

# DOTHILL NEWS



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

[www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk)

Check out our Facebook page: Dothill Primary School, Telford

23.05.25

Contact school on 01952 386870 or  
by email on [dothill@taw.org.uk](mailto:dothill@taw.org.uk)

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## This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



It's the last celebration of the half term and here are the children who have been chosen by their teachers. They were chosen for many reasons, including consistently working hard, being good role models, great effort and concentration, enthusiasm in Read, Write, Inc, mastering finger spaces and lots more. Well done to you all, we are very proud of you.

## End of term message

We have reached the end of another fantastic (but very short!) Dothill term!

So much has been packed into four very short weeks. We have enjoyed trips and visits to Home Farm, our local church, the Botanical Gardens, Telford Town Park and Wightwick Manor; Bikeability sessions have supported our children's cycle safety; we welcomed our Egyptian Workshop visitors to school, celebrated VE day in style and some of our children represented school competing in the Wellington Bayley Mile; and of course Year 6 have finished their national assessments, proving their resilience and dedication to their learning and progress. We look forward to seeing them in action as they begin rehearsing for their end of year production, *Aladdin Trouble*.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest and break before our next busy term begins.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

## What have we been up to...?

### EYFS Trip to Home Farm

We had a wonderful time at Home Farm on Wednesday, learning about all the animals. We were very lucky to see baby ducklings, piglets, goats, highland cows and lots of other animals. We even had the opportunity to bottle feed the lambs! This was very exciting, and the children were so kind to the animals and well behaved: they are a credit to our school, and we are very proud of them all.

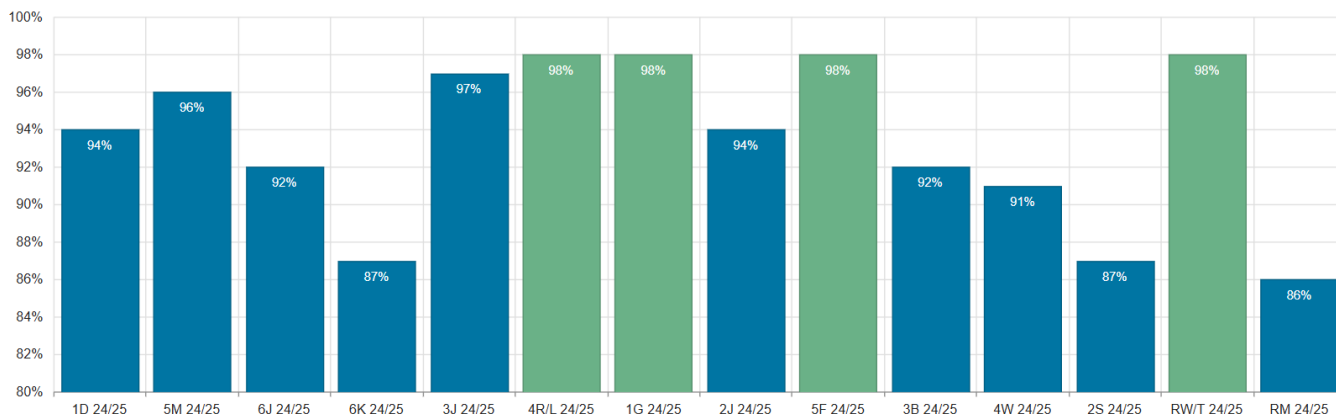
We would like to thank Farmers Sam and Ben for welcoming us and being so kind to all the children and staff.



Remember to see our Facebook page for regular updates, as well as our class pages.

## Attendance

A huge well done to all the children in RWT, 1G, 4RL and 5F for having the highest attendance this week!! Four classes with 98% attendance is fabulous and higher than our school target.



I wonder who will have the highest attendance by the end of the year?



**Thank you for making contact when your child is absent.**

Please do so as early as possible on the day of absence by calling on 01952 386 870.

If your child is ill for more than one day, please make daily contact.

If your child is going to be late then please give a call and inform why they are going to be late.

