

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

Contact school on 01952 386870 or
by email on dothill@taw.org.uk

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This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



This week marked our first Achievement Assembly of 2026, after last week's snow kept us all at home.

What a wonderful start to the new year it has been! Our school community has already shown an incredible amount of *kindness*: a value we are especially proud to celebrate. Alongside this, we awarded many certificates for *determination, hard work, and resilience*. It's been a truly inspiring beginning to 2026.

We also celebrated a fantastic range of achievements outside of school. Children proudly shared their successes in **kickboxing, Brownies, football, gymnastics, and martial arts**, telling us all about the activities they enjoy beyond the classroom.

A huge well done to everyone—what an amazing way to start the year!

News and Highlights this Week

After School Clubs

We are excited to offer a fantastic range of after-school clubs next half term, giving children the chance to explore new interests, develop their creativity, and build confidence beyond the classroom. Our school-run clubs include Art, Junk Modelling and STEM—perfect for curious minds and imaginative thinkers! We're also delighted to continue working with our external provider, **Crossbar**, who offer high-energy sessions for Football. These clubs are a wonderful way for children to learn new skills, stay active, and have fun with friends. We encourage all parents to sign their children up and make the most of these enriching opportunities. Look out for the club letter with details of how to sign up!! 😊

The Year 3 and 4 art club will be making the following...



Clay models



Stained glass window art



Collage

Basketball Tournament

Children from Year 5 and 6 attended a basketball tournament on Monday. Dothill dominated at the Charlton School basketball tournament! Incredible teamwork, skill and determination led to an outstanding performance. We are proud of our players for representing us with passion and sportsmanship! 🏀



Geography in Action

On Wednesday, Class 3J explored the local area of Dothill to investigate different land uses. The walk included observations of residential areas, parks, local shops, bus stops, wildlife reserves, and woodland spaces, providing valuable insight into how land is utilised within the community. (3 S/T will be doing this walk next week – look out for more photos).



Young Voices

There were an incredible 5,810 children in the Young Voices choir this year, all conducted by the brilliant David Lawrence. Our pupils sang their hearts out to a *Wicked* medley, a lively sea-shanty medley, and danced along to a high-energy *Disco Fever* medley.



They also had the exciting opportunity to perform alongside two solo acts and were absolutely thrilled to watch members of Urban Strides dance—the cheers (and occasional screams!) every time they appeared on stage said it all.

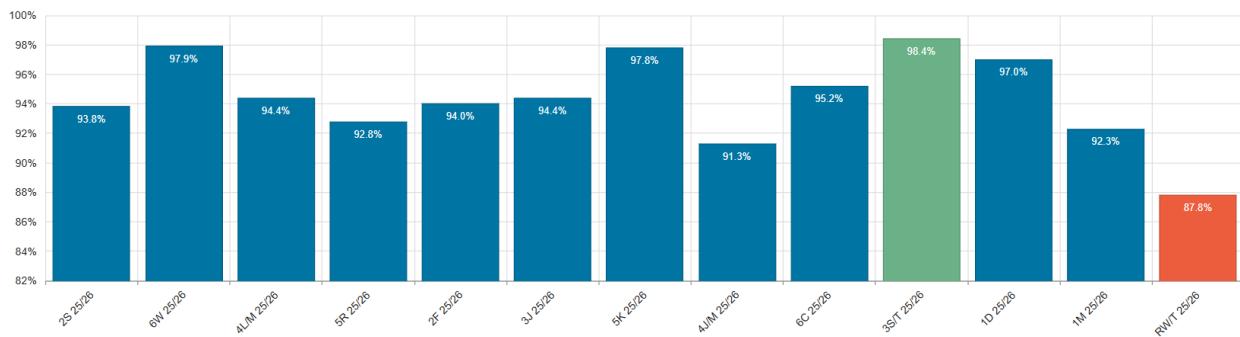
The children had an amazing time and were a real credit to our school throughout the event.



A huge thank you to **Mrs Maltby** for organising the trip, supporting the choir, and accompanying them to Young Voices. We would also like to thank **Miss Brotherton, Mrs Renshaw, Miss Street, Miss Hodgkinson, and Mrs Wilder** for attending and helping make this memorable experience possible.

Attendance

A huge well done to 3ST with the highest attendance (98.4%) this week. Also, well done to all those classes that have attendance above 96%. Remember the importance of taking appointments outside of the school day and booking a family holiday during the school holidays. I wonder who the first class to get 100% attendance will be... 😊



Warnings and Sanctions

Our school will make use of the full range of potential sanctions – including, but not limited to, those listed below – to tackle poor attendance. Decisions will be made on an individual, case-by-case basis.

SAL 1

When a child's attendance becomes a concern a 'School Attendance Letter' is sent. This is to highlight the attendance concerns. Parents may be asked to come into school for a meeting. This meeting is to support families in improving attendance and discuss any difficulties you may be having that impacts on attendance.

