

# DOTHILL NEWS



13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

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[www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk)

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by email on [dothill@taw.org.uk](mailto:dothill@taw.org.uk)

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## This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



### Dothill Cup Winners – Well Done, Year 6!

A huge congratulations to **Year 6**, who have been awarded the **Dothill Cup** this week for showing superb resilience. Those who attended Arthog demonstrated incredible determination and teamwork, while the children in school also impressed us with their fantastic resilience throughout the week.

We were delighted to hear four children share their personal achievements in **Swimming, Football, Brownies and Bikeability**.

Teachers also recognised pupils across the school for a wide range of qualities, including **hard work, kindness, confidence, respect, determination, positive attitude, fabulous STAR learning, being a consistently amazing member of the class, and wonderful narrative writing**.

Well done to all our brilliant learners! We are so proud of you 😊

## News and Highlights this Week

As we come to the end of the first half of the spring term, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what a busy and exciting few weeks it has been. The children have enjoyed several visits and learning experiences outside of school, as well as opportunities to celebrate national days and special events. It has been wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic they have been in their learning.

We're already looking forward to the next half term, which will include Parents' Evening, even more trips, and plenty of new learning opportunities for the children – as busy as ever!

We thank you for your continued support and we wish all our families a happy and restful half-term break. 😊

## Celebrating Pupil Voice

At Dothill Primary School, we value our pupils' voices, and the Spring 2026 survey shows many strengths across the school.

An impressive 82% of children told us they enjoy school all or most of the time, and 97% enjoy it at least some of the time.

Pupils also reported feeling well supported by staff, with 94% saying their teachers help them do their best, and 92% feeling listened to in lessons.

A strong sense of safety and wellbeing is evident too, with 98% of pupils feeling there is an adult they can talk to if something worries them, and 89% feeling safe in school all or most of the time.

Our curriculum and wider opportunities are also celebrated - 98% of pupils enjoy their learning, 96% feel supported to care for their physical health, and 95% feel encouraged to look after their emotional wellbeing. **Importantly, 99% of children suggested they would recommend Dothill to a friend moving to the area.**

Alongside these positive results, we are committed to continuous improvement. We have considered next steps to ensure we are listening to children and gaining their views and opinions to further develop our school.



## Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday, we celebrated 'Safer Internet Day 2026' at Dothill.



children responded to the questions – a perfect score of 8 out of 8!

Throughout the day, a range of activities were taking place to further develop the children's understanding of how to use AI safely and responsibly.

To begin the day, we held two special assemblies – one for KS1 and one for KS2. We focused on the safe use of technology and the safe use of Artificial Intelligence. We discussed what AI was, where it could be used and how to use it responsibly.

The Safeguarding Squad introduced a brilliant quiz about AI and it was reassuring to see how well the



## Children's Mental Health Week

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week. On Monday our class assembly focused on the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing.



On Wednesday morning, the whole school joined a special webinar to deepen our understanding of this year's theme: "This Is My Place."

Every child has been busy creating a small piece of artwork that will come together to form a whole-school display celebrating belonging, identity, and the places that make us feel safe and happy.

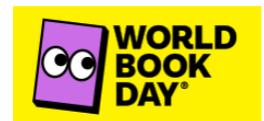
We can't wait to share the final display with you 😊

## Legally Blonde at Charlton



Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous afternoon on Tuesday watching *Legally Blonde Jr.* at Charlton School. The children were absolutely buzzing afterwards, describing the show as "amazing", "great", and everything in between. Staff loved it just as much, especially the joy of seeing former Dothill pupils shining on stage. It was a wonderful celebration of talent and a real treat for everyone who attended.

## Date for your diary: World Book Day 2026



School Parliament have been discussing their ideas for World Book Day and will be in touch with you directly to share their plans in full. In the meantime, we wanted to remind you that we will be celebrating World Book Day in school on **Friday 6th March**. Children will be able to dress up as a book character OR make a potato book character... more details to follow!

## Year 5 Trip to Think Tank

Year 5 had a fantastic day at Think Tank in Birmingham this week. We learned about a huge amount of topics - our digestive systems, fossils, space, the circulatory system, materials... The list could go on! It was a very interactive venue, with lots to see and do.



## School Choir

Choir runs every Wednesday lunchtime at 12.30 in Mrs Maltby's classroom. This half term we attended the Young Voices Concert with over 5,000 other children, at the BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham. It was an amazing event. We had to learn 10 songs from Sea Shanties to a Wicked Medley. Next half term we will be participating in Telford Sings at the Charlton School.

