

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

31.03.25

Contact school on 01952 386870 or

by email on dothill@taw.org.uk

Dazzling Dotties Weekly Update Attendance Important Dates Reminders Mental Health SEND EYFS Internet Safety

This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



Lots of children chosen for reading daily at home this week – thank you for your support with this. Regular reading is the best way to ensure your child progresses well.

Others were chosen for never giving up, always being a good role model, enthusiasm for work and so much more. Well done everyone, we are very proud of you.

What have we been up to...?

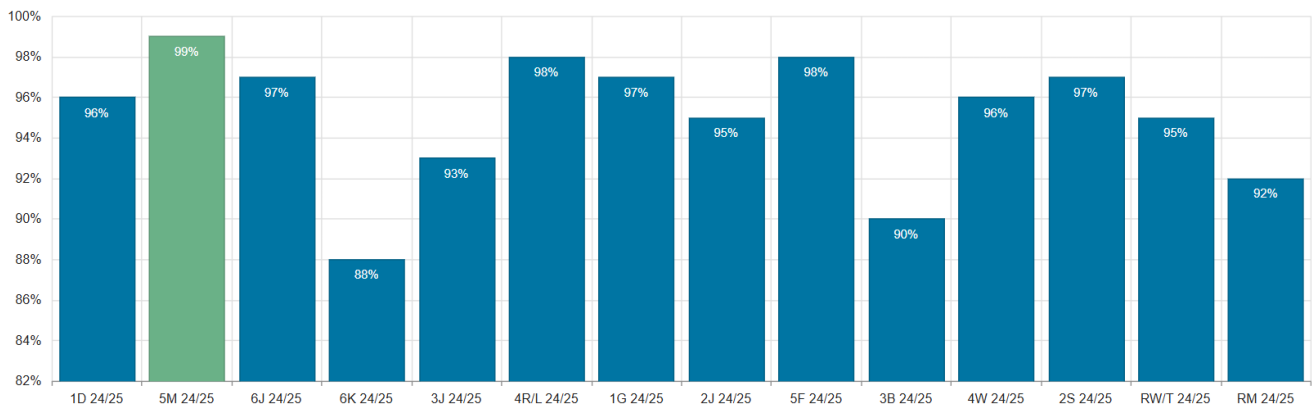
This week we have very much enjoyed the lovely weather – Spring has finally arrived, and the children have been enjoying their playtimes in the lovely weather and in some cases working outside, or with the doors open!

Please can I remind you to label **every** item of clothing that comes into school. All lost property without names on has now been placed in the Uniform Bank. Several very lovely coats are also in there – if you are still missing items, please have a look. The bank is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday to source extra jumpers etc free of charge.

Dothill Cup: This week the class earning an extra playtime is Mr Furey's Year 5 class. Every time I see them, they are working hard, being respectful and taking their learning seriously, with a keenness to strive to improve. Well-deserved everyone!

Attendance

A huge well done to 5M for achieving 99% attendance this week. Also, well done to 6J, 4RL, 5F, 1G and 2S who all have a class attendance above the school target of 96.6%



Motivating your child to attend school can be challenging, but here are some strategies that might help:

Create a Positive Environment: Make school a positive experience by talking about the fun aspects, such as seeing friends, participating in interesting activities, and learning new things. Celebrate their achievements, no matter how small.

Set a Routine: Establish a consistent morning routine that includes enough time for breakfast and getting ready without rushing. A calm start to the day can make a big difference in their attitude towards school.

Involve Them in Decisions: Give your child some control over their school-related choices, like picking out their clothes or deciding what to have for lunch. This can help them feel more invested in their school day.

Connect Learning to Interests: Relate school subjects to your child's interests. If they love animals, talk about how science can help them learn more about wildlife. Making connections to their passions can spark curiosity and motivation.

Be Supportive and Understanding: Listen to your child's concerns about school and address any issues they might have, whether it's about schoolwork, friendships, or other challenges. Showing empathy and support can help them feel more comfortable and motivated.

Reward and Encourage: Use positive reinforcement to encourage good attendance. This could be through verbal praise, stickers, or a small reward system for consistent attendance.

Dates for your diary

2.4.24	Year 4 Easter Workshop (All Saints)
11.4.25	Break up for Easter
28.4.25	Summer Term begins
5.5.25	May Bank Holiday (school closed)
23.4.25	Break up for May half term
2.6.25	PD Day (children not in school)
3.6.25	Children to return to school
18.7.25	End of school year

Ready
Respectful
Safe

BE YOUR BEST

Reminders

Break time snacks

We would like to remind you that break time snacks should be limited to fruit and vegetables only. Recently, we have noticed some snacks that do not comply with this healthy eating policy, including chocolate bars, cereal bars, hot cross buns, yogurt drinks, cheese dunkers, cookies, and mini biscuits.

