

DOTHILL NEWS



22nd May 2026

Don't forget to check the school website for regular updates.

www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk

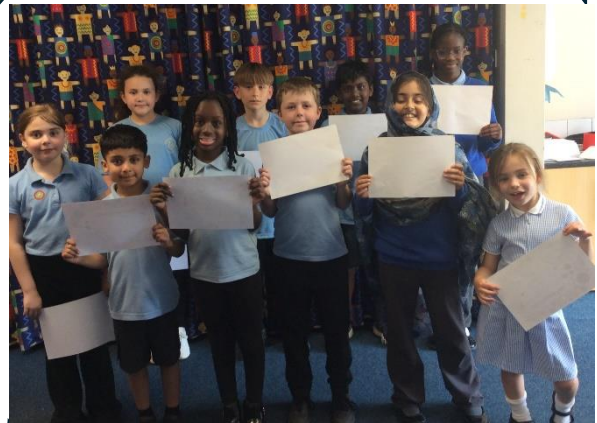
Check out our Facebook page: Dothill Primary School, Telford

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 week, we are celebrating children who have shown fantastic resilience in their learning, listened carefully to feedback, and used this to improve their work. We have been particularly impressed with the high standard of writing and the creativity demonstrated through some truly fantastic artwork. Many children have shown real determination by working hard across all lessons and making positive choices throughout the day—well done to all involved. Our Dothill Cup has been awarded to EYFS this week in recognition of their excellent behaviour around school, including fantastic sitting, sensible walking, and brilliant listening in class. A super achievement—keep it up, EYFS!



News and Highlights this Week

Special Wildlife Visitors



On Monday we had a very special and unexpected visitor in the Year 3/4/5 corridor! A **British brown bat** had made its way inside and was spotted fast asleep on the ceiling. These fascinating creatures are incredibly fragile and delicate, and as a protected species, it was important that we handled the situation with great care.

Staying true to our motto — Ready, Respectful and Safe — we contacted professionals, who safely and carefully removed the bat and released it back to a suitable outdoor environment. According to the pair of wildlife experts, it is incredibly rare to see one of these beautiful creatures in a school. They could only recall being called to a total of 4 schools in 18 years! The children showed such kindness and responsibility, being extremely protective of our unexpected guest, who Mr. Jones had lovingly named Bruce.

A memorable and educational experience for everyone involved!



Today we were treated with yet more wildlife as a rather large **swan** decided he didn't want the children to enter school via the back gate!



Careers Week

EYFS: As part of our Careers Week, the children in EYFS enjoyed a special video call with a former Dothill pupil, who is now a police detective in London. The children listened carefully and showed excellent behaviour, waiting patiently for their turn to ask questions.

They were particularly interested in learning about police cars and sirens, police dogs, and the detective's radio and handcuffs. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about real-life jobs and be inspired by someone who once attended our school!

Key Stage One: On Thursday Key Stage 1 assembly for Careers Week welcomed a special visitor who previously attended Dothill. She shared insights into her career in marketing and social media, explaining how she has worked on campaigns for well-known organisations such as Drayton Manor and the NHS. The visitor spoke honestly about facing additional learning barriers and finding writing difficult during her time at school, but emphasised how hard work and resilience helped her succeed. Her story inspired pupils by showing that challenges can be overcome and that there are many different paths to success in future careers.



Key Stage 2: Our Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a fantastic careers event, featuring a carousel of inspiring visitors — all former pupils of our school. The children met a range of professionals, including a police detective, software engineer and many more, and gained a valuable insight into the variety of career pathways available to them.

The pupils represented the school brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions and listening with great respect and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see them so engaged and curious about their futures.

A big thank you to our visitors for giving their time and inspiring our pupils!



School Email Reminder

A quick reminder for parents and carers — if you need to contact the school, please use our main email address: dothill@taw.org.uk

We have noticed that some emails are being sent to our SEND inbox in error, which can delay and confuse the correct responses. Using the main school email address will ensure your enquiry is directed to the right person as quickly as possible.

