

DOTHILL NEWS



28.11.25

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!



On this very grey and miserable Friday afternoon these wonderful children made us smile. They have been writing superstars this week, with one using amazing vocabulary when they wrote colossal and more using lots of different aspects that have been taught within their writing. One even asked to do their assessed write even though she had been absent for several days because she was poorly and had missed it! A fabulous member of key stage two was given their certificate for being such a great helper every single day and another for being amazing at everything and another for their kindness. We also celebrated success in ballet, swimming, football and gymnastics.

This week's Dazzling Dotties cup went to both Mr Jones' class and Miss Dhariwal's class as we simply couldn't choose between them!

We are genuinely so proud of all of you, what a fabulous group of children who help to make our school so wonderful.

News and Highlights this Week

We've had another wonderfully busy week at Dothill!

I know I say this often, but this week has been particularly special as children are really starting to showcase all the fantastic learning they have achieved this term.

This morning, I spent time with Year 1 and was blown away by their amazing progress in writing. Walking around the school today, I was once again impressed by the calm, focused learning environments in every classroom. Dothill truly is a school to be proud of!

We wish you a happy weekend, despite the very wet forecast! Looking forward to seeing you all next week as we welcome in the festive season. 😊

Clubs Reminder

Please remember to sign up by the end of next week for after school clubs from January. We have some exciting new clubs on offer:

Choir for EYFS, year 1 and year 2 with Mrs Renshaw and Miss Coomber

Art Club for Year 1, 2 and 3 with Miss Hodgkinson and Miss Williams

Tag Rugby for Year 4, 5 and 6 with Mr Furey and Mr Abbot

In addition, we are trialling Crossbar clubs: dodgeball, football and street dance.

Full information can be found here: [after-school-clubs-spring-1-2026.pdf](#)

Pupil Premium – A Message to Families

Have your circumstances changed recently? If you think your child may now be eligible for **Pupil Premium funding**, please let us know. This additional funding can make a big difference to the support and opportunities we can provide for your child.

Checking eligibility is quick and easy – and even if your child is in Reception or Key Stage 1 and already receives free school meals, registering could still bring extra benefits for them and the school.

If you're unsure or would like help, please contact the school office. We're here to support you!

Message from the Local authority

County Lines Awareness Webinar for Parents/Carers

Who are Catch22?

Catch22 is a national organisation with over 10 years of experience delivering specialist support for young people affected by county lines, child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. We currently deliver the National County Lines Support and Rescue service- providing 1-2-1 support and a rescue service for young people and their families who are criminally exploited through county lines.



Eventbrite details for a free webinar for parent/carers(including foster carers/grandparents) to gain an understanding on the important issues surrounding county lines. Please feel free to share on.

Session overview

This session is aimed at parent/carers (including foster carers/grandparents) to gain an understanding on the important issues surrounding county lines, as well as the impact that it can have on young people and their families, and the support that is available to young people who are impacted/suffering from County Lines and Criminal Exploitation.

Topics will include:

- County Lines, child criminal exploitation (CCE) and financial exploitation,
- Stages of recruitment,
- Push and pull factors,
- The National Referral Mechanism,

- The Psychological impact
- Social media, Debt bondage, plus more

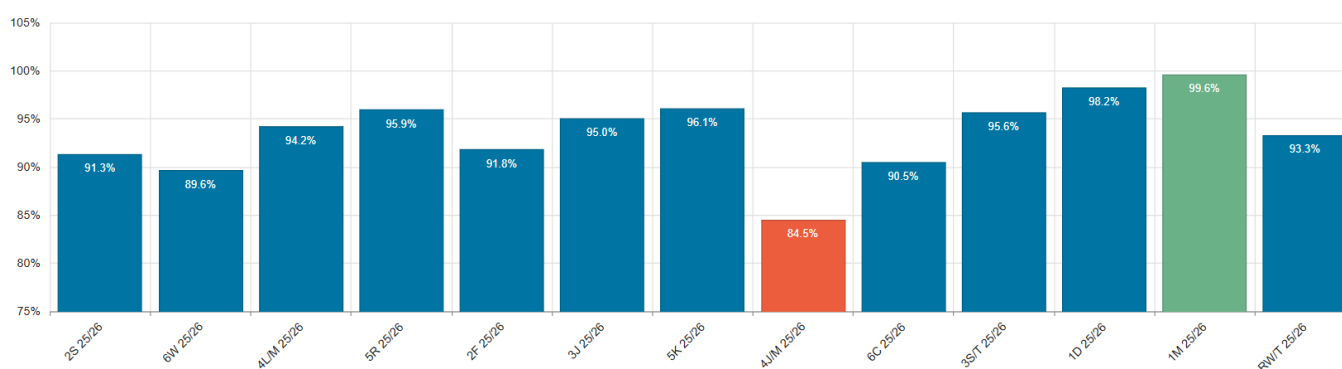
Dates/times with links

Wednesday 10th December 2025 (10am – 11.30am) - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/county-lines-webinar-session-parentscarers-only-tickets-1974964772800?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday 11th December 2025 (5.30pm-7pm) - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-county-lines-webinar-session-parentscarers-only-tickets-1974965111814?aff=oddtcreator>

Attendance

Congratulations to 1M for your wonderful attendance this week 😊 Almost 100%!! Also, 1D with the next highest percentage. Year One must be having lots of fun and learning lots.