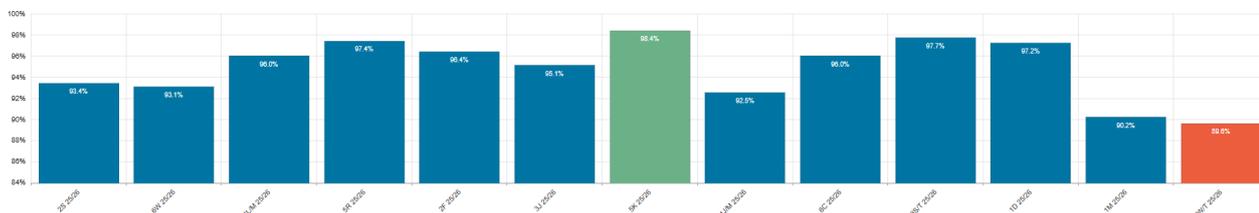
There are still a limited number of places available to join us at the concert for anyone from Years 4, 5 and 6 who loves to sing!



## Attendance

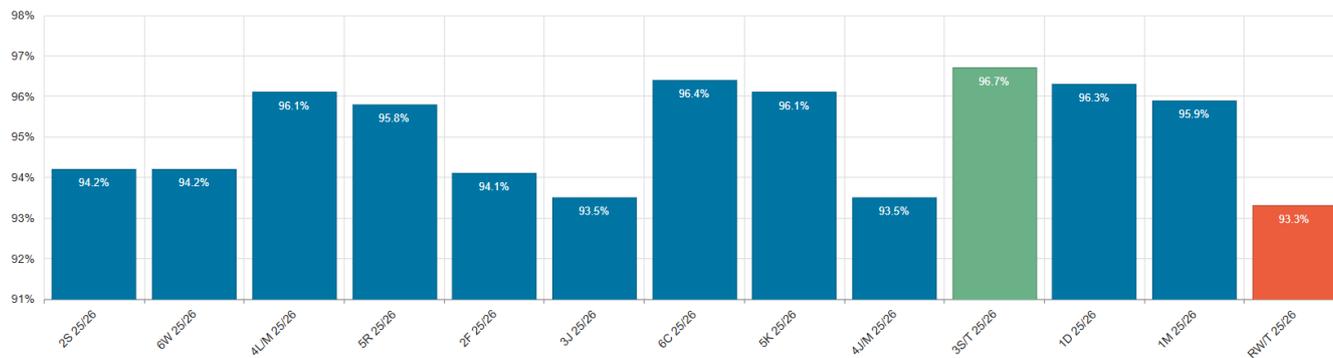
### Attendance for the week

5K have the highest attendance this week with a fabulous 98.4%. Well done to Mr Kirkpatrick and his class. We also have 5R, 3ST and 1D with attendance over 97%.



### Attendance so far (September to date)

A huge well done to 3ST who have the highest attendance so far, this academic year with 96.7%. It is also great to see 4LM, 5K and 6C have attendance above 96%. Taking children out of school for holidays and appointments impacts greatly on their attendance.



## Supporting pupils who are absent or returning to school

### Pupils absent due to complex barriers to attendance, mental or physical ill health or SEND

Early Help means providing support as soon as an issue emerges, at any point in a child's life: we work closely with families to support them with a wide variety of strategies towards pupils with complex barriers to attendance and how we can remove these so that children can be in school.

Practical support in school might be behaviour support and advice, reward charts, sleep and bedtime routines, healthy eating.

Emotional health and wellbeing for children and families will be provided via the pastoral team, SENDCo and senior leaders in school. They will support with wellness and self-care, anxiety support, emotional wellbeing and transitions.

SEND and mental health signposting to services such as BeeU, PODS, the autism hub will be offered through our SENDCo and pastoral team.

Cost of living support is on offer through our uniform bank, including winter coats and shoes, free school meals and signposting to other outside agencies.

Signposting to outside agencies such as Family Connect, the school nurse, Citizen's Advice, Strengthening Families, Housing, Transport, Telford Crisis support.

Where a pupil has an education health and care (EHC) plan and their attendance falls, or the school becomes aware of barriers to attendance that related to the pupil's needs, the school will inform the local authority.



## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Building Confidence & Resilience

#### ★ What parents can try at home

- **Celebrate effort, not perfection:** Praise trying, practising, and sticking with things.
- **"I Can Do Hard Things" jar:** Children write down something they achieved each week.
- **Model resilience:** Say things like "This is tricky, but I'll keep trying."

#### 📍 Local support

- **Healthy Shropshire (Young People's Mental Health)** — guidance for parents on supporting resilience and emotional wellbeing.



## SEND

### Coffee morning – “Meet the LSAT”



A big Thank You to all those who attended our SEND coffee morning this week. It was a great opportunity to get together and share our experiences of what it means to have a child with SEND. Our LSAT, Ceri, was on hand to answer your questions and offer support and advice.