Of course, if you do have a SEND related query, please do use this address: dothill.primarysend@taw.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

School Enterprise!

Our enterprising Year 5 pupils are working hard to raise as much money as possible towards their upcoming visit to Arthog. They have planned a series of exciting fundraising events and even designed their own flyer—please see below for details!

Events will take place every Thursday throughout the next half term:

- **4th June:** Non-uniform day
- **11th June:** Cake sale
- **18th June:** Craft sale
- **25th June:** Sweets and ice pops
- **2nd July:** Tombola
- **9th July:** Bric-a-brac sale

The non-uniform day will cost **£1 per child**, and all other events will be held at the end of the school day on the main playground.

We greatly appreciate your support in helping Year 5 make their Arthog trip a memorable experience!

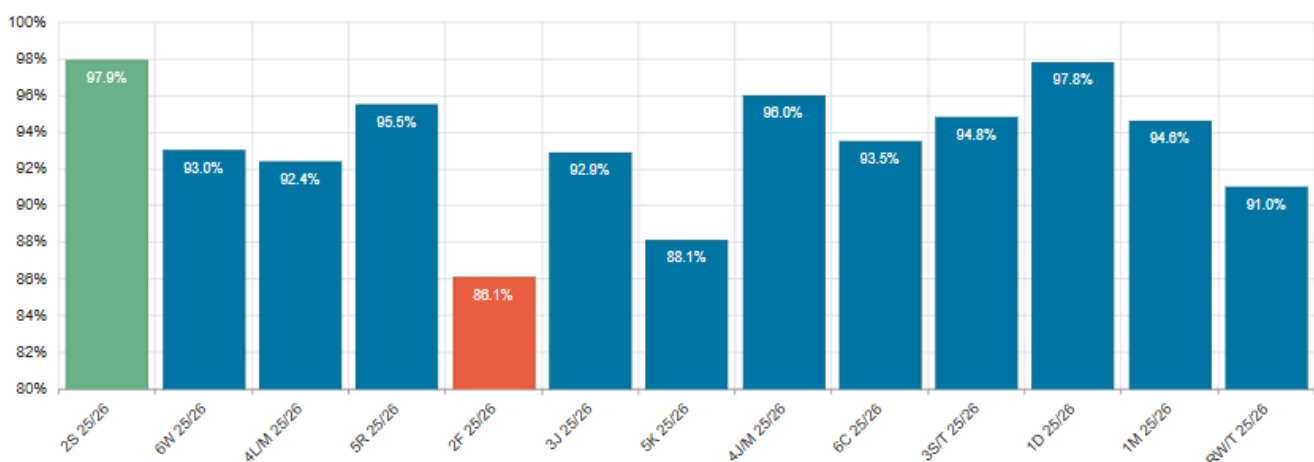
I would like to wish you all a very happy half term break. We look forward to our final half term of the year when we return – filled with exciting events and of course transition activities as the academic year begins to come to a close. We look forward to our sports days, Grandparent’s Tea Party, summer fair, family picnic, and much more...

Just a reminder that we return to school on Tuesday 2nd June, as Monday is a PD day.

I wish you all a restful break with your nearest and dearest.

Attendance

A fantastic effort across the school this week, with many classes achieving strong attendance figures—well done! A special mention to our highest-attending class, who reached an impressive 97.9%, setting a brilliant example for others to follow – well done 2S. 1D you were very closely behind with an equally as impressive 97.8%.



Let's Make the Last Half Term Count! 🌟

As we head into the final weeks of the summer term, let's work together to finish the year on a high!

Every day in school really does matter—learning builds step by step, and being in school helps children feel confident, connected and ready for the next stage.

✔ Our goal is for all pupils to achieve **96% attendance or above**

⚠ Attendance below **92% is a concern**, as it means children are missing a significant amount of learning time

The good news is—it's never too late to make a difference!