Planned Absence

Attending a medical or dental appointments will be counted as authorised as long as the pupil's parent notifies the school in advance of the appointment.

However, we encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

The pupil's parent must also apply for other types of term-time absence as far in advance as possible of the requested absence. See section 5 of our policy to find out which term-time absences the school can authorise.

Within school there are clear procedures with regards to requests for leave in term time. These follow the guidance of the LA and new DFE regulations. We will only consider leave in term time where both:

- the application is made to the headteacher in advance of the leave by a parent/carer the child normally lives with **and**
- there are exceptional circumstances, as agreed by the headteacher for the leave.

We will only agree absence in **exceptional circumstances** which will not include holidays.

Leave of absences in term time are actively discouraged by the school and the LA, and we will follow the advice set out by the DFE as follows:

- each request can only be judged on a case-by-case basis
- even in exceptional circumstances it is expected that the headteacher will use their discretion
- The headteacher should not apply policies (for example, blanket bans) which might suggest that each application has not been considered on its individual merits

- as a general guide any activity, holiday or event that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time should not be authorised during the school term

All parents requesting leave of absence must complete a request form with as much notice as possible (at least four term-time weeks), and preferably before booking any trip abroad (this is available to completed online on the website or this can be requested from the school office).

A written response will then be sent by the headteacher. If the absence is authorised, the letter will detail how many days are authorised. If the absence is unauthorised, parents could be issued with a penalty notice. In Telford & Wrekin, Holiday Penalty Notices (HPN) are issued by the Attendance Support Team to parents who take their children out of school during term time without getting authorisation from the school.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Power of Gratitude

Christmas is a great time to practice thankfulness:

- Write **three things you're grateful for** each day.
- Make a **gratitude jar** and fill it with happy notes.

☒ Wellbeing Challenge:

Write one thank-you note for someone who has helped you this year.



SEND

SEN Friendly Night NEW for Festive Gardens this year

🎄 The Festive Gardens return to the Chelsea & Maxell Gardens in Telford Town Park – and this year, we're introducing a special SEN Friendly Night on Thursday 18 December 2025 at 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm or 8pm.

This special evening is designed for those who prefer a calmer experience, we'll turn down the volume, reduce flashy lights, and limit numbers so you can enjoy being transported to the North Pole in a relaxed environment.

Expect:

Stunning festive light displays

Magical photo opportunities

A few cheeky elves!

Your ticket allows multiple entries within your hour slot

After the trail, head to the Bandstand Zone for:

Hot dogs & drinks (sold separately – add to your basket before you check out)

Storytime sessions

Build your own LEGO toy

Meet some adorable animal friends

Don't miss this magical evening hurry some of the timed sessions are limited availability <https://bit.ly/3JBeg9w>

What is After-School Restraint Collapse?

After-School Restraint Collapse



After-school restraint collapse refers to the intense meltdowns or emotional outbursts children may have following the school day. They arise from the accumulated stress of having to “hold it together” at school. Once at home, kids release their pent-up feelings in a safe environment.

childmind.org/article/after-school-meltdowns/
psychologytoday.com/after-school-restraint-collapse

After-school restraint collapse happens when children come home from school and suddenly melt down—crying, yelling, or shutting down. Why? All day, they’ve been working hard to follow rules, stay focused, and manage big feelings. By the time they’re home, their emotional “battery” is drained, and they finally feel safe enough to let it all out. This isn’t bad behaviour—it’s a sign they’ve been holding it together for hours. Things like hunger, tiredness, and sensory overload can make it worse. The best thing you can do? Offer comfort, patience, and space to recharge.

3 Quick Tips for Parents

1. **Snack first!** A little food and water can work wonders.
2. **Create a calm zone**—quiet, cozy, and low-stimulation.
3. **Save the questions**—give them 30 minutes before asking about school.

Helpful Resources:

- [Psychology Today: 5 Ways to Help](#)
- [BrightSpOT Pediatric Guide](#)
- [Handy Handouts](#)
- [ADHD & ASD: After school restraint collapse response](#)
- [What is after-school restraint collapse and how to manage it - BBC Bitesize](#)

EYFS

Building Independence and Strong Friendships in EYFS

We have been focusing on developing independence in Reception, and it has been wonderful to see such progress!

