

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

04.04.25

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!



This sunny day has brought us some more of our fabulous children. We heard about hard working at home, being kind and helpful, so much hard work in school, pupils who are new to our school, impeccable manners, contributions to class discussions and much, much more. Keep it up, we are very proud of you.



What have we been up to...?

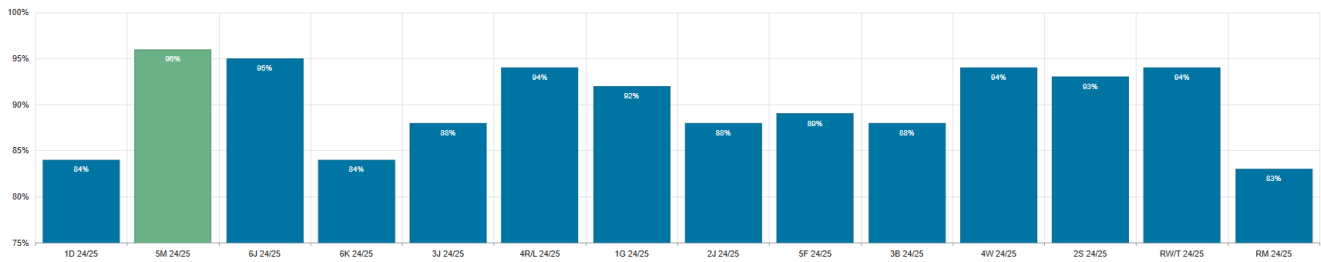
This week we have really enjoyed the start of Spring – lunchtime playtimes have been such a joy with music, sports, sandpit play and dressing up. You may have seen our Facebook post about the Year 5 children leading a dance club. Also on there are photos of science work, music and role play in year 3. EYFS Bikeability was super exciting and Year 4 represented school so brilliantly when visiting All Saints for their Easter Workshop too.

Dothill Cup: There were a few teachers vying for the cup this week, but I couldn't refuse the request from both year 4 teachers – they simply shone when visiting church. Comments from both Mrs Willoughby and Mrs Longland included: *absolutely INCREDIBLE visit; all children demonstrated our values; impeccable behaviour; polite, enjoyed the experience; every single child listened respectfully, engaged completely and asked mature questions; I have NEVER seen them so peaceful and respectful for such a prolonged period.*

Clearly, they simply had to share the cup and will enjoy an additional and very well-deserved playtime next week.

Attendance

Well done to 5M with the highest attendance for the week. We have seen a dip in lots of classes this week. Let's have a positive end to the term and try and be in school everyday next week. 😊



Interesting Facts

Early Absenteeism Predicts Future Attendance: Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Students who miss 2-4 days in September are likely to miss nearly a month of school by the end of the year

Impact on Academic Performance: Missing just 10% of the school year (about 18 days) can negatively affect a student's academic performance. This level of absenteeism is known as chronic absence and can hinder a child's learning progress

Reading Proficiency: Regular attendance is crucial for developing strong reading skills. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade, which is a critical milestone in their education.

Dates for your diary

7.4.25	Dojo Reward Afternoon
11.4.25	Break up for Easter
28.4.25	Summer Term begins
5.5.25	May Bank Holiday (school closed)
21.5.25	EYFS Trip to Home Farm
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

As we continue to foster a safe and nurturing environment for our children, we want to share some helpful tips for ensuring smooth and stress-free school drop-offs. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

1. Prepare Ahead of Time

Morning Routine: Establish a consistent morning routine to help your child feel secure and ready for the day. This includes having breakfast, packing their school bag, and getting dressed.



Checklists: Use checklists to ensure nothing is forgotten. This can include items like lunchboxes, homework, and any special items needed for the day.

2. Safety First

Parking: always park in designated areas and follow school traffic rules. Avoid double parking or blocking driveways.

Handholding: Hold your child's hand when walking through car parks or crossing streets to ensure their safety.

3. Positive Goodbyes

Reassurance: Give your child a **positive** and reassuring goodbye. A quick hug, kiss, or encouraging words can make a big difference in their day.

Consistency: Try to keep drop-offs consistent. This helps children feel more secure knowing what to expect each morning.

4. Communication

Talk About the Day: Discuss what your child can expect during the day. This can include talking about their timetable, friends, and any special activities.

