

DOTHILL NEWS



6th Feb 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 afternoon, we were delighted to hear about so many wonderful children across our school. Teachers spoke proudly about pupils who always do the right thing, who are making brilliant links in their learning, who approach each day with a smile, try their very best, complete their homework consistently, and much more.

Our Year 2 and Year 3 children were on school trips yesterday, and members of the public took the time to compliment their exceptional manners while they were out and about. What a fantastic reflection of our school values!

We also celebrated achievements outside the classroom: swimmers who have reached Stage Two and shared what they needed to master to earn their certificates, as well as impressive gymnastics success, including a second-place award, and some very exciting badges earned at Cubs.

A huge well done to all of our children. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

News and Highlights this Week

It has certainly been a week filled with trips and exciting experiences! This afternoon we welcome back our Year 6 children from Arthog, and those who remained in school have also enjoyed a brilliant week of activities.

A huge thank you to **Mrs Willoughby, Miss Chantry and Mr Abbott** for giving up their own precious family time to ensure the children had such a memorable residential. Your commitment and care are truly appreciated.

We would also like to thank **Miss Taylor** for organising a fantastic programme of activities for the Year 6 pupils who stayed in school. She was wonderfully supported by our valued volunteer helpers — **Mrs Rouse, Mrs Wilder and Mrs Langford** — without whom the week simply wouldn't have been possible.

Please take a look at our Facebook page to see photos from their adventures throughout the week.

In addition, Year 2 and 3 also enjoyed trips – to Twycross Zoo and Telford Town Park. Please see their class pages for their photos. They also had a marvellous time!

Club Sign-Up Deadline Extended!

We're pleased to let you know that the deadline for signing up for after-school clubs has been extended to Monday 9th February.

There are still spaces available in all clubs, and we'd love to see as many children as possible take part.

[Clubs Available](#)

Junk Modelling – EYFS & Year 1

A creative, hands-on club where children use recycled materials to build, design and explore imaginative constructions.

Art Club – Years 3 & 4

A fun opportunity for pupils to make clay animals, stain glass windows and other exciting items.

Art Club – Years 5 & 6

A separate art club tailored for older pupils, focusing on developing skills and exploring more advanced art skills.

STEM Club – Years 1 & 2

Children will explore simple science, technology, engineering and maths through practical investigations and exciting challenges.

[How to Book](#)

All information and booking are to be made via ParentPay.

Please don't delay and get your child a place booked today 😊



Attendance

Strategies for promoting attendance

We promote good attendance explicitly with children in school, celebrating this in assemblies or on displays in the school. Each week we share the success of the class with the highest attendance for that week. This information is shared and celebrated in assemblies and shared with parents in a weekly newsletter.

In the Autumn and Spring term parents are invited to attend a consultation with the class teacher. During this meeting the teacher will inform the parent / carer of current attendance percentage. They will celebrate good attendance discuss attendance further if any concerns.

Social media is used to promote good attendance to parents and share facts and figures about absence from school. As a school, we also send regular messages and reminders to parents of the importance of attendance via the school website and email.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mindfulness & Calming Strategies

★ What parents can try at home

- **Breathing exercises:** “Smell the flower, blow the candle.”
- **Calm-down box:** Fill with colouring pages, soft toys, sensory items, or a favourite book.
- **Mindful moments:** Listen to the rain, notice five things you can see, or do a slow stretch together.

📌 Local support

- **Paediatric Psychology Service** — supports children with long-term health conditions who may feel stressed or anxious.

Celebrating Time to Talk Day

Yesterday was Time to Talk Day – the day is about creating supportive communities by having conversations with friends, families or colleagues about mental health. Children in school had a session about mental health and the importance of talking to others. 4LM made paper chains with suggestions of how to make people feel valued, as well as writing a positive postcard to a friend.



SEND

PODS Half Term Events and Sensory Sessions

PODS is holding sessions on Chinese New Year crafts, Blists Hill and Fun PE during the February Half Term. Each child /young person attending must have a ticket, parents/carers do not require a ticket (except for Blists Hill) but must accompany their child/young person.

Please note tickets are non-refundable.

Please book onto only one session out of the three advertised to allow as many families as possible to enjoy the February Half Term activities on offer.

[Chinese New Year Crafts](#)

[Blists Hill Session](#)

[Fun PE Session](#)

Family Hub Cherry Blossom Drop In

Families can access a monthly drop-in service at the Cherry Blossom Family Hub (PODS Hub), Central Park, Telford.

