

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

17.10.25

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 we have a whole new set of children who have had a fabulous week!

We heard a lot about kindness and being part of a team, about being able to cope with making mistakes and learning from them, extra effort in learning both in school and at home, and exceptional behaviour.

Isn't exceptional a great word to hear about yourself! We also had two super sports awards, one for a left-footed goal, and one for swimming 25 metres.

The Dazzling Dotties trophy went to Mrs Willoughby's Year 6 class for rapidly becoming an extremely reliable and responsible group of children. They are incredibly patient and calm, and working really hard to include all members of the class regardless of individual challenges. A super mature way of approaching school life. Well done.

Well done all of you, we are very proud.

News and highlights this week

Each week I seem to begin by talking about how busy we are... this week is no exception!



We are absolutely blown away by the incredible generosity shown during our recent food bank drive. Thanks to YOU—our wonderful parent community—we collected an astonishing amount of food donations that will make a real difference for families in need.

Your kindness, compassion, and commitment to helping others is truly inspiring. Every tin, packet, and box donated is a symbol of hope and support, and we couldn't be more grateful.

Thank you to all those who have supported the **Christmas 4 Schools** activity. We saw some fantastic designs which you will be able to treasure in many different ways and is a wonderful fundraiser for school.

Year 3 and the Rainbow Room were incredibly fortunate to have a visit from the Shropshire Fire Service today. The brave firefighters taught the children about what they do, as well as tips on water safety, being safe during bonfire night and fire prevention in the home. The children were delighted by the visit, the Year 3 and Rainbow Room team would like to say a huge thank you to the kind crew who attended. The children enjoyed some superb dance sessions with Chloe from Crossbar this week too.



Look out for our **after-school club offer** which will be messaged out to parents next week. Our staff have thought carefully about giving opportunities across the school to all ages.

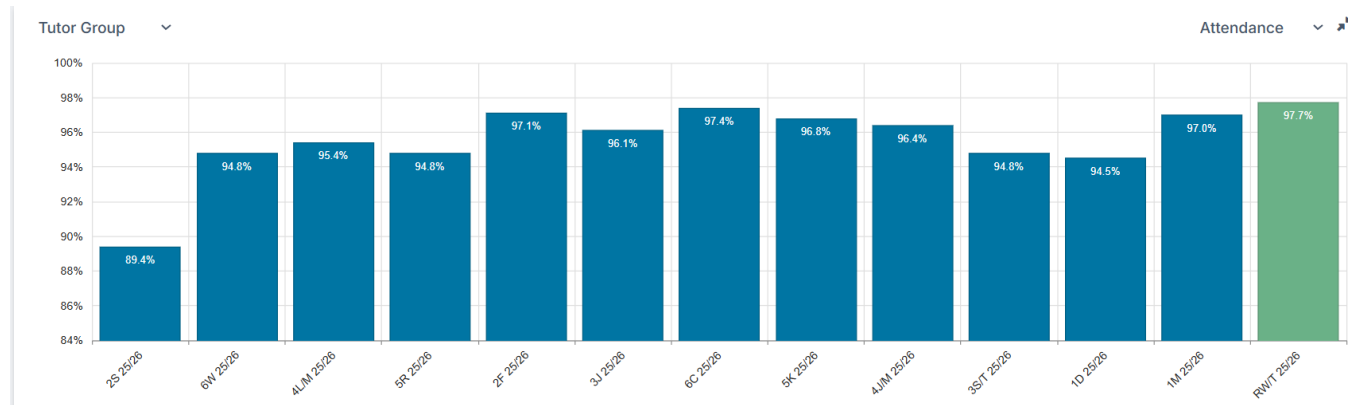
Thank you to all parents who attended **Stay and Play in Reception** – further details below! It was lovely to see such support in school.

Update on the compromised weblink in Spy Dogs, Spy Pups and Spy Cat books

Following the recent alert regarding a weblink within these children's books no longer being a safe link as the URL inside the books directed readers to a third party weblink that had taken over the original site. The internet service provider, Nominet has confirmed that it has now suspended the site for breaching the Online Safety Act. The link is no longer valid and there is no on-going cause for concern for children accessing these books.

As always, thank you for your unwavering support. We look forward to the beginning of yet another action-packed week in school on Monday.