Listen: Take a moment to listen to any concerns or excitement your child may have about the day ahead.

5. Be Punctual

Timing: Arrive on time to avoid rushed and stressful drop-offs. Being punctual helps your child start their day calmly and on a positive note.

6. Encourage Independence

Self-Help Skills: Encourage your child to carry their own backpack and walk independently to their classroom if they are comfortable doing so.

Confidence: Praise their efforts and independence, which boosts their confidence and sense of responsibility.

We hope these tips help make your mornings smoother and more enjoyable for both you and your child. Thank you for your continued support in creating a safe and positive school environment.

Mental Health

Reading and Storytelling

- **Story Time:** Read books together or create your own stories. Encourage your child to use their imagination.
- **Library Visit:** Visit the local library to explore new books and participate in any weekend activities they may offer.

See the link for your nearest library: [Find a library - Telford & Wrekin Council](#)

Gardening

- **Planting:** Start a small garden or plant flowers in pots. It's a wonderful way to teach children about nature and responsibility.
- **Garden Tidying:** Spend time together watering plants and pulling weeds. It's relaxing and useful!

Music and Dance

- **Dance Party:** Have a family dance party with your favourite songs – get moving and lift your spirits.
- **Instrument Play:** If you have musical instruments, let your child explore and create their own music.

Board Games and Puzzles

- **Game Night:** Play board games or card games that are suitable for children. It's a great way to bond and have fun.
- **Puzzles:** Work on jigsaw puzzles together to enhance problem-solving skills and teamwork.

Volunteer Together



• **Community Service:** Participate in local community service activities, such as cleaning up a park or helping at a food bank. It's a meaningful way to spend time together and teach children about giving back.

These activities not only promote wellbeing but also strengthen family bonds. Enjoy your weekend and make wonderful memories together!

SEND

We held our first SEND coffee morning – thank you to all those who were able to attend.

We will be holding another one soon so please look out for details of this next term. These meetings are a great opportunity for parents to catch up with Miss Brotherton, our SENDCo and discuss a wide range of areas including the following:

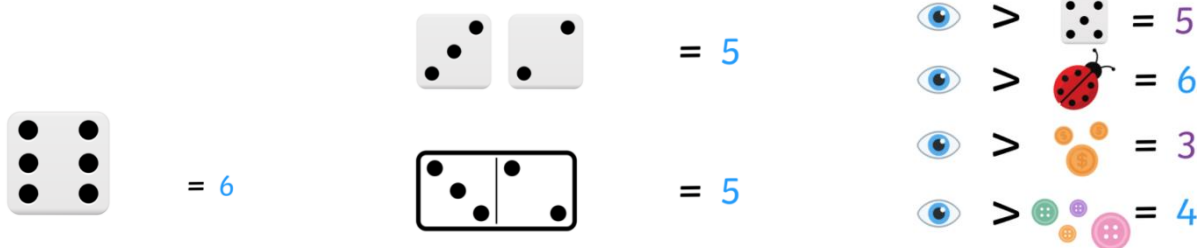
- Links to and information about specific areas of SEND, such as speech and language therapy, autism support, and emotional well-being.
- SEND provision updates, strategies for supporting children at home, and information about local SEND external support services.
- Discuss the support available for your child in school and the processes involved in seeking additional support.
- Chat with other parents to connect and support each other, share experiences and strategies for supporting their children

EYFS

Subitising – Part 2!

Conceptual Subitising

This is where you are able to recognise a number of objects or images by grouping them into small sets. For example, if you are shown a line of six black dots, it's likely that you will automatically group these into two groups of three and then know that there are six in total without actually counting each one.



Children's ability to subitise can be developed in many ways. Regularly playing games involving dot patterns on a dice enables children to become familiar with the number of dots without counting, games involving dominoes familiarise children with dot patterns too.

Internet Safety

It was surprising how many children said that they used the internet for watching YouTube videos in our recent survey – a whopping 88%! The free online safety guide below focuses on YouTube. It highlights several risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility. It has also got some great tips to help keep your child safe if they are using YouTube.

[Free Online Safety Guide | YouTube](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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 mildly 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 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might 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 allows 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 that influencer, 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 choosing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would 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 lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal 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'd 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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