📍 **Location:** PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Central Park, TF2 9TU

📅 **When:** Last Monday of every month (term time only)

🕒 **Time:** 11:30am – 1:00pm

This relaxed, friendly session is open to all parents and carers, offering:

- ✅ Advice and signposting to local support
- ✅ Information on parenting and available courses
- ✅ Guidance on accessing community activities
- ✅ Family Hubs information and support

No need to book – just pop in for a chat, a warm welcome, and access to a range of support designed for families.

We look forward to seeing you there! 💜

SENDIASS "Share Your Experiences" Session with Cuppa and a Cake

Thursday 26th February 2026 from 12pm-2pm at PODS Hub, 1 Hawksworth Road, Telford, TF2 9TU

As part of the re-tender process for SENDIASS service, we are hosting a discussion group for parent carers in Telford and Wrekin. If you are interested, please join us on 26th February for a lunchtime cuppa and cake.

Book here: [SENDIASS Discussion at PODS HUB @ 1 Hawksworth Road event tickets from TicketSource](#)



Internet Safety

Parental controls can be used to manage screen time, block inappropriate content, prevent accidental spending, and keep strangers away. Research shows that having parental controls in place improves digital wellbeing when used alongside regular conversations about online activities.

[Parental controls and privacy settings guides | Internet Matters](#)

EYFS

Telford and Wrekin Council created a lovely initiative called '5 by 5', which helps families discover fun, local activities to enjoy together. You can find out more here: [Home / 5 BY 5](#)

There is a challenge card for you to explore, we can already tick some of the things off through activities in school. We would love to see the children ticking off things at home. Please feel free to share photographs with us at DothillPhaseLeaderEYFS@taw.org.uk and we will celebrate this in school 😊

The 5 by 5 programme also links beautifully to the Council's 10 by 10 initiative, which encourages children to try ten memorable experiences before they turn ten. It's a great way to inspire confidence, spark new interests, and help children learn more about the world around them. You can read more at 10by10.telford.gov.uk

Please see the poster below.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2026

SEND Coffee Morning 9am – 11am	9.2.26
Year 5 to watch Legally Blonde at Charlton	10.2.26
Year 5 visit to Think Tank	11.2.26
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 9:30am	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
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
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 Term (Summer Holidays)	17.7.26

**Ready
Respectful
Safe
BE YOUR BEST**

5BY5

CHECKLIST

Tick them off as you go

The adventures will support your child's growth, development and confidence to help them start school.

How many have you already tried?
How many more can you do?

Develop and grow

- ☐ Eat a rainbow
- ☐ Splash in a swimming pool
- ☐ Stamp and scrunch the autumn leaves
- ☐ Grow your own food
- ☐ Walk/hop/skip or run across the Ironbridge
- ☐ Put on own shoes and coats
- ☐ Use a potty or toilet independently
- ☐ Eat with utensils
- ☐ Learn to brush teeth with supervision
- ☐ Visit the town park and use the equipment

Find my voice

- ☐ Share a book and listen to stories
- ☐ Go to Bounce and Rhyme and join the library
- ☐ Learn a nursery rhyme and sing a song
- ☐ Listen to outdoor sounds
- ☐ Explore the sounds that musical instruments make
- ☐ Join my friends in the role play area
- ☐ Play peek-a-boo
- ☐ Blow bubbles and catch them
- ☐ Feed the ducks
- ☐ Teddy bears picnic

Make friends

- ☐ Visit a toddler or community group
- ☐ Go to pre-school
- ☐ Play hide and seek
- ☐ Play a board game with friends
- ☐ Go on a treasure hunt with friends
- ☐ Talk to the baby/toddler in the mirror
- ☐ Draw a picture of your friends
- ☐ Play circle games
- ☐ Build a den
- ☐ Attend an event in the community

Being curious and creative

- ☐ Ride on a bus or train or both
- ☐ Exploring paint
- ☐ Play a musical instrument
- ☐ Get messy with arts and crafts
- ☐ Build a sandcastle
- ☐ Lay on the ground and watch the clouds sail by
- ☐ Dance and sing to music
- ☐ Take a torch and walk when its dark outside
- ☐ Blow a dandelion and make a wish
- ☐ Play with playdough

Building connections

- ☐ Count to five
- ☐ Draw with a pencil
- ☐ Look for letters and numbers on signs in the community
- ☐ Write out a card for family or friends
- ☐ Choose a recipe and bake it with a grown up
- ☐ Make a shopping list and go shopping
- ☐ Go on a bug hunt
- ☐ Plant a sunflower and see how tall it grows
- ☐ Make a snowman
- ☐ Walk in the woods