SAL 2

If attendance does not improve, a second letter will be sent to parents. This is called a SAL 2 (school attendance letter 2). This letter will outline parental legal responsibilities in ensuring regular and punctual attendance. School will continue to monitor attendance closely and when a child is absent from school, parents must provide evidence to avoid an unauthorised absence.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Knowing Where to Get Help

★ What parents can try at home

- **Create a 'Feel-Good List':** Write down activities that help your child feel calm or happy.
- **Talk about trusted adults:** Help children identify who they can talk to at home, school, or in the community.
- **Keep communication open:** Regular check-ins help children feel safe and supported.

● Local support

- **NHS 111 (Option 2)** — for urgent mental health concerns.
- **BeeU** — ongoing emotional wellbeing support for children and young people.
- **Healthy Shropshire** — signposting for parents and carers.



SEND Coffee Dates for this term:



Monday 9th February – Meet the LSAT Coffee Morning, from 8:45am

Tuesday 24th February – School SEND Coffee Morning from 8:45am, followed by PODS Cuppa and Cake session at 9:30am

Thank you to all who attend our SEND coffee sessions. From your feedback, we have arranged additional coffee mornings with our Learning Support Advisory Team and the fabulous volunteers from Parents Opening Doors (PODS). Our LSAT, Ceri Hurst, will be in school on 9th February to meet with parents and answer your questions. On 24th February, we will have our usual SEND coffee morning get-together, with a volunteer from PODS then joining us from 9:30am. Come and join us for a cuppa - it will be lovely to see you!

We have also reached out to our school nurse and to the team at Family Hubs to arrange extra coffee mornings and will let you know of more dates and times very soon.

Support for parents from the Telford and Wrekin Inclusion Team:

Please see below some QR codes linking to upcoming training for parents and professionals. This is a series of training and strategies to support children and young people with autism. The courses will take place during this month. All training will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. Email kerry.mcclafferty@taw.org.uk for further information.

<p>Tuesday 20th January 9:30- 10:30am</p>		<p>AUTISM & THE TEENAGE BRAIN</p>
<p>Thursday 22nd January 12:30pm - 1:30pm</p>		<p>AUTISM & SENSORY</p>
<p>Thursday 29th January 5:00pm - 6:00pm</p>		<p>AUTISM & ANXIETY</p>

EYFS

Phonics at School and How You Can Help at Home

What We Are Doing in School:

We use the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics program to help children become confident readers and writers. Here's what happens in the classroom:

- Daily Phonics Lessons – Children learn new sounds, review previous ones, and practice blending sounds to read words.
- Small Group Teaching – Children are grouped by reading level for the right level of challenge and support.
- Reading and Writing Sounds – Each session includes reading sounds matched to their phonics level and practising writing the sound taught.
- 'Fred Talk' and Blending – We teach children to sound out words (e.g., c-a-t) and blend the sounds together to read.
- Building Confidence – We celebrate effort and progress, encouraging children to read with expression and understanding.

Supporting Reading at Home

Here are some simple ways you can help with reading at home:

1. Practice Speed Sounds

Review the sounds your child has learned. Use the sound cards or say the sounds together. Focus on saying them clearly and quickly. – These were shared at parents evening. Please ask if you would like any help with this.

2. Read Together Four Times Per Week

Read with your child as often as possible. Record this with a signature in their yellow reading diary. We will check and sign diaries in school each Friday.

3. Use 'Fred Talk'

When spelling or reading new words, break them into sounds (e.g., d-o-g). This helps children blend sounds to read and segment sounds to spell.

4. Talk About Stories

Ask questions like: *What happened first? Who was your favourite character? Why? etc.* to build comprehension and vocabulary.



Internet Safety

Social media has grown rapidly in popularity over the last few years and, despite the age restriction being 13 years for most platforms, it continues to be used by under-age children. Here are four, quick and simple tips for using social media safely and responsibly:

[Social media - parents and carers on Vimeo](#)

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2026

Year 6 Bikeability	26.1.26- 29.1.26
Year 6 Residential to Arthog (Monday to Friday)	2.2.26
SEND Coffee Morning 9am – 11am	9.2.26
Year 5 Legally Blonde at Charlton	10.2.26
Wear what you love day (Friends Event)	13.2.26
Last day of Term (half term)	13.2.26
Return to School (Spring 2)	23.2.26
PODS Coffee Morning 9:30	24.2.26
Easter Raffle Draw (Friends Event)	27.3.26
Last Day of Spring Term (Easter Holidays)	27.3.26



Summer Term 2026

Return to school (Summer Term)	13.4.26
Fund 'Raisin' (Friends Event)	Month of May
Bank Holiday	4.5.26
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
Class Group Photos	11.6.26
Non-uniform for Summer Fair (Friends Event)	26.6.26
Summer Fair (Friends Event)	3.7.26
End of Term (Summer Holidays)	17.7.26

Ready
Respectful
Safe

BE YOUR BEST