#### Just a reminder that we have two more coffee events coming up:

24<sup>th</sup> February – PODS Cuppa and Cake meeting, from 8:45am (PODS arriving at 9:30am)

4<sup>th</sup> March – Family Hubs Coffee Afternoon, 2:00pm – 3:15pm

### PODS Half Term Activities

PODS are also running a few events during half term which may be of interest to you, including Chinese New Year crafts and a fun PE session. For information, click here: [Calendar of Events - Together We Can Make a Difference](#)

### Tics and Tourette’s Support Group

Did you know that we have our very own Tics and Tourette’s Action Group in Telford? The group was founded in 2023 by a Telford parent whose son was diagnosed with Tourette’s at the age of 7. Lisa now works with PODS to offer support to families. For information, click here: [Tics & Tourettes - Together We Can Make a Difference](#)

## EYFS

### The Importance of Sleep Routines for Our Youngest Learners.

A good night’s sleep is essential for Reception children as it helps them learn, grow, and thrive. At this age, children are developing rapidly both physically and mentally and sleep plays a huge role in supporting memory, emotional regulation, and overall wellbeing.

Having a consistent bedtime routine helps children feel safe, calm, and ready for sleep. It also supports their ability to engage fully in school life the following day. When children are well-rested, they are more able to focus, play positively with peers, and enjoy the exciting learning experiences we plan for them.

Below are some simple strategies that families can use at home to help make bedtime a smooth and positive part of the day.

#### 1. Create a Consistent Bedtime Routine

Try to keep the same sequence each night e.g. bath, story, and bed. A predictable routine helps your child understand what’s coming next and signals to their brain that it’s time to wind down.

#### 2. Limit Screens Before Bed

Tablets, TVs, and phones can make it harder for children to fall asleep. Turning screens off at least an hour before bedtime gives your child time to relax and calm their mind.

#### 3. Make the Bedroom a Calm, Comfortable Space

A quiet, dimly lit room can help children settle more easily. Soft lighting, a favourite teddy, or gentle music can make bedtime feel safe and soothing.



## Internet Safety

Online gaming was a popular reason for most children using the internet. Here are 4 quick tips to help keep your child safe when online gaming.

[Gaming - parents and carers.mp4 on Vimeo](#)



## Dates for your diary

### Spring Term 2026

Last day of Term (half term)	13.2.26
Return to School (Spring 2)	23.2.26
PODS Coffee Morning 9:30am	24.2.26
Parent Consultations Week	w/b 2.3.26
Year 5 to watch Matilda Jr at Ercall Wood	3.3.26
Family Hubs Coffee Afternoon 2:00-3:15	4.3.26
Arthog meeting for Year 5 parents 3:15-3:45	4.3.26
World Book Day celebrations in school	6.3.26
Year 1 visit to Ironbridge	11.3.26
EYFS height and weight checks	19.3.26
Year 3 visit to Cosford	19.3.26
Choir at Telford Sings event	25.3.26
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
Year 4 visit to Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre	20.4.26
EYFS visit to Home Farm	22.4.26
Year 3 Egyptian Workshop	27.4.26
Fund 'Raisin' (Friends Event)	Month of May
Bank Holiday	4.5.26
Year 1 Exotic Zoo Workshop	11.5.26
Year 6 visit Telford Town Park	19.5.26
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
Grandparents Tea Part 2pm -details to follow	15.6.26
Sports Day 9am Yr 5/6 10am EYFS/1/2 11am 3/4	22.6.26
Year 5 visit British Ironworks Centre	24.6.26
Non-uniform for Summer Fair (Friends Event)	26.6.26



**Ready**  
**Respectful**  
**Safe**  
**BE YOUR BEST**

Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26
End of Year Reports	10.7.26
Family Picnic (12-1pm) More information to follow	13.7.26
End of Term (Summer Holidays)	17.7.26

## Health and Safety Message from Telford & Wrekin Health Protection Hub

### Farm visits

#### With half-term approaching you may be considering taking your child/children on a farm visit

All animals naturally carry a range of bugs, some of which can be transmitted to humans, where they can cause ill health. Some of these, such as E. coli O157 or Cryptosporidium (Crypto), have the potential to cause serious illness which may be particularly severe in young children. We see many cases of Crypto each year in the Health Protection Hub, particularly among children, and it's a miserable experience for them and their parents.



Follow these practical steps to help keep your child safe and healthy:

- avoid touching faces or putting fingers in mouths while in farm environments
- don't kiss farm animals or allow children to put their faces close to animals
- wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching animals, fences or other surfaces in animal areas
- don't eat or drink while touching animals or walking round the farm and only eat and drink in picnic areas or cafes
- wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating or drinking
- remove and clean boots or shoes that might have become soiled and clean pushchair wheels, then wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
- don't use gels or wipes instead of washing hands with soap and water - gels and wipes don't remove E. coli O157 or Crypto
- supervise children closely to make sure they wash their hands thoroughly
- if someone in the family has diarrhoea or vomiting after visiting a farm or animal visitor attraction, wash all dirty clothes, bedding and towels in the washing machine on the hottest wash cycle possible. Encourage good hand hygiene after using the toilet, washing hands thoroughly with soap and running water. Clean toilet seats, toilet bowls, flush handles, taps, hand basins and any other areas that might have been soiled with detergent and hot water, rinsing with household disinfectant. Visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals. Please also contact the attraction you visited and inform them of the illness.

*From T&W Health Protection Hub, February 2026*