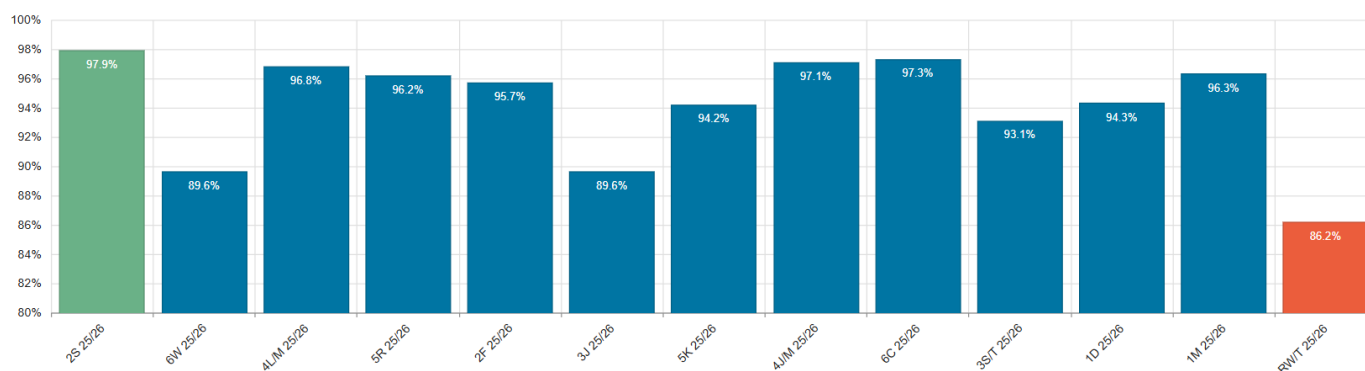
Please be assured that this delay is affecting schools nationally and is beyond the school's control. We appreciate your patience and will share the information with families at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your understanding.

As ever, I wish you all a lovely weekend with your families and friends. We are all looking forward to seeing you next week as the end of term draws ever closer! 😊

A huge well done to 2S, who achieved the highest attendance this week with an impressive 97.9%! Fantastic effort from all the children and families in supporting regular attendance and ensuring every learning opportunity is taken.

Congratulations also to 6C (97.3%), 4JM (97.1%), 4LM (96.8%), 1M (96.3%) and 5R (96.2%), all of whom exceeded our school attendance target.

Remember, our whole-school attendance target is 96%. Every day in school counts, and excellent attendance helps children build friendships, develop confidence and make the most of their learning. Thank you to all our families for your continued support in helping children arrive on time and attend school every day whenever possible. Let's see if we can have even more classes reaching or exceeding 96% next week!



Extending Breaks Around Bank Holidays and PD Days



We know it can be tempting to extend a long weekend by attaching a holiday to a bank holiday or PD Day. However, these additional days away from school can quickly add up and impact your child's learning and routine. Maintaining consistent attendance helps children feel secure and ready to learn.

We would like to remind parents that holidays taken during term time are recorded as **unauthorised absences** unless there are exceptional circumstances. Every school day is made up of **two sessions** (morning and afternoon), meaning that one day of absence equals **two sessions missed**. Under current regulations, if a child accumulates **10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period** (equivalent to five school days), parents may be issued with a **Penalty Notice (PN)**. Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, progress, and wellbeing, and we appreciate your support in ensuring holidays are taken during the school holiday periods wherever possible.

Top tip: Treat PD days and bank holidays as stand-alone breaks and return to school promptly keeping routines consistent really supports children's success.

Mindfulness in Everyday Moments

Mindfulness is the practice of paying attention to the present moment with curiosity and without judgment. It helps children become more aware of their thoughts, feelings, and surroundings, enabling them to respond calmly to challenges rather than reacting impulsively. Regular mindfulness activities can support children's emotional wellbeing, improve concentration and focus, reduce feelings of stress or anxiety, and help them develop positive strategies for managing their emotions. By practising mindfulness both at school and at home, children can build resilience, confidence, and the skills needed to thrive in their learning and relationships.



Activity 1: Listening Walk

Walk quietly for a few minutes and notice all the sounds you can hear—birds, wind, footsteps, cars, etc.

Why it helps: Mindful listening improves concentration and helps children feel calmer by focusing their attention.