By prioritising good attendance over the last half term, you can help your child:

- Keep up with their learning
- Enjoy time with friends and teachers
- Feel proud of finishing the year strongly

Let's aim for a brilliant end to the year together—**every day counts and every minute matters!**

Thank you for your continued support 🌈

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing Over May Half Term 🧡

As we head into the May half term break, this is a valuable opportunity for children (and adults!) to rest, recharge and spend quality time together.

Taking care of our mental health is just as important as our physical health. Small, simple moments at home can make a big difference to how children feel as we approach the final weeks of the school year.

Ways you can support wellbeing at home:

- 🌿 **Spend time outdoors** – fresh air, parks and green spaces can help children relax and improve mood
- 💬 **Talk and connect** – make time to chat, listen and share feelings together
- 🎨 **Get creative** – drawing, painting, baking or crafts are great for expressing emotions
- 🚶 **Stay active** – walks, bike rides or games in the garden help reduce stress and boost energy
- 😊 **Focus on positives** – encourage your child to share “three good things” each day
- 🧘 **Take moments to pause** – simple breathing, quiet time or reading together can help children feel calm

Spending time together as a family and building in moments of rest and fun can strengthen relationships and support children's emotional wellbeing.

What's happening locally in Telford & Wellington:

There are lots of opportunities to get out and about during half term, with a **packed programme of affordable activities across Telford and Wrekin**, including:

- Outdoor fun in local parks and green spaces
- Swimming, cycling and sports activities
- Creative and cultural sessions in community venues

You might also enjoy:

- 🌳 Visiting **Telford Town Park** for play areas, walking trails and outdoor activities
- 📖 Exploring **local libraries**, which often run holiday activities
- 🚶 Taking part in **Telford Walk Week (25–31 May)** to enjoy time together outdoors

Many activities are low-cost or free—perfect for spending quality time together without pressure.

A gentle reminder:

Breaks from routine can sometimes feel tricky, and that's completely normal. Keep things simple, follow your child's lead and focus on connection, fun and rest.

We hope you all have a safe, happy and relaxing half term 🧡

SEND

PODS events during Half Term:

PODS will be holding two events during the break which families can book and enjoy. Session 1 is a cooking event on 27th May: [PODS May Half Term Cooking Session - Together We Can Make a Difference](#) and Session 2 is an activity session which will be held at Blists Hill: [PODS May Half Term - Blists Hill - Together We Can Make a Difference](#)

Telford Autism Hub:

Last week I shared some links to the Telford Autism Hub and the activities they offer. This week, as part of our Careers Week, an ex-pupil came to speak to the children about the work he does at the Hub. We will shortly be holding a SEND coffee morning to share more about what The Hub can offer and for parents to chat with members of the Hub staff. Watch this space!

EYFS

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds!

This half term, our EYFS children have been busy exploring the importance of healthy eating through hands-on, practical experiences. One of our highlights has been making our very own fruit smoothies. The children loved tasting different fruits, discussing their colours and textures, and talking about where they come from. They practised important skills such as measuring, pouring, and blending, while also learning how delicious healthy choices can be!

We have also taken our learning outdoors by growing our own vegetables. The children have been nurturing plants, watering them regularly, and observing how they change and grow over time. This has not only supported their understanding of the natural world but has also helped them develop patience, responsibility, and a sense of achievement. This week, the children were very excited to (finally!) taste the fruits of our labour.





You can support this learning at home by encouraging your child to try new fruits and vegetables, helping with simple food preparation, or even growing something small together, such as herbs or cress. It's wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic about living a healthy lifestyle!



Online Safety

This week's free online safety guide focuses on loot boxes & skin betting. Some video games offer "loot boxes", similar to purchasing a pack of Panini football stickers, players don't know what they will get in a loot box. The guide takes a look at how to tackle a range of potential risks such as gambling, unregulated third-party communities and in-app purchases.



What you need to know about... LOOT BOXES & SKIN BETTING



What is it?