If you have any concerns about attendance, then please speak with someone from the school attendance team - Mrs Harvey (Deputy Head Teacher), Miss Thornhill (Pastoral HLTA) or Mrs Melish in the office.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing



Keeping active and socialising with others is a great for our mental health and wellbeing. Telford and Wrekin have a fabulous programme of events taking place over May half term. I am sure there will be something great for everyone to enjoy 😊

\*TLC card required FIND OUT HOW TO GET ONE HERE

# Holiday Activity Programme

**TUESDAY 27 MAY – SUNDAY 1 JUNE**

Bank Holiday Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Abraham Darby Sports and Leisure Centre</b>						
	1-2pm	1-2pm	1-2pm	1-2pm	1-3pm	11am-1pm
	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	£2pp Badminton court hire available	
<b>Lawley and Horsehay Village Golf and Fitness Centre</b>						
		2-3pm				
		Driving Range**				
<b>Newport Swimming and Fitness Centre</b>						
	1-2pm	1-2pm	1-2pm			1-2pm
	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**			Fun & Floats**
<b>Oakengates Leisure Centre</b>						
	1.15-2pm	1.30-2.15pm	1.15-2pm	1.15-2pm	1-3pm	1-3pm
	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	Fun & Floats**	£2pp Badminton court hire available	
<b>Telford Ice Rink – Soft Play</b>						
					3.15-4.45pm	2.45-4.15pm
					Soft Play	Soft Play
<b>Telford Snowboard and Ski Centre</b>						
	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm	12.30-1pm		
	Tobogganing*** 5-10yrs old	Tobogganing*** 5-10yrs old	Tobogganing*** 5-10yrs old	Tobogganing*** 5-10yrs old		
	1.15-1.45pm	1.15-1.45pm	1.15-1.45pm	1.15-1.45pm		
	Tots Donuts*** 3-5yrs old inc.	Tots Donuts*** 3-5yrs old inc.	Tots Donuts*** 3-5yrs old inc.	Tots Donuts*** 3-5yrs old inc.		

**TABLE TENNIS**  
The outdoor table tennis table is available to use in Victoria Park, Newport. Bats and balls are available to loan **free of charge** from Newport Swimming and Fitness Centre. A £5 deposit is required for the equipment. The table is operated by Newport Town Council  
[www.newportshropshire-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newportshropshire-tc.gov.uk)

## BOOK ONLINE HERE

**BANK HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS – MONDAY 26 MAY**  
**Leisure centres open:**  
 Oakengates Leisure Centre 6.30am-4pm  
 Lawley and Horsehay Village Golf and Fitness Centre 7am-8.30pm  
**Please note** there will be no swimming lessons on Monday 26 May.

**\*\*All children under 8 must be accompanied by a responsible person aged 16 years or over.**  
**\*\*\*Arms and legs must be covered and gloves are essential. No sandals / flip-flops**



## SEND

Take a look at Pods Telford as they have a range of activities happening over May half term.



### Blists Hill Activity Sessions



May 28, 2025

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Blists Hill**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Parents-Opening-Doors-PODS/e-gxgevp>

Join us for a session at Blists Hill! Open to all ages and siblings. Please book a ticket for each person attending. Parent/carer supervision is [...]

[MORE INFO](#)

<https://www.podstelford.org/activities-workshops/calendar-of-events/>

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



**Develop and Grow** is one of the suggested areas within 5 by 5.

A great start in life for children aged 0-5 is crucial for their overall development.

There are small steps you can take with your child that will help them grow big and strong and ready to start school.

Every child develops at different stages, but we believe if they try these ten adventures, it will boost their health, strength, balance, independence and confidence.

Here are some examples of activities to complete with younger children:

### Eat a rainbow



This is a fun way to introduce healthy eating. Eating a rainbow of foods gives your child all the vitamins and nutrients they need to grow big and strong.

### Splash in a swimming pool



Swimming helps your child build strong muscles, learn to balance, and feel comfortable in water. It can also help lay the foundations for a lifelong love of swimming and water safety.

