

DOTHILL NEWS



4th September 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!



It's our first celebration assembly of the academic year and there were some fantastic reasons for receiving certificates today. One year 5 class received the certificate for their impeccable behaviour and manners as a whole class, there were new children who have had a fabulous week and who are very welcome in their class, children who have settled into their new classes beautifully and have returned to school with such positive attitudes. Two were chosen for showing such kindness and care towards new class members and to staff and there were many more reasons for being chosen. What a wonderful group of children to start the year with.

The Dazzling Dotties trophy went to 4J because Mrs Thomas and Mrs Harvey were out and about in classes this morning and they were especially impressed by their behaviour and hard work.

Well done to all of you, we are so very proud of you 😊

News and Highlights this Week

Welcome Back!

What a lovely start to the new school year we have enjoyed. It has been wonderful to welcome our children back into school, and classrooms are already full of pupils working hard, demonstrating positive attitudes to learning and impressing their teachers. Our staff team have been busy planning exciting and engaging learning opportunities to inspire and challenge your children throughout the year.

As always, if you need any support or guidance, please remember that members of our Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Team are available on the school gates each morning and afternoon. We are always happy to help.

Over the summer, we have continued to invest in our school environment. We are delighted that our new access ramp has now been completed, providing improved accessibility for all members of our community. In addition, new doors have been fitted throughout the school, helping to create a brighter and more welcoming learning environment for our children.

This year, we will continue to place great importance on our school values of **Ready, Respectful and Safe**. These values underpin everything we do and help us to create a positive culture where every child can thrive both academically and personally.

We are also excited to introduce a programme of **Enrichment Weeks** across the year. These will provide children with a range of purposeful, enjoyable experiences that support learning beyond the classroom, while also promoting wellbeing, confidence, social skills and personal development. We want every child to benefit from a wide variety of opportunities that contribute to a happy, successful childhood and prepare them well for the future.

Families are a vital part of school life, and we are pleased to have planned more opportunities for parents and grandparents to join us in school again this year. Alongside this, a variety of exciting educational visits and visitors have been arranged to bring learning to life and enrich the curriculum.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming you into school for our **Meet the Teacher** events for years 1-6. These sessions will provide an opportunity to visit your child's classroom, learn more about the curriculum for the year ahead and find out how you can support learning at home. As Reception parents already met staff prior to children starting, we will welcome you once more for our phonics workshops, and we then have some Stay and Play opportunities coming for EYFS parents too. Strong partnerships between home and school make a significant difference to children's progress and wellbeing. Parent consultation meetings will once more take place in **November**, and we look forward to discussing your child's achievements and next steps with you then.

Items from Home

To help minimise distractions and prevent valuable items from being lost or damaged, please do not encourage children to bring toys, pencil cases, fidget toys or other unnecessary items from home into school unless specifically requested by their class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another successful and exciting year working together with our wonderful children and families.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend, and we will look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Thomas 😊

Bikes and Scooters

We are pleased to see so many children travelling actively to school. If your child brings a bike or scooter, please ensure it is left carefully and responsibly in the designated bike sheds. This helps keep everyone safe and ensures there is enough space for all users.

Parking around our School

A little reminder about parking at school drop-off and pick-up 🚗

As we all juggle busy mornings and afternoons, we'd really appreciate everyone taking a moment to think about our local community when parking around school.

Please be considerate of our neighbours and avoid parking across driveways, blocking access to homes, or leaving cars in places that make it difficult for residents to get in or out.

We completely understand that school drop-off and collection can be hectic, but a little extra consideration goes a long way. Our children are part of this community too, and it's important that we set a good example for them by being respectful of the people who live around our school.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping to keep the area safe, accessible and friendly for everyone.

A message from the NHS Health Protection Hub

This time of the year, as we head toward winter and with children mixing again at school, always leads to a rise in illnesses such as colds and flu. Here's a few pointers on how to keep everyone healthy this autumn term:

- **Good hygiene habits** - encourage your children to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and running water, use tissues (or the crook of the elbow) to catch coughs and sneezes, and let fresh air into your home. The [e-bug resources](#) for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits, and why they are important, to your child.
- **Know when to keep your child at home** – they can go to school with a minor cough or cold, but if they have a fever they should stay at home until it's resolved and they feel better. While testing for COVID isn't generally necessary, if they do test positive, they should stay off school for 3 days after the day they took their test and return then, if well enough and no fever. If they have diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should stay off until 48 hours after the last episode.
- **Know the signs of common illnesses:**
 - [Scarlet fever](#) – includes sore throat, fever, swollen neck glands, a bumpy rash on the chest and tummy with a sandpaper-like feel, flushed cheeks and 'strawberry tongue'. If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, contact your local GP. Stay away from nursery or school until 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics.
 - [Measles](#) - like those for a cold (runny nose; a cough; sneezing; a high temperature; and red, sore, watery eyes), followed by white spots in the mouth a few days later, and by a rash on the face and body a few days after that. It's very unlikely to be measles if your child has had [both doses of the MMR/MMRV vaccine](#) or they've had measles before. If your child has the symptoms of measles and has not had both doses of the MMR or MMRV vaccine, they should not attend school until 4 days after their rash started.
 - [Chickenpox](#) – an itchy, spotty rash anywhere on the body. There may also be a high temperature, aches and pains and a loss of appetite.
- **Ensure your child is up to date with vaccinations** – vaccinations offer the best protection against childhood illnesses like measles, and general illnesses like flu. Check your child's red book or call your GP if unsure, and keep an eye out for consent forms for the flu vaccine from the school or NHS.

