

DOTHILL NEWS



10th 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

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

This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



Happy sunny Friday! Today we are celebrating with all the children in the photos and more. Certificates were given for reasons such as a STAR attitude to learning, amazing work in DT making bug hotels, being a super role model, an outstanding attitude, being a good friend and always showing kindness to adults and children. What wonderful reasons to be chosen!

We also had a gymnastics star of the week and competition award, a football medal and a judo medal to celebrate. Well done, we are very proud of you!

News and Highlights this Week

Family Picnic Reminder

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into school on **Monday** for our Family Picnic.

Children's lunches will be provided in the usual way, with a special **picnic box** for the occasion. Parents and carers are invited to bring their own lunch and enjoy eating together with their child.

Please bring a suitable **picnic blanket** so that you can find a spot to sit together. If you need to bring a camping chair, that is fine.

A reminder that the **rear gates will open at 11:45am**. Please collect your child from their classroom door in the usual way. We kindly ask that you arrive promptly, as the gates will be locked again for safeguarding reasons shortly afterwards.

The gates will reopen at **12:55pm** for parents and carers to leave the school site.

Please refer to last week's newsletter for the full details. We look forward to seeing you there!

Move up Day

We had a brilliant couple of days in school as our children took part in their transition activities.

On Tuesday, we held our whole-school Move Day, and it was a great success — lots of happy, excited children getting to know their new teachers and classrooms. The atmosphere was buzzing, and it was wonderful to see everyone settling in so positively.

Most of our Year 6 pupils also spent Tuesday and Wednesday visiting their secondary schools. We hope they had a fabulous time exploring their new environments, meeting staff, and getting a feel for the next exciting step in their journey. We are incredibly proud of them.

We were delighted to welcome our new Reception children too — those who will be joining us in September. They had a great time exploring the classroom, playing, and getting to know the staff. Their confidence and curiosity shone through, and we can't wait to see them again soon.

Transition is such an important part of school life. It helps children feel prepared, confident, and excited for the year ahead — and these past two days have shown just how ready they all are.

💛 A huge well done to all our pupils and staff for making it such a positive experience.

Y6 Crucial Crew

Yesterday, the children took part in a series of *Crucial Crew*-style workshops, exploring a range of important topics including fire safety, water safety, alcohol awareness and mental wellbeing. The sessions provided valuable opportunities for the children to develop their knowledge and learn practical skills to help keep themselves and others safe.

We were also delighted to make the most of our beautiful nature reserve, where the children had a fantastic time paddling in the stream to cool down and enjoy the warm weather. To round off a wonderful day, the children were treated to an ice cream back at school as a reward for being so fabulous throughout the workshops and brought home their goody pack.

The children represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, maturity and excellent behaviour all day. Well done, everyone! 🌞 🍦 🌿



School Meals

Please note that if your child enjoys school sandwiches, their current preference order will continue into September unless you tell us otherwise!

Free School Meal (FSM) Changes – September 2026

Please be aware that there will be changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility from September 2026.

We have been informed by T&W of those families currently eligible for FSM, and there is no need for you to do anything if this is the case.

However, if you are not currently in receipt of Free School Meals, and you think you may be eligible, now is the time to apply through Telford & Wrekin Council **during the summer holidays**.

👉 Apply here: [Telford & Wrekin Council / Free School Meals](#)

Thank you for your attention to this important update.

Dojo Afternoon

As it's the end of term, we all took part in Dojo part to reward the fantastic behaviour seen around school. The children had lots of options to choose from – hide-and-seek, gym equipment, football, computers, film, crafts, Lego and den building to name a few!



Respecting Our Local Community

Dothill Nature Reserve is a valued local space used by many families and members of our community.

Unfortunately, there have recently been reports of anti-social behaviour in the reserve, including offensive graffiti, fires and damage to property.

As a school, we will continue to remind children about the importance of respecting local spaces, caring for the environment and behaving responsibly when they are out in the community.

Wellington Police have asked us to pass on a general reminder to families that graffiti, fire-setting, damage and racist or offensive behaviour are never acceptable. If children see anything unsafe or concerning, they should report it to a trusted adult.

Thank you for your support in helping our children be positive members of the local community.

Year 6 Performance: Peter Pan

What a truly fabulous performance from our Year 6 children in their production of *Peter Pan*! The children worked incredibly hard throughout rehearsals and showed tremendous dedication, enthusiasm and teamwork to bring the story to life. Their confidence, energy and talent shone on stage, making the performance a huge success and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Most importantly, the children had a wonderful time and should be extremely proud of everything they achieved. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and families for your continued support, encouragement and help. Your support played a vital role in making this production such a memorable occasion.

Well done, Year 6 – you were all simply fantastic! 🌟



Have a wonderful weekend everyone – I can't believe the last week of the school year begins on Monday! We are very much looking forward to a fabulous time 😊

Attendance

🌟 Attendance Celebration 🌟

Well done to everyone for your efforts with attendance this week. We are delighted that **3 classes achieved or exceeded our school attendance target of 96%**, with **6C leading the way on an outstanding 99.5%**, closely followed by **2F (98.2%)** and **5R (97.8%)**.