'Loot Boxes'

Some video games offer 'loot boxes' as a way to purchase items. Similar to purchasing a pack of Football stickers, players don't know exactly what they will get. They may get a common item that has a low value in the game. Equally, they may get a rare item that has a high value.

'Skin Betting'

'Skin betting' is when players use virtual items they have earned or purchased in games (often called 'skins' because they are cosmetic features) as gambling currency. Players can use websites or apps outside of the game itself, which are mostly unregulated to bet with 'skins' on esports competitions & games. This becomes a legal issue when the 'skins' you win can be converted to cash.

Know the Risks

Beware of Overspending

It's important for parents to be aware if their own or a child's 'loot boxes' and skins for gaming are used for purposes of it can consume considerable amounts of money. It can be tempting to make repeat purchases and be tempted to buying more or adding over the 'loot box'.

May Lead to Addiction

Because players can trade and swap skins in games, the relative value of these items increases. They're new but, when they can be exchanged for any form of gambling, the risk becomes addiction as children need to get the best or most valuable items often spending large amounts of time trying to get what they want.

Illegal Behaviour

It's important for parents to understand that 'win' trades or 'skin' trading are often carried out on websites or apps outside of game host. These are unregulated and beyond the control of the game creator. Sites that offer 'loot boxes' for sale, for cash are often illegal and require a gambling licence. They should not be sold to minors or children.

Safety Tips

Discuss What 'Value' Means

It's important that parents work alongside their children as they venture into the world of gaming. Together they can build an understanding of how 'loot boxes' work and discuss which are really good value and which are over priced. Use pocket money, it can be a good way to teach children about virtual currency and online purchases.

Set Spending Limits

Together with your child, you can set up spending limits for any essential purchases. A good approach is to set the pocket money, because it can be easier to allow them to spend a small amount each month.

Use Pre-paid Cards

You can also avoid putting your or your child's details in by using pre-paid cards that work like debit cards. If you do add credit cards, ensure you set up a password on the account so that children can't keep spending freely.

Further Support

Report Illegal Gambling Sites

If you discover your child has been gambling on skins websites, you should report the site to the relevant authority immediately. You may be able to do this online or by hand. It may help to crack down on sites where criminal activity and the trading of underage gambling.

Seek Support

If you or your child has developed a gambling addiction or may be thinking of it, seeking support from external organisations who may be able to help and can provide further education around the dangers of excessive gambling.

Our Expert Andy Robertson



Andy Robertson is a freelance family technology expert for the BBC. He runs the Family Gamer TV YouTube channel and contributes to a range of national media on the topic of video-games and family.

Dear Parents / Carers,

Year 5 (soon to be Year 6!) are fundraising for their trip to Arthog. We are holding events every Thursday throughout the next half term.

4th June	Musty day - £1
11th June	Cake Sale
18th June	Craft Sale
25th June	Tombola Sweets + ice pops
2nd July	Tombola
9th July	Bric-a-brac

Each sale will be held on the main playground at 3:15. We would be grateful for donations of: loom bands, beads, cake (shop bought, ingredient list), sweet sweets, ice pops, toys or books.

Yours sincerely,

Sophia.P, Aria.D, Isla.D and Aliyah.N.

(on behalf of the Y5 fundraising team)

Dates for your diary

Summer Term 2026

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
Year 5 fundraising event: non-uniform day £1	4.6.26
Class Group Photos	11.6.26
Year 5 fundraising event: cake sale	11.6.26
Grandparents Tea Party 2pm - details to follow	15.6.26
Year 5 fundraising event: craft sale	18.6.26
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
Year 5 fundraising event: sweets and ice-pop sale	25.6.26
Non-uniform for Summer Fair (Friends Event)	26.6.26
Year 5 fundraising event: tombola	2.7.26
Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26
Transition Days (most of Y6)	7 & 8.7.26
New Reception Transition visits	7.7.26
New Reception Transition visits	8.7.26
Year 6 Crucial Crew	9.7.26
Year 5 fundraising event: bric-a-brac sale	9.7.26
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



**Respectful
Safe**

BE YOUR BEST