

DOTHILL NEWS



6th March 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!



This spring Friday brings us some more wonderful children to celebrate! We heard about very respectful and kind children, one of whom was praised for being a credit to our school by a member of the public on a trip to Cosford Air Museum this week. Some new children to our school were chosen for being consistently ready and for being so kind and caring and another was chosen for being a wonderful friend to another new member of Dothill. We were told about a fabulous mathematician, some great handwriting, resilience, working at home and a child who showed amazing understanding and skill in helping a child who was struggling on the playground.

We also heard about the coach driver who took our year 5s and 6s swimming telling Mr. Kirkpatrick that our children are the most polite he transports! We were so proud to hear this.

We had successes in gymnastics, swimming, dance and cheer.

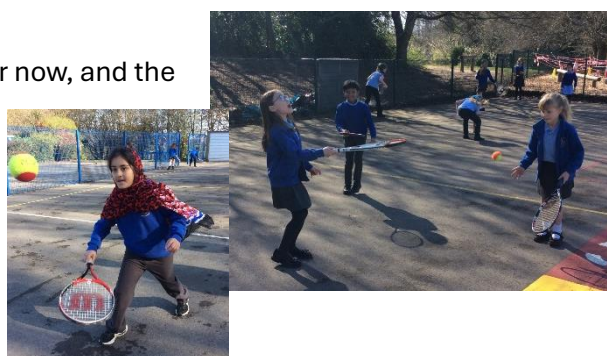
The Dazzling Dotties trophy went to 4LM for always being fabulous.

Well done, we are so proud of all of you.

News and Highlights this Week

What a beautiful week it has been – Spring is really in the air now, and the good mood it brings is evident across school.

Some of our children were lucky enough to enjoy a **tennis taster session**. We hope we have helped encourage some future sporting superstars. They practised bouncing the balls on rackets to build control, throwing and catching skills, and working in team activities.



Year 3 had a wonderful time at the **Cosford Air Museum** this week.

The children explored incredible examples of aviation engineering from across the world and enjoyed learning about the fascinating history of the British Armed Forces.

Their behaviour throughout the visit was exemplary, and they should be very proud of how they conducted themselves. It was truly fantastic to see their enthusiasm and curiosity in action.

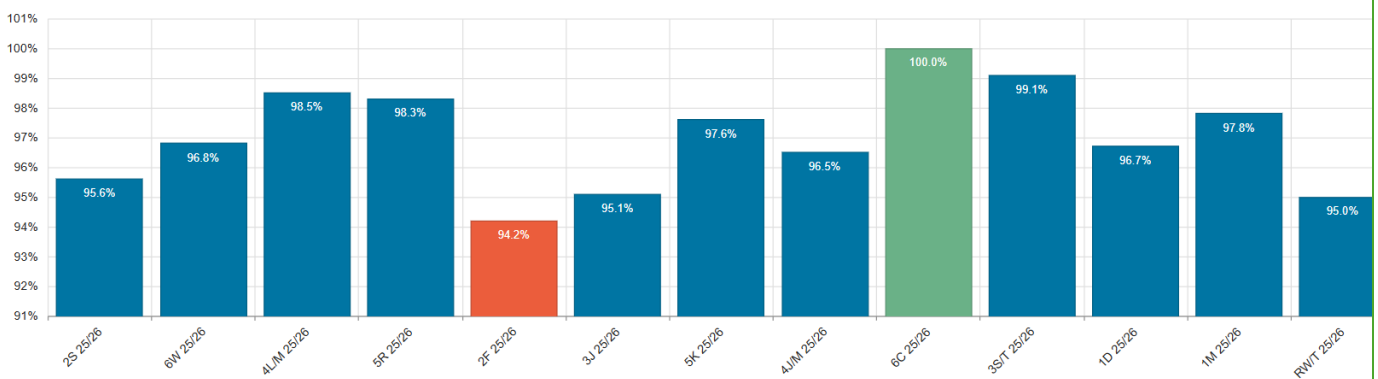


As ever, I wish you all a restful weekend, and hope you enjoy some family time together.

