

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

14.11.25

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!



This week's children were chosen for a wide range of reasons: fantastic writing, superb effort with homework (a big thank you to all parents who continually support!), active listening, and thoughtful contributions in class discussions. Above all, perseverance and determination really shone through.

**Keep up the amazing work,
everyone – we're proud of you all!**

The class winning an extra playtime was **Year 3 – Miss Jones's class**, who have impressed her for two weeks running! In fact, she found it almost impossible to choose during celebration assembly because of their brilliant attitude. Enjoy your extra time next week 😊

What have we been up to...?

Children in Need – Dress Down Day

Today's dress down day for Children in Need has been a huge success! Many pupils embraced the cosy theme by wearing their favourite pyjamas—perfect for the stormy weather outside. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. If you would still like to contribute, please follow this link:

[Children in need 2025](#)

Honouring Remembrance Day

It was wonderful to see the whole school come together in a moment of respect during our two-minute silence for Remembrance Day on Tuesday. The atmosphere was calm and reflective, showing the importance of this occasion to our community.

Christmas Cards and Gifts

All Christmas cards and gifts ordered through the Friends will be delivered to school by the middle of next week. Once they arrive, we'll send them home with the children.

Be Bright, Be Seen Workshop

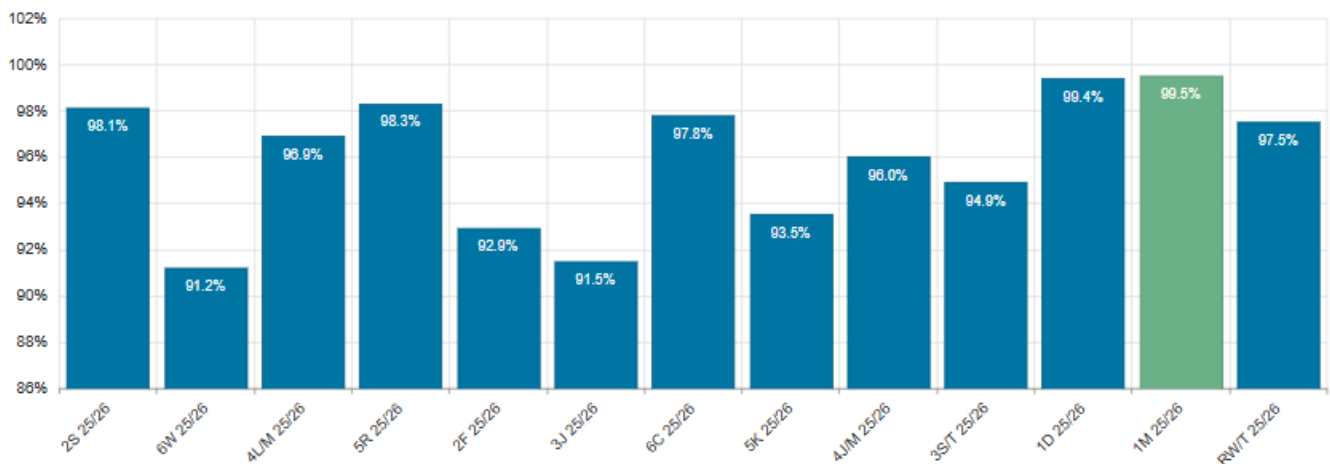
Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time during their one-hour workshop, delivered by the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team from Telford and Wrekin Council. The session was engaging and highly educational, leaving pupils excited and inspired. They explored the importance of high-visibility clothing in a hands-on, investigative way, comparing fluorescent and reflective materials to understand their impact. The workshop began with pupils confidently making predictions, and then they followed a clear, structured method to test which of four brightly coloured hi-vis vests—orange, yellow, green, and pink—stood out the most. It was a brilliant learning experience that combined science, safety, and fun!



Wishing you all a restful weekend from all at Dothill 😊

Attendance

Well done to all those classes with attendance above 96% this week!! A special shout out to our Year One children, with both classes having almost 100% attendance this week 😊 I wonder who will be the first class this half term to achieve 100% attendance?



Recording Attendance

Attendance Register

We will keep an electronic attendance register and place all pupils onto this register.

We will take our attendance register at the start of the first session of each school day and once during the second session. It will mark, using the appropriate national attendance and absence codes from the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024, whether every pupil is:

- Present
- Attending an approved off-site educational activity
- Absent
- Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.

Any amendment to the attendance register will include:

- The original entry
- The amended entry
- The reason for the amendment
- The date on which the amendment was made
- The name and position of the person who made the amendment





Christmas is an exciting time of year: the world becomes so much more colourful, with lots of twinkly lights and cosy textures, food and – of course – all that Christmas music! For most children this can be a truly thrilling time.

Children with sensory difficulties may struggle with some of the changes to their routine at this time. In preparation for the 'big event', here are some useful links and activities to support your child. Here is what Sensory Integration Education suggests as we approach the festive season:

1. Planning and Preparation

- Maintain familiar routines where possible.
- Use **social stories** and visual aids to prepare children for changes (decorations, music, crowds).
- Create a **Christmas calendar** showing events, locations, and people involved.