Attendance



A huge congratulations to our children in reception with a fabulous 97.7% attendance this week 😊

Also, well done to 1M, 2F, 4JM, 5K and 6C with attendance over 96%. Well done everyone!

Role and Responsibilities

The Education Welfare Officer's duties and responsibilities include:

- Visiting school one half day every three weeks to identify pupils with unacceptable levels of absence and discuss actions with the school for individual pupils
- Undertake regular register reviews and advise school on the use of appropriate attendance codes

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



- Review and advise on school attendance policy and target setting
- Contribute and advise on strategic interventions to improve school attendance & reduce persistent absence
- Prepare end of term charts mapping attendance trends
- Visit the homes of children & families and work with them to address the presenting problems
- Take responsibility for updating case notes, recording of any visits/action/contact with families and other administrative duties
- Participate in delivering training to school staff regarding school attendance
- Undertake Early Help Assessments where school attendance is the primary concern
- Attend CP Conferences/Core groups, Early Help meetings when necessary
- To contribute to any safeguarding procedures and referrals to Family Connect where appropriate.
- Advise school on any appropriate legal intervention to address poor attendance and prepare court reports if required.
- Preparing detailed referrals for the Attendance Support Team when parents are Interviewed Under Caution.
- Prepare detailed Court referrals and subsequent reports when parents are assed for legal action regarding non-school attendance offences.
- Attend Court as a witness when required to do so and representing the school and the Headteacher.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



We're talking mental health.

We all have days when we feel anxious, worried, sad or angry. Emotions like these are a normal part of life in response to challenging things that happen to us, and can let us know that we need to take action.

If you've been dealing with difficult feelings on your own for a while, particularly if you're finding it difficult to do the things you need to do, such as concentrating at work or sleeping well, then reaching out and asking for help is important. Talking to someone can help ensure you get the support you need to overcome the challenges you're facing.

Pause, take a breath, and think about how you are feeling and who you might talk to.

It's OK to start small and say, 'I'm not having a good day'.



Taking the step to ask for help

Reaching out for help can feel intimidating, particularly when you're already feeling anxious or low. You may be worried about who to turn to, particularly if you've tried talking about how you feel to someone before, and it didn't go as well as you'd hoped.

Who can I talk to?

You might already know who you want to talk to. It could be:

- A friend or colleague.
- A family member or partner.
- Your manager.
- A mental health first aider (MHFA) if you have one at work.
- EAP (Employee Assistance Programme) or staff counselling.
- Your GP.

If you're not sure who to talk to, think about who you trust and feel comfortable talking to. Have you talked to someone in the past who's been particularly helpful?

Preparing to ask for help

Once you've decided who might be the best person to talk to, think about what you need from talking to them and what you want to tell them. You may not be sure what this is, but it might include:

- A particular problem that you need to talk about.
- Talking about difficult thoughts or feelings.
- What has prompted you to ask for help now.
- Talking about what you could do to start feeling better.
- Discussing options to get extra support if you need it.

You might find it helpful to write down your thoughts.



Head Lice Reminder for Parents

Head lice are a common issue among school-aged children and can spread quickly through head-to-head contact. They are **not a sign of poor hygiene** and can affect anyone.

What to Look For

- Itchy scalp
- Small white or brown eggs (nits) near the scalp
- Live lice (tiny grey-brown insects)

The **only way to confirm** head lice is by finding a live louse. This can be done using a **fine-toothed detection comb**, available at most pharmacies.

How to Treat

You can treat head lice **without seeing a GP**. The NHS recommends two main methods:

1. **Wet combing:**

- Wash hair with regular shampoo
- Apply conditioner
- Comb through with a detection comb from roots to ends
- Repeat on days 1, 5, 9, and 13

2. **Medicated lotions or sprays:**

- Available at pharmacies
- Follow instructions carefully
- May require a second application after 7 days

Important: Check and treat all household members on the same day to prevent reinfestation.

Children **do not need to be kept off school** if they have head lice.

For more information, please visit the NHS website for full guidance:

[NHS Head Lice and Nits Advice](#)



SEND

We are proud to have joined the PINS project for this academic year. As part of this, we have support through PODS to build a parent and carer forum. This week we have received a message from Jayne Stevens at PODS:



"Hello all

We are gathering feedback from families to feed into the work we are doing around the Autism and ADHD pathway (from assessment through to support post-diagnosis) and would like to encourage families to complete this survey (closing date 31 October)."