All my best, Mrs Thomas 😊

Attendance

A huge congratulations to 6C for 100% attendance this week – that is a great achievement! Miss Chantry has enjoyed having you all in school all week. Also, well done to all the others with attendance over 96%, including 3ST that have a marvellous 99.1%. **Overall, attendance for the week is 97% that is a fabulous 😊**



Why is attendance in school important?

Attendance in primary school is incredibly important for several key reasons, both academically and socially. Here is another reason why it matters:

Social and Emotional Growth

- **Friendships and social skills:** Being in school helps children develop relationships, learn to cooperate, and build empathy.
- **Routine and structure:** School provides a stable environment that supports emotional well-being and helps children feel secure.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mindful Moments

1. Five Senses Spring Walk

Ask children to name one thing they can see, hear, smell, touch, and (safely!) taste.

👉 *Wellbeing Impact:* Grounding techniques help children manage stress and feel more present.

2. Kindness Pebbles

Paint small stones with a kind message or picture and hide them around the neighbourhood.

👉 *Wellbeing Impact:* Acts of kindness increase happiness, empathy, and a sense of belonging.



SEND

PODS 'One Community' Conference

PODS are hosting a conference to bring together a range of experiences for their 'One Community' Conference on Thursday 26th March, from 9am – 2pm at the Mercure Hotel Telford.

The PODS staff and volunteer team will offer support for a range of disabilities including Downs Syndrome, PMLD, Complex Needs, Sensory, Wheelchair users, Epilepsy, Learning Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Musculoskeletal conditions, and more. To book your tickets please visit [Ticket Source](#)

Family Hubs Drop-In Sessions

Family Hub services aim to make a positive difference to children, young people and their families by providing the right help at the right time.

Come along and meet your local Family Hubs practitioner where you can access advice and support and connect with local organisations.

Support we cover includes parenting and behaviour support, online and community safety, SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities), domestic abuse support, financial advice and much more!

Telephone drop-in appointments are available (pre-booking essential). [Find a Drop In near you](#)

PODS Challenges at Home Sessions

"Challenges at home" sessions are designed for families who have a child who is on the assessment pathway or is undergoing assessment of NeuroDiversity (Autism/ADHD).

The sessions are open to parents of children aged 0-18 years from mainstream and special schools. The sessions allow families to discuss their concerns and seek information and advice from Educational Psychologist team around emotional, behavioural and social needs, anxieties and routines.

Dates: Every Thursday until July 2026

Time: Morning 9:30am - 11:30am or Evening 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Location: PODS Hub or MS Teams

To find out more information visit [Challenges@Home Sessions](#)



As part of the UK Government's Best Start for Life campaign, we would like to share with you "The Children's Toothbrushing Guide – Starting Reception." This helpful resource offers clear, practical advice to support families in developing strong and healthy dental habits for young children.

You can access the full guide using the link below:

[The Children's Toothbrushing Guide - Starting Reception](#)

The guidance includes a range of easy-to-follow tips, such as:

Key Advice for Supporting Your Child's Dental Health

- Brush twice a day — once in the morning and again before bedtime.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste to help protect teeth against decay.
- Supervise brushing until around age 7, ensuring your child uses the correct techniques.
- Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste for children aged 3 and above.
- Encourage your child to spit rather than rinse, helping the fluoride continue to protect their teeth.
- Limit sugary snacks and drinks, especially between meals.
- Replace toothbrushes every three months or sooner if the bristles become worn.

We encourage all families to take a few moments to explore the full guide. Establishing positive brushing routines early on can make a lasting difference to your child's oral health and overall wellbeing.

Thank you 😊

Internet Safety

This free online safety guide focuses on search engine - that, the type of software which helps you find what you're looking for on the internet. The guide takes a look at how to tackle a range of potential risks such as bypassing SafeSearch, inappropriate content and misleading information.

