

# 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

10.10.25

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

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

## This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



We have reached the end of another week and our assembly was filled with people being their best, whether that was in maths, kindness, homework, attitude or swimming!

Well done to all of you, we are proud of you.

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

What a busy week it's been – once again! Some of our children had the opportunity to take part in a fantastic PE session delivered by Crossbar this week. We're thrilled to have been offered three free days of high-quality sports training this term, giving our pupils a chance to develop their skills, teamwork, and confidence in a fun and active environment.

More sessions are planned before half term, and we're looking forward to seeing the children continue to enjoy and benefit from this brilliant opportunity.

### Year 4 Experience Harvest at All Saints Church

Our Year 4 children had a wonderful time visiting All Saints Church for the *Experience Harvest* event. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore and reflect on the meaning of harvest in a creative and engaging way. Through a series of creative and reflective workshops, the children explored the meaning of Harvest Festival and deepened their understanding of values such as sharing, patience, and community.





They also spent time thinking about how we can help each other at this time of year and reflected on things we are thankful for.

A huge thank you to the kind volunteers at the church who made this trip possible; and also to all our parent and staff helpers – your support makes such a difference and helps ensure these trips run smoothly and safely. We truly appreciate your time and involvement!

### Celebrating Our School Parliamentarians

We're proud to announce that our new school parliamentarians have been elected by their peers! These pupils meet every Wednesday lunchtime to discuss important issues that affect our school community. It's a fantastic way for them to develop leadership skills and take an active role in shaping school life.

We regularly provide opportunities for pupils to vote and express their views, helping them understand and exercise their democratic rights. This week, they're voting on the *Black Belt Dojo Award* for December, and classes have also been sharing ideas on how they'd like to use the library during lunchtimes.

It's wonderful to see our pupils so engaged and thoughtful in their contributions!



### Governors' Visit: Celebrating Inclusion and Engagement



On 8th October, we were delighted to welcome our governors for a focused morning visit, highlighting the fantastic work taking place in Early Years and Key Stage 1. The visit also showcased the dedication of our SENDCo, Miss Brotherton, whose work continues to make a significant impact across the school.

Governors observed high-quality teaching and enthusiastic pupil engagement, with children in EYFS and KS1 eager to share their learning. A dedicated SEND pupil voice session provided valuable insight into how well-supported our children feel, and highlighted the thoughtful, behind-the-scenes work that goes into ensuring every pupil thrives.

As always, if you have any questions or would like support or advice, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Final reminder** for your child's Christmas 4 Schools designs which need to come back into school no later than Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Proceeds raised support Dothill.

A huge thank you to those of you who have donated to our **Harvest collection** supporting Telford Crisis Support. Your kindness will go a long way to helping those in need.

## Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy Dog / Spy Pup / Spy Cat" Books

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

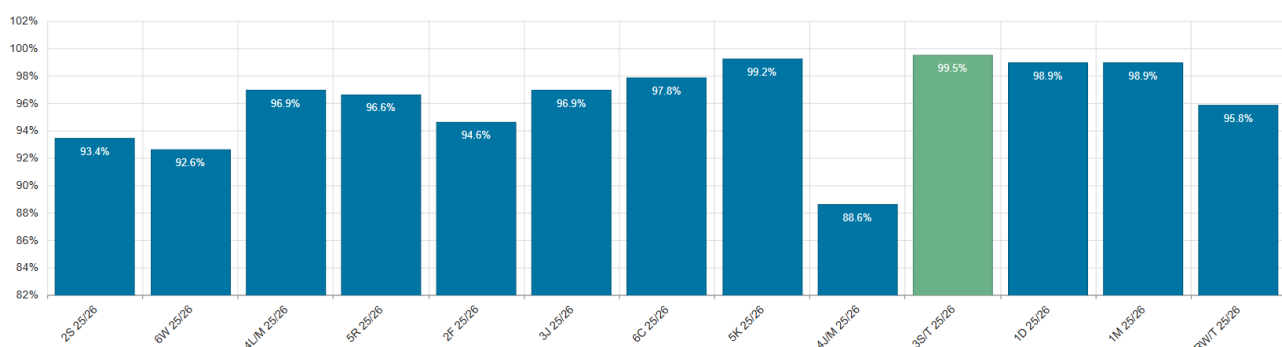
### What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

As always, we wish you a happy weekend!