Activity 2: Five Senses Scavenger Game

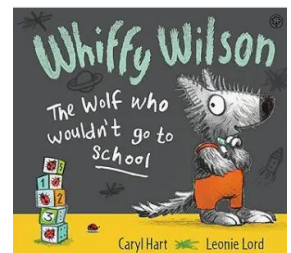
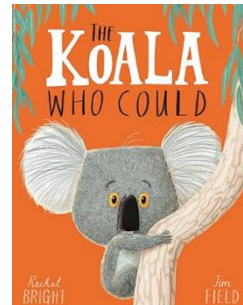
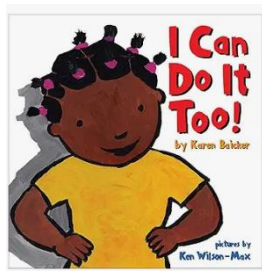
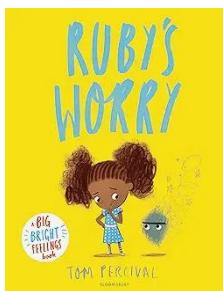
Ask children to find: something they can see, hear, smell, taste, and touch.

Why it helps: This is a grounding exercise that reduces worry and brings children back into the present moment.

Reception

With the summer holidays fast approaching it's a good time to be discussing transition with the children and supporting them in navigating the changes that will happen as they move from EYFS into Year One.

Here are some books which you may find helpful if your child is having any big feelings during this time.



The Koala Who Could by Rachel Bright - A story about overcoming the fear of change and trying something new.

Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival - Helps children understand and talk about their worries — perfect for transitions.

I Can Do It Too! By Karen Baicker – A great book for promoting independence and self-belief.

The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas – Helps children talk about and identify their emotions.

The Wolf Who Wouldn't Go To School by Whiffy Wilson. A fun and rhyming story about a wolf that learns that school can be fun.

Please do continue to promote a love of reading anything at all over the summer holidays to keep those skills fresh in the minds of your children. Reading signs, cereal boxes, posters, magazines and of course any books which they enjoy will help to nurture your child's reading skills. We would love to hear about any new stories they have enjoyed when they return to school!

SEND

Sensory Trails

Building upon the mindful walks mentioned in our Mental Health and Wellbeing section above, here are some ideas for creating sensory trails indoors!

What Is an Indoor Sensory Trail?

A sensory trail is a pathway featuring different opportunities for children to use their feet, hands, eyes, and bodies. It might include different textures, movements or activities that support children to:

- Develop balance, coordination, and motor skills.
- Improve body awareness and spatial awareness.
- Explore different sensory experiences in a safe environment.
- Support concentration and attention.
- Regulate energy levels and emotions through movement.
- Build confidence through play and exploration.

The picture shows our wonderful Rainbow Room children on a sensory trail. There are even a few preparatory stretches taking place!

Easy Ideas:

Texture Pathway

Lay out a variety of materials for children to walk on barefoot:

- Towels
- Bubble wrap
- Artificial grass samples
- Cushions
- Fleece blankets
- Corrugated cardboard
- Soft bathmats

Encourage your children to describe how each surface feels.



Sensory Stepping Stones

Place paper plates, cushions or coloured spots on the floor and assign an action to each one:

- Spin around
- Clap your hands
- Touch your toes
- Stretch up high
- Take a deep breath

Tunnel Adventure

Use chairs and blankets to create a tunnel. Crawling through enclosed spaces can provide valuable proprioceptive input and make the trail even more exciting.

Adapting the Trail for Different Ages:

Younger Children: Keep activities simple and focus on exploring textures, sounds, and movement. Use clear visual cues and offer support when needed.

Older Children: Add challenges such as obstacle courses, scavenger hunts, problem-solving tasks, or timed activities to maintain engagement.

Safety Tips

- Ensure pathways are clear of hazards.
- Use non-slip materials where possible.
- Supervise younger children throughout the activity.
- Adapt challenges to suit your child's age and abilities.
- Allow children to opt out of sensory experiences they find uncomfortable.

Remember, there is no right or wrong way to explore a sensory trail. The goal is to provide opportunities for movement, discovery, and fun. By using simple materials from around the home, you can create an engaging sensory experience that supports your child's development while turning an ordinary afternoon into an exciting adventure!

Why not challenge your family this weekend to build a sensory trail together? Your child may even enjoy helping to design the route and choose the activities themselves! 🌟 🦶 🏠

Internet Safety

Please see below for a free online safety guide which focuses on the best ways to guide children towards good gaming health. The guide takes a look at how to tackle a range of potential risks such as screen time, on-screen violence and interaction with strangers.