### Stamp and crunch on autumn leaves



Jumping, stamping, and crunching leaves is a wonderful way for your child to have a sensory adventure, be active and explore different textures.

### Grow your own food



Growing food is a fun and hands-on learning experience that you can share together. It teaches your child about where their food comes from and encourages healthy eating habits.

### Walk, hop, skip, or run across the Ironbridge



Being active helps your child build strong muscles, improve balance, and learn to control their body.

## Internet Safety

With concerns about escalating screen time, the impact of violence, unexpected costs and interloping strangers, it can be tempting for parents and carers to lock down video games to limit possible negative impacts on youngsters. While some sensible boundaries *are* certainly helpful, they're only a short-term solution for how we can guide children towards better gaming health.

In this guide, you'll find tips on helping children to avoid potential risks stemming from screen time, simulated violence and interaction with strangers.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# PARENTING GAMERS

Moving from policing to parenting your gaming kids: how to engage and guide

With concerns about escalating screen time, the impact of violence, unexpected costs and interloping strangers it can be tempting to lock down video games to limit their negative impact. While some sensible boundaries are helpful, they are only a short-term solution for how we guide children towards gaming health. Like other areas of childhood, parents and carers can have a powerful steering presence by engaging and participating in the video games their children play. This not only reduces risks because they are aware of the kinds of activities, interactions and costs involved but makes video games a part of family life. Along with building dens, climbing trees, cooking and family walks, playing games with children enables parents to guide the quality of content being played. This may start with sharing the games children are currently playing, understanding why they love it and celebrating successes. But with a little research, this can grow into suggesting other games to play and higher ambitions for what kids get out of playing long-standing favourites.



## A New Media For Everyone

Video games are a new kind of media. Because they are new we don't entirely understand their potential yet. They've become hugely popular and commercially successful as blockbuster entertainment for children and teenagers. However, like books, films and music, the real range of video games on offer is much broader than this.

There are games about every topic you could imagine, and aimed at a wide range of ages and perspectives. Whether it's sharing a family's heart-breaking story in *That Dragon, Cancer*, slipping into the shoes of a Syrian migrant in *Bury My Love*, or taking the hand of your child and soaring over the clouds in *Sky: Children of Light*, games take us places in unique ways. It's no surprise, then, that *Nintendo* figures show that in 2018 60% of men and 32% of women play games. And Entertainment Software Association (ESA) data showed that the average age for US gamers is 34 for women and 32 for men.

If you want to turbocharge your care of a child who loves playing video games, the best thing to do is to find games you want to play yourself. This can sound like strange advice until we consider how hard it would be calling for a child who loves books without reading ourselves or guiding a child who loves music without sharing our favourite songs.

## Video Game Diet

Gaming an understanding of what video games are, what they are like to play and the different experiences on offer, enables you to encourage a varied gaming diet. Similar to how we don't worry about plate-time but what's on the plate, we can differentiate between different types of screen experience.

Playing *Fortnite* offers exuberant excitement and connection to friends. Playing *Mario Kart* connects us to the players sitting next to us. *Roblox* can be a place for children to play at having a job or surviving a storm. *Minecraft* can be a tranquil escape from a busy day at school. *Angry Birds* can be a way to calm anxiety or jangling nerves.

Parents and carers can expand these experiences. *Kingdoms Two*, *Civilians*, *Reigns* and *Life is Strange* teach players to trust their instincts in game-worlds built to encourage risk and hunch taking. *Flower*, *Abrax*, *Journey* and *Brothers Tale of Two Sons* are a gentle way for children to learn about their own emotional responses to challenging situations as well as appreciating how people experiencing them first hand may feel. *Eco* and *One Hour One Life* encourage the altruism of building something that other players benefit from.