## Attendance



Well done to 3ST with the highest attendance of 99.5% - just amazing!! Also, well done to the other classes that have reached the school target of 96.5% 😊 Keep coming to school, we love having you all here.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**The Designated Senior Leader Responsible for Attendance (Attendance Champion) is responsible for:**

- Leading, championing and improving attendance across the school
- Setting a clear vision for improving and maintaining good attendance
- Evaluating and monitoring expectations, processes and absence data
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating progress in attendance



- Providing regular attendance reports to school staff and reporting concerns about attendance to the designated senior leader responsible for attendance, and the headteacher
- Establishing and maintaining effective systems for tackling absence
- Benchmarking attendance data to identify areas of focus for improvement
- Liaising with pupils, parents/carers and external agencies, where needed
- Building positive relationships with parents to discuss, tackle attendance issues and create a plan
- Directing the pastoral team to deliver targeted intervention and support to pupils and families
- Working with education welfare officers where appropriate to tackle persistent absence
- Advising the headteacher when to issue fixed penalty notices

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance is Mrs Harvey

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### Mental Health Day: Supporting Our Children's Wellbeing

We started the week with an assembly, led by Miss Brotherton, who talked to the children about the importance of looking after our own mental health and wellbeing.

**Today is World Mental Health Day**, a reminder of how important it is to nurture not just our children's academic growth, but their emotional and mental wellbeing too.

As parents and caregivers, we play a vital role in helping our children develop healthy coping skills, emotional awareness, and resilience. Whether it's through open conversations, encouraging rest and play, or simply being present, small actions can make a big difference.

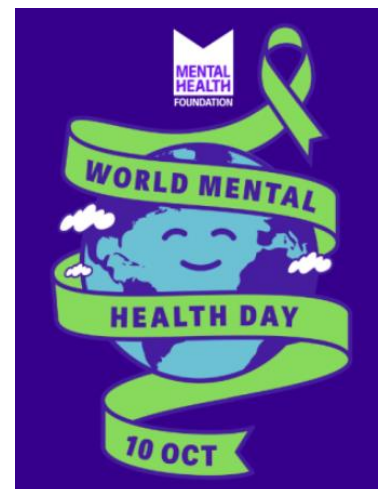
Here are a few ways to support your child's mental health:

- **Check in regularly** – Ask how they're feeling and listen without judgment.
- **Model self-care** – Children learn by example. Show them how you manage stress and emotions.
- **Create a safe space** – Let them know it's okay to talk about feelings and ask for help.
- **Celebrate effort, not just results** – This builds confidence and reduces pressure.

Let's continue working together to create a supportive environment where every child feels seen, heard, and valued.

In school we have a team of people who are passionate about mental health and wellbeing. They are always here to help and support – Mrs Harvey in her role as Mental Health Lead, Miss Brotherton as SENDCo, Mrs Sturmey our Learning Mentor with Mental Health First Aid and Mrs Love our Pastoral HLTA with a nurture qualification.

♥ *Mental health matters—today and every day.*





## CARER BURNOUT

**Carer burnout** is a state of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion caused by the prolonged stress of caring for someone with significant needs.



**FATIGUE  
ANXIETY  
IRRITABILITY**  
& a sense of helplessness

Burnout can affect a carer's health, relationships, and ability to provide care, making self-care and support essential for long-term wellbeing



### TIPS FOR PREVENTING BURNOUT



SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



SEEK SOCIAL SUPPORT



TAKE REGULAR BREAKS



PRACTICE STRESS MANAGEMENT

## Mental Health for Parents and Carers

Reflecting on World Mental Health Day, it's important that we recognise the incredible work that parents and carers do every day. We can all agree that it can feel lonely and exhausting at times. With this in mind, it's always helpful to know where to find opportunities to look after ourselves and meet with others who share our experiences.

*Image: Carer Burnout (created using generative AI).*

## Parent and Carer Support networks in Telford

The **Parent Carer Zone** is a dedicated space for families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Telford and Wrekin. It provides information, resources, and support services to empower and involve parents and carers in shaping local SEND services.

The Telford SEND Parent Carer Zone contains links to different support groups run mainly by volunteers who themselves are parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. There are opportunities to meet for

social occasions, take part in fun days out and facilities for safe soft play and sensory regulation. There are also online forums (such as **Dandelions**) which allow families to share their own experiences and share ideas. See the following screenshot for examples of what's on offer.

### Parents Opening Door's Parent Carer Forum



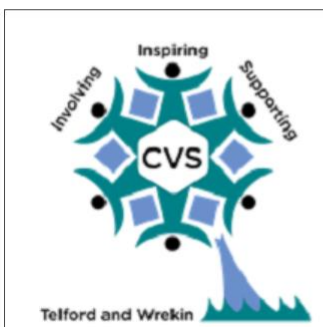
### SEND Information Advice and Support Service



### Telford and Wrekin Family Hubs



### Telford All Age Autism Hub Challenging Perceptions



### Dandelions



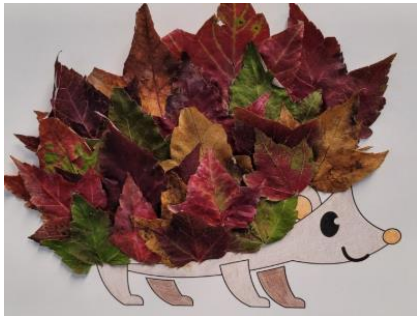
You can access the Telford and Wrekin Parent Carer Zone online at:

[https://www.telfordsend.org.uk/homepage/22/working\\_together\\_parent\\_zone](https://www.telfordsend.org.uk/homepage/22/working_together_parent_zone)

## EYFS – Understanding the World

Autumn provides a wonderful opportunity for young children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world.