2. Movement Breaks

- Include regular **physical activities** like jumping, swimming, or hanging from play equipment to help regulate sensory input.

3. Decorations at Home

- Introduce decorations gradually.
- Keep **calm zones** without decorations.
- Involve individuals in decorating decisions.

4. Create a Sensory Pack

Include items such as:

- Sunglasses, ear defenders, headphones
- Fidget toys, chewable items
- Weighted lap pads, compression clothing
- Snacks and drinks

5. Set Expectations

- Inform family, friends, and schools about sensory needs.
- Allow flexibility—quiet spaces, leaving early if needed.

6. Sensory-Friendly Events

- Look for venues offering **low-light, quieter sessions**.
- Consider alternative activities like **driving to see Christmas lights**.

7. Be Flexible and Kind

- Avoid overscheduling.
- Allow breaks and reassure individuals that it's okay to step away or not interact.

8. Presents and Gift Giving

- Surprises can be stressful—show gifts in advance or use alternative wrapping.
- Allow private gift opening.

9. Food and Mealtimes

- Offer familiar foods alongside festive dishes.
- Bring preferred items to gatherings.
- Reduce pressure around eating and avoid labelling foods.
- Adapt environment (reduce smells, noise, and visual clutter).

📖 [PODS Christmas events – lively and calm activities to support children with SEND and their families](#)

📖 [How to help ease overstimulation during the Winter holidays - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

📖 [Managing Christmas Sensory Challenges](#)

📖 [Help autistic children manage changes leading up to Christmas](#)



PODS will be with us next Friday afternoon for their second Cuppa and Cake meet-up, starting at 2:15pm in the meeting room attached to the pre-school. Hope to see you there!

EYFS

Storytelling is a wonderful way to support your child's language development in the Early Years. Through stories, children are exposed to rich vocabulary, varied sentence structures, and expressive language in a fun and meaningful context.

Whether you're reading a favourite book, making up a tale together, or retelling something that happened during the day, storytelling helps children learn to listen, understand, and communicate. It also encourages imagination and creativity, which are key to early learning.

You can support your child by asking open-ended questions like "What do you think will happen next?" or "How do you think the character feels?" These prompts help children think critically and express their ideas.

Acting out stories or using props and puppets can make storytelling even more engaging and interactive.

Repetition of familiar stories also helps children build confidence in using new words and phrases.

Most importantly, storytelling creates special moments of connection between you and your child, fostering a love of language and books that will benefit them throughout their education.

So, whether it's a bedtime story or a spontaneous tale during playtime, every story shared is a step toward stronger language skills.



Internet Safety

The internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge, especially if you feel that your children may have better technical skills than you do. However, children and young people still need support and guidance when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely.

These ideas are a good starting point for conversations between you and your child:

Source: [What do I need to know? | Childnet](#)

Conversation starter ideas:

- 1 Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- 2 Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- 3 Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and [how to report](#) or block on the services they use.
- 4 Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- 5 Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Winter Wellbeing – Stay Active Indoors

Cold weather doesn't mean we stop moving! Try these fun ideas:

- **Dance Party:** Put on your favourite tunes and dance!
- **Indoor Obstacle Course:** Use cushions and chairs for a safe challenge.
- **Yoga for Kids:** Gentle stretches help calm the mind.



✓ Wellbeing Challenge:

Create your own indoor obstacle course and time yourself! Can you beat your record?

Dates for your diary

Open Afternoon for 26/27 EYFS intake 2pm	18.11.25
PODS Coffee Afternoon 2:15	21.11.25
Movie Night (Friends Event)	24.11.25
Y3 Gurdwara Visit	2.12.25
Open Evening for 26/27 EYFS intake 5pm	3.12.25
Y6 Height and Weight Checks with School Nurse	5.12.25
Year 4 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	8.12.25
Year 3 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	9.12.25
Year 5 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	10.12.25
*EYFS Christmas Nativity Performance 9:30am	11.12.25
Rainbow Room Christmas Crafts 2pm	12.12.25
Year 6 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	16.12.25
*KS1 Christmas Performance 2:15pm	17.12.25
*KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am	18.12.25
Festive Yes Day (Friends Event)	19.12.25
Last day of Autumn term (Christmas Holidays)	19.12.25



***Parents will need to book tickets via ParentPay in due course**

Spring Term 2026

PD Day (No children in school)	5.1.26
Return to school (Spring Term)	6.1.26
Young Voices	8.1.26
Wear what you love day (Friends Event)	13.2.26
Last day of Term (half term)	13.2.26
Return to School (Spring 2)	23.2.26
PODS Coffee Morning 9:30	24.2.26
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
Fund 'Raisin' (Friends Event)	Month of May
Bank Holiday	4.5.26
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
Non-uniform for Summer Fair (Friends Event)	26.6.26
Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26
End of Term (Summer Holidays)	17.7.26

**Ready
Respectful
Safe**

BE YOUR BEST