To take part in the survey, either scan the QR code below or go to <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/E5RG2X/> to register your thoughts.

Expressive Arts in EYFS



Creativity is a big part of life in Early Years, and it's amazing to see how much children learn just by exploring and expressing themselves. Whether they're painting, building, singing, dancing, or pretending to be superheroes, they're developing important skills like confidence, communication, and problem-solving. These creative moments help children make sense of the world around them and give them space to share their thoughts and feelings in their own unique way.

Encouraging Creativity at Home



You don't need special equipment or loads of time to support creativity at home. Things like cardboard boxes, old clothes for dressing up, or even a wooden spoon and pans can spark imaginative play. Letting your child lead the way, whether it's making up a story, inventing a game, or drawing something new, is a great way to build

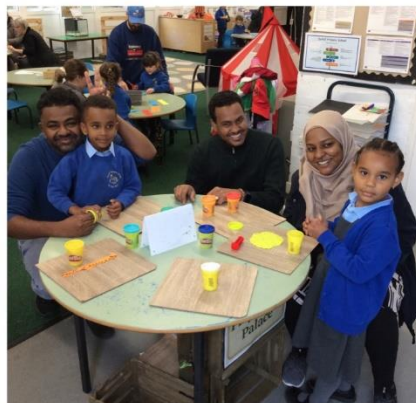
their confidence and curiosity. Just being there to join in with their ideas makes a huge difference. It's all about giving them the freedom to explore and have fun!

Stay and Play

We loved having many of you join us for our Stay and Play session this week. It was wonderful to see the children sharing their learning with you and enjoying the activities in the classroom. We will be having more Stay and Play sessions throughout the year so keep an eye on the calendar for updates.



The Class pages of the school website have further information about the activities we have enjoyed in class this week.



PIC•COLLAGE

Internet Safety

Without doubt, the internet is an important part of everyday life and research shows that screen time has increased in recent years. The link below gives advice about healthy screen times and even has a 'family agreement' to limit the amount of time we're spending in front of a screen.

[Screen Time & Healthy Balance | Childnet](#)

Applying for a Secondary School 2026-27 Academic Year

Year 6 parents: please ensure that you have applied for a secondary school place for September 2026 for your year 6 child by the closing date of **31st October 2025**.

Submit your applications via the **Parent Portal**, accessed via [Telford & Wrekin Council | Secondary School Admissions](#)

Reminder:

- Apply for **up to 4 schools** to maximise the chance of receiving a preferred offer.
- Listing only **1 preference** increases the risk of being allocated a school far from home.
- **Late applications** are unlikely to secure a place at popular schools.
- The application deadline is **31st October 2025** for all secondary school applicants.
- This deadline also applies to all children with an **Education Health and Care Plan**.

For any queries, parents can contact the Admissions Team at: admissions@telford.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

Spooky Spectacular (Friends Event)	24.10.25
Break up for half term	24.10.25
PD Day (No children in school)	3.11.25
Return to school	4.11.25
Nasal Influenza Immunisation (Flu Spray) Day	7.11.25
Parent Consultation Meetings	10.11.25 11.11.25
Movie Night (Friends Event)	24.11.25
Year 4 Family Event	8.12.25
Year 3 Family Event	9.12.25
Year 5 Family Event	10.12.25
Rainbow Room Family Event	12.12.25
Year 6 Family Event	16.12.25



Family events are an opportunity to make Christmas Crafts with your child in school 😊

These events will all begin at 2pm on the day advertised above.

Festive Yes Day (Friends Event)	19.12.25
Last day of Autumn term	19.12.25
PD Day (No children in school)	5.1.26
Spring Term begins	6.1.26
Wear what you love day (Friends Event)	13.2.26
Easter Raffle Draw (Friends Event)	27.3.26
Fund 'Raisin' (Friends Event)	Month of May
Non-uniform for Summer Fair	26.6.26
Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26

**Ready
Respectful
Safe
BE YOUR BEST**



Spooky Spectacular

£2

TO BE GIVEN TO THE
TEACHER ON THE
DAY OR CARD
MACHINE WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON THE
PLAYGROUND

FRIDAY
24th October

SPOOKY DISCO | SPOOKY ACTIVITIES
BRING FANCY DRESS TO SCHOOL

ALL CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A SWEET TREAT

CHARITY NO: 1036906