As part of the government's initiative regarding healthy eating, we offer a piece of fresh fruit every day to all children in KS1 – your child therefore does not need to bring another snack into school.

May I also remind you that water bottles should only contain water. Many thanks for your support.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that all pupils bring healthy snacks to school. This helps promote better nutrition and supports our efforts to create a healthy learning environment for all children.

Lunch time waste

We would like to inform you about new recycling regulations that have come into effect across England. These regulations require businesses to separate all food waste from other waste streams and present it separately for collection by an approved contractor.

In our school, this means we need to ensure that children's break time snack waste is collected in the new classroom caddy bins. This waste will be composted on-site, supporting our commitment to sustainability.

For children who have school dinners, please encourage them to eat the food they have chosen on their plate and avoid throwing it away. This practice not only teaches valuable life lessons about reducing waste but also helps our school manage its limited waste disposal space effectively. The collected waste will be picked up weekly.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us adhere to these new regulations.

Mental Health

Spending quality time together can greatly enhance the wellbeing of both parents and children. Here are some fun and engaging activities to consider for the evenings and weekend:

Nature Walks and Hikes

- Explore Local Parks: Visit nearby parks or nature reserves. Enjoy the fresh air and observe wildlife.
- Scavenger Hunt: Create a nature scavenger hunt to make the walk more interactive and exciting.

Arts and Crafts

- DIY Projects: Engage in simple DIY crafts like painting, drawing, or making collages. Use recycled materials for eco-friendly projects.
- Seasonal Crafts: Create crafts related to the current season, such as spring flowers



Cooking Together

- Bake Treats: Bake cookies, cupcakes, or other treats together. Let your child help with measuring and mixing ingredients.
- Healthy Snacks: Prepare healthy snacks like fruit salads or smoothies. It's a great way to teach children about nutrition.



Mindfulness and Relaxation

- Yoga: Practice family yoga with simple poses suitable for children. It helps with relaxation and flexibility.
- Meditation: Try guided meditation or breathing exercises to promote calmness and focus.

Outdoor Games

- Sports: Play sports like football, basketball, or frisbee in the backyard or local park.
- Obstacle Course: Set up a fun obstacle course using household items. It's a great way to encourage physical activity.

SEND

We are really looking forward to seeing you at the SEND coffee morning next Monday, from 8:30am-10:00am. We are running the event on a drop-in basis, but it's always helpful to have an idea of numbers so that we can cater for everyone appropriately. If you'd like to come along, please drop us a line at dothill.primarysend@taw.org.uk and we'll save you a spot!

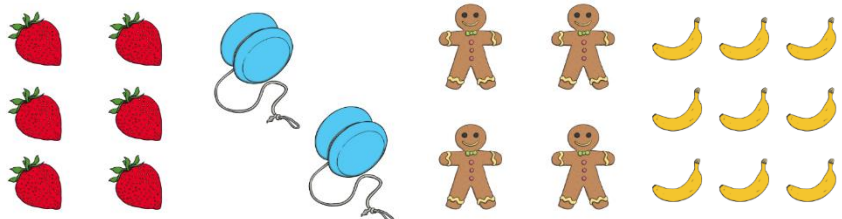
Our featured link this week is from BBC Bitesize, a website more commonly associated with revision. BBC Bitesize's SEND Tips and Advice page has a clear focus on neurodivergent conditions, although there are some great resources about speech and language difficulties too, along with some useful videos that help to explain the many acronyms surrounding SEND. Scan the QR code to find out more!



EYFS

Subitising Part 1

Subitising is an important part of young children's understanding of number sense. Subitising helps children to see numbers



visually in their heads and recall them in their visual memory. This can support them in solving and manipulating numbers in maths. They can then attempt calculation strategies from a young age, such as number facts, doubling, halving and comparing numbers.

Perceptual Subitising is the ability to recognise the number of objects in front of you without counting or grouping. This is instinctive. Using fingers is a good way to develop children's ability to subitise. Play 'show me' games, where children need to show the correct number of fingers in one go, rather than counting. Objects, such as interlocking cubes and counters on ten-frames, can also be used to develop subitising.

Internet Safety Our recent online survey highlighted the number of children who use YouTube to watch videos. This free online safety guide focuses on YouTube. It highlights several risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility. YouTube Kids is a good alternative to help prevent your child from seeing inappropriate content.

[Free Online Safety Guide | YouTube](#)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an Internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some easily inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction, especially if the user is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which may not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which gives people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm (children who watch or copy them, the painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples).

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as their influencers, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we also recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This app filters content by 'Preschool' (4 and under), 'Younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'Older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for parental supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, the Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

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