## Creators Not Consumers

Ambition for their future means parents and carers support activities where children are excelling. While this is familiar territory when a child is brilliant at an instrument or learning a foreign language, it's easy to miss the need for our enthusiasm when it comes to video games. Along with the general connection and good feelings that come from a parent or carer celebrating success in an activity that a child enjoys comes the imperative that they could go further than they realise themselves. The rise in competitive video games can sound peculiar but requires great skill, draws large audiences and comes with high prize money for professional players. Beyond this, parents can guide children towards other careers in video games which need diverse creative, technical and social skills. A simple and effective way to do this is to encourage children to create as well as consume games. This can start as simple customisation of the games that allow you to design maps and characters. Then there are games like *Mario Maker* on Wii U, 3DS and Switch where you can design and share levels for other players. *Dreams* on the PlayStation 4 takes this further with an accessible game creator that's also really powerful.

## Finding Games You Want Children To Play

Parenting rather than policing video games equips children to build good habits and a healthy relationship with digital media for when they leave home and parents aren't around to enforce the rules. One challenge can be finding the kinds of games you want your children to play. There are good resources to help you with this. Many of the examples here come from my upcoming *Taming Gaming* book: <https://unbound.com/books/taming-gaming/>

There are also websites that provide video game suggestions like *AskAboutGames* <https://www.askaboutgames.com>. Also, there are good Twitter accounts that help, like *Wholesome Games* (@\_wholesomegames) and *Non-Violent Game Of The Day* (@NVGOTD).

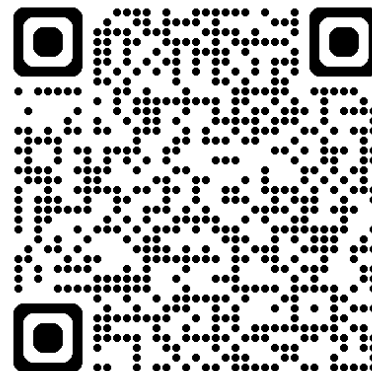
You can also use the *VSC Rating Board* (<https://videostandard.org.uk/RatingBoard/>) website and PEGI app to search for games of different ratings.

## Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His *Taming Gaming* book helps parents guide children to healthy play.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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[Get to Grips with Gaming | Free Online Safety Guide](#)

## Dates for your diary

### May

23.5.25 Break up for May half term

### June

2.6.25 PD Day (children not in school)  
3.6.25 Children to return to school  
3.6.25 Year 5/6 Outdoor Kwik Cricket Festival  
3.6.25 Year 4 Multiplication Check window begins (two weeks)  
4.6.25 Governor Working Party  
4.6.25 EYFS Height and Weight Check  
4.6.25 EYFS Stay and Play (2:15pm-3:15pm)  
9.6.25 Year 1 Phonic Screening Check Week  
9.6.25 Year 5/6 Mixed Rounders Festival  
9.6.25 SEND Coffee Afternoon (2pm-3:30pm)  
10.6.25 SEND Coffee Morning (8:30am- 10am)  
11.6.25 Governor Working Party  
12.6.25 School Photo Day (Class photos and Year 6)  
20.6.25 Year 3/4 Sport Day (9:30am Start)  
20.6.25 Year 5/6 Sports Day (1:30pm start)  
23.6.25 Year 6 Crucial Crew  
25.6.25 EYFS Sport Day (9:30am start)  
26.6.25 Year 1/2 Sports Day (9:30am start)  
27.6.25 Friends Non-uniform day (donations for summer fair)

### July

2.7.25 Full Governing Body Meeting  
4.7.25 Summer Fair (2:30pm – 4pm)  
7&8.7.25 Secondary Transition Days  
8.7.25 Whole School Transition Day  
8.7.25 New Reception 1<sup>st</sup> Transition Morning (9:30-12:00)  
11.7.25 End of Year Reports to be sent out to parents  
15.7.25 Year 6 Production (1:30pm start)  
16.7.25 Year 6 Production (9:30am start)  
16.7.25 New Reception 2<sup>nd</sup> Transition Morning (9:30-12:00)  
18.7.25 Year 6 Leavers Assembly (1:30pm)  
18.7.25 End of school year  
2.9.25 Return to School for New Academic Year



**Ready  
Respectful  
Safe**

**BE YOUR BEST**