More detailed information is available here: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/08/28/a-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year-for-parents-and-carers/>

Attendance

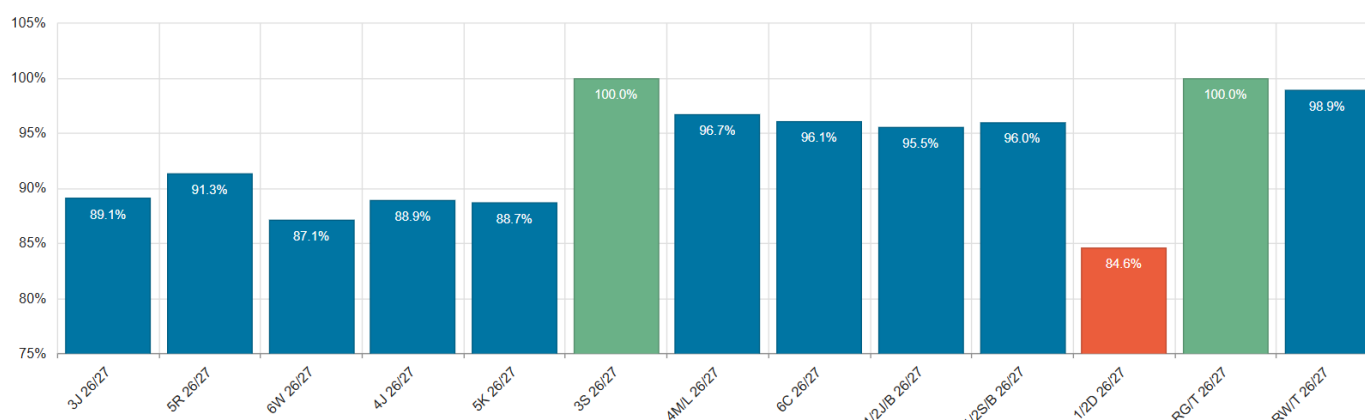
What a fantastic start to the year! We are delighted to celebrate the excellent attendance across our school this week. A special congratulations goes to 3S and RGT, who achieved an incredible 100% attendance! 🎉 What an amazing achievement and a wonderful example of commitment to learning.

We would also like to congratulate RWT, who achieved an outstanding 98.9% attendance, and all of our classes that reached or exceeded our school target of 96%.

Every day in school matters. High attendance helps children build friendships, develop confidence, and make the most of every learning opportunity. Thank you to our children for coming to school ready to learn, to our families for supporting good attendance, and to our staff for creating such engaging learning experiences that children want to be part of.

Let's keep up the great work and see if we can have even more classes reaching 96% and above next week!

👏 Well done, everyone! Every day counts and every child matters. 🙌



At Dothill Primary School, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to benefit from every lesson, every friendship and every school experience. Excellent attendance helps children develop confidence, build positive relationships, make strong academic progress and feel fully connected to school life.

Our attendance target is **96.5% or above** for every child. Missing just a few days of school throughout the year can quickly add up, making it harder for children to keep up with learning, routines and important experiences in the classroom. Regular attendance not only supports academic success but also helps children develop the habits and resilience that will benefit them throughout their lives.



We are incredibly grateful for the support our families provide in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. By working together, we can give every child the very best chance to flourish.

As we begin a new academic year, attendance is a key focus for us all. We encourage families to establish positive routines from the start, ensuring children are ready to learn and enjoy all that school has to offer.

If you are finding attendance challenging for any reason, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Our approach is always to work in partnership with families, listen, understand individual circumstances and offer support wherever possible. We are here to help.

Mrs Harvey

Attendance Champion

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Back to School and Big Feelings

September is an exciting time, but it can also bring a mixture of emotions for children and adults. New classes, routines, friendships and expectations can sometimes feel overwhelming, even when children appear happy and confident.

It is normal for children to experience worries at the start of a new school year. They may need extra reassurance, predictable routines and opportunities to talk about how they are feeling.

You can support your child by:

- Talking positively about school
- Allowing time for quiet conversations at home
- Maintaining regular sleep and meal routines
- Helping them identify and name their emotions

A simple daily question such as *"What was the best part of your day?"* can encourage children to share their experiences.

Remember, all feelings are welcome. Helping children understand their emotions is an important step in developing positive mental health.

Need Support?

- Contact school if you have concerns about your child's wellbeing.
- [Young Minds](#)
- [Education Support for parents and carers](#)
- NHS 111 for urgent advice.