The children are now confidently accessing resources and playing alongside their peers, creating imaginative stories, constructing incredible buildings, and engaging in rich role-play scenarios. Their ability to make choices and work creatively has led to some fantastic masterpieces and collaborative play. Alongside this, we have noticed friendships growing stronger as children develop their social and emotional understanding they are learning to share, take turns, and support one another.

These experiences are helping them build resilience and empathy, which are essential skills for lifelong learning.

How you can help at home: encourage your child to make small choices independently, such as selecting their clothes or tidying away toys. Giving them opportunities to play with siblings or friends and talk about feelings can also strengthen their social skills and confidence.



Reminder

We kindly ask parents and carers to check that their child has returned home with the correct jumper. We are currently missing two jumpers, both of which have the child's name inside. If you've accidentally picked up the wrong one (these things happen!) please return it to us so we can reunite it with its owner. Thank you so much for your support and help with this.

Internet Safety

This week's free online safety guide focuses on 'friends & followers'. What makes social media actually 'social' are the connections users make with other users on the platforms. The guide takes a look at how to tackle a range of potential risks such as online bullying, catfishing and access to private information.

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series



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What you need to know about...

FRIENDS & FOLLOWERS



What are they?

'Friends & Followers'

What makes social media actually 'social' are the connections users make with other users on the platforms. Every social networking site handles these connections differently, calling them 'connections', 'friends' and 'followers', amongst others. Having friends and followers is how we find out what other people say and do. Your friends and followers are much more likely to see your online content than those outside of your network, which is why it's important to be mindful of who you connect with and what you share. On some platforms, if two accounts follow each other, this may allow additional communication channels such as private messaging.

Ellie-May
FRIENDS
28 Followers

Oscar
FRIENDS
147 Followers

Kumail
FRIENDS
63 Followers

Jada
FRIENDS
56 Followers

Amelia
FRIENDS
45 Followers

Know the Risks

Access to private information

This may include your child's home address, school, date of birth, names of siblings or other relations, as well as seeing photos that inadvertently contain sensitive information. This is completely harmless information for genuine friends or family but could cause issues in the hands of a criminal.



Catfishing

'Catfishing' is the common name given to an individual posing as someone else on social media. They do this to try and befriend typically young and vulnerable people who they look to then take advantage of. Unfortunately, there are many examples of this happening across the world that have had real-life consequences.

Online bullying

Once a connection is made on social media, there is the potential to send private messages between individuals. It is difficult for social networks and other users to see what is being said between accounts. This provides an opportunity for bullies to victimise individuals and can create a dangerous spiral of online activity.

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

Platforms such as Facebook allow users to modify their privacy settings, which means people who are not friends can't see all your profile information. It's also possible to hide this information for some or all of your connections. Always make sure your child's accounts are set to private.



Talk about strangers

Make sure children understand that they should only connect with people that they know or can completely trust. They should be wary of anyone messaging them frequently who they don't know in real life or have never spoken to or actually seen online. Catfish will stick to text-based messaging only, to keep their identity secret.

Delete old connections

Children should be mindful that everything they share will probably exist online forever and that they shouldn't share anything that gives too much information away. Every now and again, they should delete old connections that they no longer spend time with. Old accounts can easily be hacked, exposing personal information to strangers.

Further Support

Encourage an open dialogue

It's really important that your children knows that they can speak to someone about anything they're not sure of online. It's crucial that they know they won't be judged or told off for anything they've done, it's far more important to know if they're in danger or worried about something.

Seek additional guidance

If your child wants to spend a lot of time online and is displaying compulsive or addictive behaviour, is negative, struggles with schoolwork and reduces real-life interactions or has frequent changes in mood, they could be experiencing negative interactions online. Speak to them and seek support from their school or your local safeguarding team if you think your child has been affected.

Our Expert

Emma Davis



Emma Davis is a cyber security expert and former ICT teacher. She delivers cyber awareness training to organisations nationally and has extensive knowledge and experience of managing how children access services and apps online.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.09.2020

Dates for your diary



Movie Night (Friends Event) NOTE DATE CHANGE	1.12.25
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
Choir Event – Festive Gardens 4:45pm	12.12.25
Years 1-6 visit to All Saints Church	15.12.25
Year 6 Family Event: Christmas Crafts 2pm	16.12.25
Whole School Christmas Lunch	17.12.25
*KS1 Christmas Performance 2:15pm	17.12.25
*KS1 Christmas Performance 9:30am	18.12.25
EYFS Christmas Stay and Play 2:15pm	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
Arthog Year 6	2-6.2.26
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**

Please note, the Christmas Lunch is for children only.