Exploring outdoors and collecting different types of leaves encourages children to observe seasonal changes, notice the variety of shapes and colours in nature, and talk about how the environment changes over time.



Creating a leaf collage with their collected leaves helps to build observation skills, language, and curiosity about the natural world.

We would love to see any leaf collages created at home. Children are welcome to bring these into class to share, or families can email photos to

[DothillPhaseLeaderEYFS@taw.org.uk](mailto:DothillPhaseLeaderEYFS@taw.org.uk)



## Internet Safety

As part of our commitment to online safety, our staff undertake regular training.

During our most recent training, we focused on **Roblox**, which we are aware that many of our children have access to at home.



### Are you aware?

Roblox has two parts to it: Roblox-generated content, and user-generated content.

Roblox-generated content has age-ratings, which allow you to decide the suitability for your child.

- With Roblox parental controls, you can set the Content Maturity Level that your child can access.
- Block specific experiences that are within their Level, but you don't want them accessing.
- Set screen time restrictions and get an overview of their time on Roblox.
- Limit who they can contact and who can contact them, including adding new Friends.
- Turn on spending restrictions.
- Report users.
- Manage more features related to children's privacy and safety.

To set children up for safety on Roblox, it's important to ensure their account reflects their real age. Roblox parental controls work best for under-13s.

**However, user-generated content does not have age-ratings**, which means your child could be subjected to highly inappropriate content and put them at risk of harm. This has been highlighted in the following extensive research: [Roblox: Hindenburg Research](#). Whilst this is a long read, it clearly demonstrates the potential risks posed.

Further information is available here - [What is Roblox? Safety guide for parents | Internet Matters](#)

If your child uses Roblox, please talk to them about the content they are using and encourage them to tell you if they see content that worries or upsets them.

### Online Gaming: Top Tips

Online gaming is a popular reason for most children using the internet.

Here are 4 quick tips to help keep your child safe when online gaming.

[Gaming - parents and carers.mp4 on Vimeo](#)

### Dates for your diary

EYFS Stay and Play (2:30-3:15)	14.10.25
Spooky Spectacular (Friends Event)	24.10.25
Break up for half term	24.10.25
PD Day (No children in school)	3.11.25
Return to school	4.11.25
Parent Consultation Meetings	10.11.25 11.11.25
Movie Night (Friends Event)	24.11.25
Year 4 Family Event	8.12.25
Year 3 Family Event	9.12.25
Year 5 Family Event	10.12.25
Rainbow Room Family Event	12.12.25
Year 6 Family Event	16.12.25



**Family events are an opportunity to make Christmas Crafts with your child in school 😊**

**These events will all begin at 2pm on the day advertised above.**

Festive Yes Day (Friends Event)	19.12.25
Last day of Autumn term	19.12.25
PD Day (No children in school)	5.1.26
Spring Term begins	6.1.26
Wear what you love day (Friends Event)	13.2.26
Easter Raffle Draw (Friends Event)	27.3.26
Fund 'Raisin' (Friends Event)	Month of May
Non-uniform for Summer Fair	26.6.26
Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26

**Ready  
Respectful  
Safe  
BE YOUR BEST**





# **DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **PROSPECTIVE PARENTS SHOW AROUND SESSIONS**



Is your child due to start school in September 2026?  
We would love to welcome you for an information  
meeting and school tour.



### **AVAILABLE DATES**



- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 10am**
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm**
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 5pm**

No need to book, just turn up!  
We look forward to meeting you!



**Dothill Primary School  
Severn Drive  
Wellington  
Telford  
TF1 3JB**



**For more information about our school, visit our website  
[www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk)**



# CHETWYND DEER PARK 5K FUN RUN & AUTUMN WALK



**Saturday 25 October 2025**  
**PARK OPENS 9.30am**

**5K FUN RUN STARTS 10.00am | 1K CHILDREN'S FUN RUN AT 11.00am**  
**Entries to race & park are online only via QR CODE**



Fee entry to members of Newport & District Agricultural Society



**PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS | DOGS ALSO WELCOME ON LEAD**



Newport, Shropshire TF10 8EU  
[www.chetwynddeerpark.co.uk](http://www.chetwynddeerpark.co.uk)

WHAT 3 WORDS: [code.instincts.albums](https://code.instincts.albums)