Reception

A Fantastic Start to Reception!

What a wonderful first few days we have had in Reception! We are so proud of how well the children have settled into their new classroom environment. They have approached new experiences with smiles, curiosity and enthusiasm, and it has been lovely to see friendships beginning to form already.

The children have enjoyed exploring the classroom, learning new routines and taking part in a range of activities. We would like to thank all our families for helping to make this important transition such a positive experience.

Sharing Learning from Home

We love celebrating the children's achievements and experiences outside of school too. If your child takes part in any exciting activities at home, we would be delighted to hear about them! These might include:

- Riding a bike
- Family celebrations and special events
- Making crafts, baking or creating models
- Nature walks and outdoor adventures
- Playing a musical instrument or making your own drum kit from pots and pans!
- Learning a new skill or hobby

Please feel free to email photographs and a short description of your child's experiences to DothillPhaseLeaderEYFS@taw.org.uk

Sharing these with the class helps children to develop confidence, communication skills and a sense of pride in their achievements. We would love to print off pictures and add these to our 'home learning' displays in class.

Don't Forget Your Coat!

As we all know, the weather can be very unpredictable! Please ensure your child brings a labelled coat to school every day so that they are prepared for outdoor learning and play, whatever the weather.

Please also **label all items** of clothing. We have already had several unnamed jumpers, cardigans, water bottles and coats left in the classroom. As you can imagine, it can be very tricky to get these back to their rightful owners without names.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting week of learning and discovery together!

SEND

Fidgets, Mindfulness and Sensory Aids

The school has invested considerably this year in suitable fidgets and concentration tools as well as sensory support tools.

Many practitioners now call them 'fidget tools' or 'concentration tools. These support children in being able to fidget productively while focusing upon their learning.

Our classroom wellbeing areas are now stocked with resources which can be used to calm children or help them feel centred. This means that children **will not need to bring in such items from home.**

Thank you for your support and please let us know if you have further questions.

Internet Safety

Supporting Children Online

As we begin a new school year, we would like to remind families about the importance of helping children stay safe online. Technology offers wonderful opportunities for learning, creativity and communication, but it is vital that children use it in an age-appropriate and safe way.

Many popular apps, games and social media platforms have minimum age requirements. These age restrictions are in place to help protect children from content, contact and experiences that may not be suitable for them. We encourage parents and carers to regularly check the age ratings of any apps, games and online platforms their child is using and ensure they are appropriate.

Here are some simple ways to support your child online:

- Talk regularly about what they do online and who they interact with.
- Keep devices in shared family spaces where possible.
- Use parental controls and privacy settings on devices, apps and games.
- Encourage children to tell a trusted adult if they see or hear anything online that makes them feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.
- Monitor downloads and new apps before they are installed.
- Set clear boundaries around screen time and online behaviour.

Remember, online safety is an ongoing conversation rather than a one-off discussion. Taking an interest in your child's online world can help them develop the skills and confidence needed to navigate the internet safely and responsibly.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe, both online and offline.

Dates for your diary

Autumn 2026

Year 6 Parent Meet the Teacher 3:15pm	7.9.26
Year 5 Parent Meet the Teacher 3:15pm	8.9.26
Year 4 Parent Meet the Teacher 3:15pm	9.9.26
Year 1/2 Parent Meet the Teacher 3:15pm	10.9.26
Year 3 Parent Meet the Teacher 3:15pm	11.9.26
School Photos	15.9.26
Year 6 SATs Meeting 3:15pm	17.9.26
Year 5 Anglo Saxon Workshop	22.9.26
Year 4 Multiplication check meeting 3:15pm	22.9.26
EYFS Phonic Workshop 3:15pm	23.9.26
Year 1/ 2 Great Fire of London Workshop	25.9.26
SEND Coffee Morning 8:30am -9:30am	29.9.26
Grandparent Tea Party 2pm	5.10.26
Break up for October half term	23.10.26
Return to school	3.11.26
Year 6 Telford Town Park /Library	10.11.26
Autumn Term Parents Consultations	9.11.26/10.11.26
Year 4 Roman Discovery Centre – Chester	12.11.26
Flu Vaccinations	14.11.26
Year 3 Stone Age Day	21.11.26
Year 5 Christmas Event 2pm	1.12.26
Year 4 Christmas Event 2pm	2.12.26
Year 3 Christmas Event 2pm	2.12.26
EYFS Stay and Play (RWT) 2:15pm	4.12.26
EYFS Nativity 9:30am	8.12.26
Year 6 Christmas Event 2pm	8.12.26
KS1 Christmas Performance 2pm	9.12.26
KS1 Christmas Performance 9:15am	10.12.26
EYFS Stay and Play (RGT) 2:15pm	11.12.26
Christmas Dinner/ Wear a Christmas Jumper	16.12.26
End of Autumn Term	18.12.26
Spring Term Begins	5.1.27



**Ready
Respectful
Safe**
BE YOUR BEST