[Get to Grips with Gaming | Free Online Safety Guide](#)

Dates for your diary

Summer Term 2026

Transition Days (most of Y6)	7 & 8.7.26
New Reception Transition visits	7.7.26
New Reception Transition visits	8.7.26
Year 6 Crucial Crew	9.7.26
End of Year Reports	10.7.26
Family Picnic (12-1pm) More information to follow	13.7.26
Year 6 leavers assembly 9:15 am	17.7.26
End of Term (Summer Holidays)	17.7.26



**Ready
Respectful
Safe**

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Other Notices

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

PARENTING GAMERS



Moving from policing to parenting your gaming kids: how to engage and guide

With concerns about escalating screen-time, the impact of violence, unexpected costs and interloping strangers it can be tempting to lock down video games to limit their negative impact. While some sensible boundaries are helpful, they are only a short term solution for how we guide children towards gaming health. Like other areas of childhood, parents and carers can have a powerful steering presence by engaging and participating in the video games their children play. This not only reduces risks because they are aware of the kinds of activities, interactions and costs involved but makes video games a part of family life. Along with building dens, climbing trees, cooking and family walks, playing games with children enables parents to guide the quality of content being played. This may start with sharing the games children are currently playing, understanding why they love it and celebrating successes. But with a little research, this can grow into suggesting other games to play and higher ambitions for what kids get out of playing long-standing favourites.



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A New Media For Everyone

Video games are a new kind of media. Because they are new we don't entirely understand their potential yet. They've become hugely popular and commercially successful as blockbuster entertainment for children and teenagers. However, like books, films and music, the real range of video games on offer is much broader than this.

There are games about every topic you could imagine, and aimed at a wide range of ages and perspectives. Whether it's sharing a family's heartbreaking story in *That Dragon, Cancer*, stepping into the shoes of a Syrian migrant in *Bury Me, My Love*, or taking the hand of your child and soaring over the clouds in *Sky: Children of Light*, games take us places in unique ways. It's no surprise, then, that Newzoo figures show that in 2018 40% of men and 32% of women play games. And Entertainment Software Association (ESA) data showed that the average age for US gamers is 34 for women and 32 for men.

If you want to turbocharge your care of a child who loves playing video games, the best thing to do is to find games you want to play yourself. This can sound like strange advice until we consider how hard it would be caring for a child who loves books without reading ourselves or guiding a child who loves music without sharing our favourite songs.

Video Game Diet

Gaining an understanding of what video games are, what they are like to play and the different experiences on offer, enables you to encourage a varied gaming diet. Similar to how we don't worry about plate-time but what's on the plate, we can differentiate between different types of screen experience.

Playing *Fortnite* offers exuberant excitement and connection to friends. Playing *Mario Kart* connects us to the players sitting next to us. *Roblox* can be a place for children to play at having a job or surviving a storm. *Minecraft* can be a tranquil escape from a busy day at school. *Alto's Adventure* can be a way to calm anxiety or jangling nerves.

Parents and carers can expand these experiences. *Kingdoms Two Crowns*, *Reigns* and *Life is Strange* teach players to trust their instincts in game-worlds built to encourage risk and hunch taking. *Florence*, *Abzu*, *Journey* and *Brothers Tale of Two Sons* are a gentle way for children to learn about their own emotional responses to challenging situations as well as appreciating how people experiencing them first hand may feel. *Eco* and *One Hour, One Life* encourage the altruism of building something that other players benefit from.

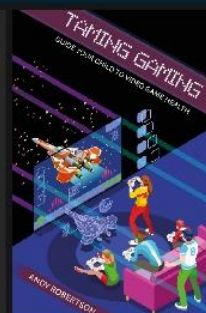
Creators Not Consumers

Ambition for their future means parents and carers support activities where children are excelling. While this is familiar territory when a child is brilliant at an instrument or learning a foreign language, it's easy to miss the need for our enthusiasm when it comes to video games. Along with the general connection and good feelings that come from a parent or carer celebrating success in an activity that a child enjoys comes the imperative that they could go further than they realise themselves. The rise in competitive video games can sound peculiar but requires great skill, draws large audiences and comes with high prize money for professional players. Beyond this, parents can guide children towards other careers in video games which need diverse creative, technical and social skills. A simple and effective way to do this is to encourage children to create as well as consume games. This can start as simple customisation of the games that allow you to design maps and characters. Then there are games like *Mario Maker* on Wii U, 3DS and Switch where you can design and share levels for other players. *Dreams* on the PlayStation 4 takes this further with an accessible game creator that's also really powerful.

Finding Games You Want Children To Play

Parenting rather than policing video games equips children to build good habits and a healthy relationship with digital media for when they leave home and parents aren't around to enforce the rules. One challenge can be finding the kinds of games you want your children to play. There are good resources to help you with this. Many of the examples here come from my upcoming *Taming Gaming* book: <https://unbound.com/books/taming-gaming/>. There are also websites that provide video game suggestions like *AskAboutGames* <https://www.askaboutgames.com>. Also, there are good Twitter accounts that help, like *Wholesome Games* (@_wholesomegames) and *Non-Violent Game Of The Day* (@NVGOTD).

You can also use the VSC Rating Board (<https://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/>) website and PEGI app to search for games of different ratings.



Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His *Taming Gaming* book helps parents guide children to healthy play.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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