Thank you to all our families for supporting good attendance. Every day in school matters, and together we can continue working towards our school target of **96% attendance for all pupils**. Keep up the fantastic effort! 🎉👏

SEND

PODS Summer Happy Healthy & Active Holiday Scheme



PODS are delighted to be running another SEND holiday scheme over the summer holidays period. They are offering sessions of varying lengths and differing themes, so hopefully there is something for everyone. **Please carefully read the details and costs for each session before making your selection as they differ for each one.** As always, all children/young people aged 0-25 with an additional need and/or a disability are welcome, including their siblings. All children/young adults booked will be provided with lunch and refreshments to either eat during the sessions or takeaway. There will be plenty of staff on hand to support and assist families, but please note parents/carers must remain onsite at all times. **For some events, places are limited, so please check out the link to find out more: [Parents Opening Doors \(PODS\) event tickets from TicketSource](#)**

Internet Safety

Telford & Wrekin IDT team have produced a comprehensive training video for parents and carers about phishing. It's around 20 minutes long and gives lots of helpful cyber security information. You can access the training here - [Parent Carers Phishing Training](#).

The free guide below provides expert advice on how to effectively activate and maintain parental controls on children's devices.

See the poster at the end of the newsletter

[What You Need to Know about Using and Reviewing Parental Controls](#)

Dates for your diary

Summer Term 2026

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**

BE YOUR BEST

Get active, get involved and get the chance to fly with Level Up



Telford & Wrekin Council is inviting families and young people to make the most of the summer with the launch of [Level Up](#), a new campaign showcasing a wide range of activities for children and young people aged 0–16 across the borough, with a family hot air balloon ride up for grabs for those who take part and share their experiences.

Take on new challenges, learn new skills and get active this summer with [Urban Games](#). Sessions include hockey, football, netball, multi-sports and Wild Telford activities. They are completely free, hosted by professional coaches and held in local parks throughout the six-week holidays. Additional activities in the award-winning [town park](#) include play areas, picnic spots, walking, cycling and nature trails as well as the *Aerial Adventure, *mini golf, *bike hire and loads more.

Enjoy fun-filled holiday clubs packed with activities, healthy meals and new experiences through [Healthy Happy Active Holidays](#). Funded spaces are available for children from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefit-related free school meals.

Discover five simple adventures to enjoy together before your child starts school with [5 by 5](#). For older children, there are ten experiences to tick off in your [10 by 10](#) adventure card. Discover activities, make new friends and create your best summer yet with the [Youth Offer](#) – a one-stop shop for clubs and teams across Telford and Wrekin.

Badminton, tennis, table tennis, fun and floats swimming, soft play, athletics and driving range sessions are available for just £2 at the [Council's leisure centres](#). And finally, there are great days out, family adventures and hidden gems right on your doorstep, with [Visit Telford](#) providing all the details.

Councillor Richard Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement, said: "There are endless possibilities to Level Up your summer this year.

"With so many options, it's hard to know where to look sometimes. [Level Up](#) puts everything in one place, giving people the chance to enjoy everything our borough has to offer this summer.

"And if that wasn't enough, we've teamed up with Virgin Hot Air Balloons to offer a family balloon ride to any family that takes part in Level Up and shares a photo with us.

"With so many activities available, many of them free, we want everyone to feel they can get involved and make the most of their summer. So, get involved and tell us: what's your move going to be this summer?

"Whether it's a quick visit to a local park, a day exploring nature, joining sports and games, or taking part in creative sessions, [Level Up](#) makes it easy for everyone to find their thing this summer."

The campaign puts flexibility, accessibility and opportunity at the heart of school holiday plans. It also supports the Council's aim for Telford and Wrekin to protect, care and invest, as well as its [Child Friendly](#) Telford programme, which supports children, young people and families. To enter the competition, simply attend one of the Level Up activities, snap a photo and submit it for a chance to win. [Full competition details can be found here.](#)

Selected entries will be showcased across digital screens, social media and printed materials, helping to bring the campaign to life through real local voices and experiences.

Visit www.telford.gov.uk/Levelup for full details.

[*These activities have additional fees.](#)



Asthma Awareness

We have been asked to share the following information with parents and carers. It is particularly important ahead of the well-recognised spike in asthma-related symptoms and hospital admissions following the return to school in September.

I am also proud to share that due to our ongoing training and procedures, Dothill are now recognised as an Asthma Friendly School.





Make sure your child has an **ASTHMA ACTION PLAN**

Children with an asthma action plan are four times less likely to have to go to hospital for their asthma.



Make sure you know **HOW TO USE AN INHALER**

Getting the inhaler technique right with a spacer or facemask is one of the most important things you can do to help your child stay well.



ATTEND YOUR CHILD'S ASTHMA REVIEW

Scheduling an asthma review once a year (*and after every attack*) can help children and young children manage their symptoms.



CONSIDER AIR POLLUTION AND ITS IMPACT

Air pollution can trigger asthma, but knowing the triggers can help children and young people to manage their condition.



BACK TO SCHOOL

If your child has asthma, remember to schedule their yearly review before school restarts.



Every September, we see a rise in asthma attacks. Asthma reviews can check lung health and support children to keep their asthma under control.



Get ahead of asthma - book a review with your GP practice.



TO DO LIST

- ☒ New uniform
- ☒ New bag
- ☐ Asthma review
- ☐
- ☐



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of blind spots in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover Wi-Fi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



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