Part of our Online Information Series



Brought to you by



www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about...

SEARCH ENGINES



What is it? 'Search Engine'

A search engine is something that helps you find what you're looking for on the internet. By far the most used and well-known search engine is Google, which powers more than nine out of ten internet searches in the UK, according to Statcounter.com. Search engines can be used to find results such as websites, images and videos, which is where the dangers start to arise.

Know the Risks

Bypassing SafeSearch

Whilst Google has 'SafeSearch', which is designed to filter out explicit content, even by Google's own admission it's not 100% accurate. Inappropriate content can still make it through, even with seemingly innocuous search terms. SafeSearch is very easy to switch off and most teenagers will know how to bypass it.

Accessing blacklisted content

Search engines can be used to access content on sites that are blacklisted by parental control filters. Parental control services should, for example, blacklist the major pornography sites, but search engines might still display images from such sites in their results, without the user having to visit the site itself.

Niche search engines

Google isn't the only search engine out there – there are many niche search engines, some designed specifically to hunt out pornographic or violent content. These aren't always obviously named or blocked by parental control filters, making it difficult for parents to monitor.

Misleading information

Search engines merely reflect what's on the internet – they rarely filter out misleading or dangerous information. A child searching for solutions to a health problem, for example, might be directed to dangerous treatments.

Keep an Eye on...

Browsing habits

Google and other search engines often leave a trail behind them. For example, search terms entered into Google are normally auto-saved in the browser. Similarly, a browser history will reveal which terms a child has been entering into search engines, unless they've been using a private browser mode. If there is no browser history for the time your child has been online, then you might ask why.

Accessing VPNs

Although not strictly search engine related, keep an eye out for VPNs being installed on a family/child's device. Although there are legitimate and innocent uses for VPNs, they can also be a sign that a child is attempting to hide their internet activity or access content that is blocked by parental filters.

SafeSearch settings

Check that Google's SafeSearch remains activated on family computer browsers. Click Settings in the bottom-right corner of the Google home page and SafeSearch filters should be the first option at the top of the screen. It may also be wise to implement protective measures on children's personal devices to ensure they don't stumble across something they shouldn't.



Safety tips

Understand the code

There are ways to force Google to always have SafeSearch on, even if a child knows how to switch it off. These require a little bit of tinkering with code on the computers in your household, but Google provide detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to set this up in their support pages.

Set controls

If your child has their own Android or Apple smartphone or tablet and you're worried they're accessing stuff on Google they shouldn't be, you can use Google's Family Link service to place controls on the child's device. As well as SafeSearch, other safeguards such as controls over YouTube, are allowed on Android devices.

Encourage open dialogue

No matter how many technical barriers you put in your child's way, there will come a time when they come across something inappropriate on a search engine so it's important to let them know they can come to you if they find something that upsets them online and not to feel that they will get into trouble for seeing it.

Promote critical thinking

Children place a lot of faith in 'facts' they've found online and often aren't savvy enough to question the sources of information. Explain to children that not everything they read online is true and guide them towards reputable sources of information. For instance, reinforce that they should seek your advice for issues such as medical problems and be wary of what they read online.

Our Expert Barry Collins



Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as The Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.



Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2026

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
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



**Ready
Respectful
Safe**

BE YOUR BEST



EASTER STAY & PLAY

CRAFTS | ACTIVITIES | STORY TIME

The EYFS Team would like to invite Reception Parents and Carers to join us for an Easter Stay and Play session.

**THURSDAY 26TH MARCH
2PM - 3.15PM
RWT CLASSROOM**



JD121
PERFORMANCE



Girls Only
EASTER CAMP



Wednesday 8th April,
12pm - 2pm at Goalzone Telford

ONLY 12 SPACES!

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY
Wolves Women Player
Beth Roberts



**FUN FOOTBALL SESSIONS
EXCLUSIVELY FOR
GIRLS AGE 7-12!**

**SIGN UP
NOW!**

CONTACT: info@jd121performance.com