

DOTHILL NEWS



2nd October 2026

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

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

This Week's Dazzling Dotties!



It's Friday again and we have had so many things to celebrate. Our children are wonderful examples of our community and these assemblies reinforce that. They were described as socially conscientious, as displaying impeccable behaviour, as mature and sensible, fabulous role models and giving support and advice and for being a kind friend. If our wider community could replicate all of these qualities, we would be living in a wonderful place. As well as the behaviour reasons we heard about amazing maths, wonderful maths.

The Dazzling Dotties trophy went to 3J for fabulous writing and trying very hard.

We also celebrated lots of out of school achievements, including swimming and football.

Well done, we are very proud of you all ★

News and Highlights this Week

Harvest Collection

☀️ WOW, Dothill — look at what we did -
We filled the van! 🚚❤️

What an incredible school community we have. We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, with so many donations coming in from across the school.



From tins and toiletries to pasta and nappies, every single item will make a real difference to someone in our local community. 🥫🧴🍝🍼

Together, we have collected enough to support so many families who need a little extra help.

A huge THANK YOU to every family who donated — your kindness, generosity and support really does make a difference. ❤️

Dothill, you should be very proud! ☀️



Shropshire Fire Service Visit – Year 3 and the Rainbow Room

Today, Year 3 and the Rainbow Room were excited to welcome visitors from the Shropshire Fire Service. The children learned about the many important and inspiring ways firefighters help to keep our community safe, from responding to emergencies to educating people about fire safety. They also had the fantastic opportunity to look around a real fire engine and learn about the equipment firefighters use every day. The visit was enjoyed by all, and the children were delighted by this memorable experience.



Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for **all children will take place in school on Wednesday 14th October 2026.**

We are aware that some parents have not yet received information about the vaccination. **Please look out for an email which will be sent directly to you by the NHS** with information about the vaccination and how to provide consent.

Further information has also been added to the school website under [Flu Vaccination 2026 – All Children.](#)

Friends of Dothill AGM

The Friends of Dothill would love to welcome parents and carers to their upcoming **Annual General Meeting**. It is a great opportunity to find out what the Friends have been up to, share your ideas and help shape plans for the year ahead.

The meeting will take place **virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 19th October at 8pm**. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and get involved.

Please see the Friends of Dothill AGM poster at the end of this newsletter for further details.

Spooky Spectacular Event

The Friends of Dothill will once more support a Hallowe'en and Autumn themed event on the last day of this half term – 23rd October. Children are welcome to dress up for this, but we ask that they bring in costumes to change into in the afternoon rather than wear all day please. No face paints please.

Governors' Visit: Celebrating a Fantastic Start to the School Year

This week, some of our governors visited school to meet with Mrs Thomas and hear about our priorities for the year ahead.

During their visit, they spent time in classrooms and around the school, where they saw children demonstrating excellent attitudes to learning, independence and enthusiasm in their lessons. We are very proud of how positively the children have started the year.

We look forward to welcoming our governors back next week, when they will be focusing on one of our most important priorities: keeping our children safe and ensuring they feel happy, supported and secure in school.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a **Parent Governor** and would love to hear from any parents or carers who are interested in supporting the school in this important role.

If you would like to find out more, please speak to Mrs Thomas or Mrs Harvey at the beginning or end of the school day, or contact the school office. Paper copies of the nomination forms are also available from the office.

Please note that the **closing date for nominations is Thursday 8th October 2026 at 9:00am.**

Further information about our governing body can be found here:

<https://dothillprimaryschool.co.uk/our-school/governors>

We encourage anyone interested to consider applying and helping to shape the future of our school.

Birthday Celebrations & Healthy Eating Reminder

We know our children love sharing their birthday celebrations. However, we kindly remind all families that our school follows a Healthy Eating Policy.

To support this, we ask that **sweets, chocolates, lollies, cakes, and similar treats are not brought into school** for birthdays, holidays, or other celebrations for sharing with classmates.

We also encourage healthy choices in lunchboxes, so please avoid packing sweets and chocolates.

Allergy Awareness: May I also remind you to **avoid nuts** as we have pupils and staff with severe allergies. This includes nut-based chocolate spreads (e.g. Nutella) and nut-based biscuits or snack bars.

Thank you for helping us promote a healthy, happy environment for all our children and keeping our school safe and inclusive for all children. For more details, please refer to our **Food in Schools Policy**, available on our website or from the school office.

Year 6 SAT revision books

A reminder that if parents wish to buy these books at a reduced cost through school, you will need to action on ParentPay before the end of Monday 5/10/26. Please see the link to the information: [Y6 SATS revision guides 2026/2027 | Dothill Primary School](#)

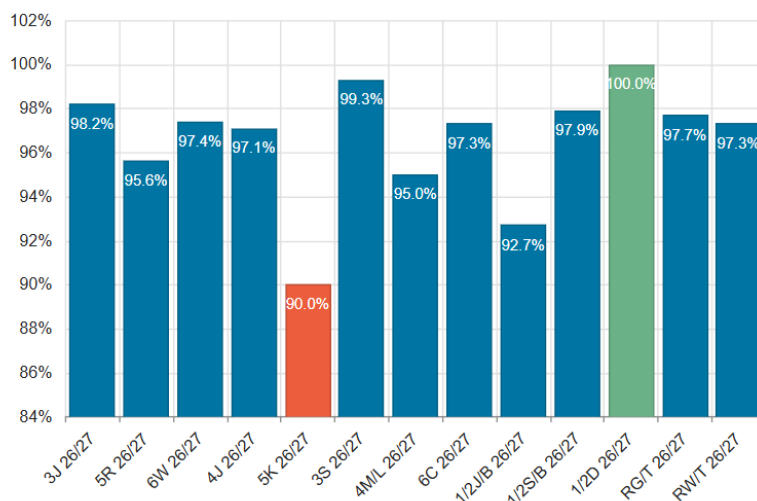
We look forward to seeing you all again next week. Have a wonderful weekend 😊

Attendance

A fantastic week for attendance at Dothill, with our whole-school attendance reaching 96.6%!

A huge congratulations to 1/2D, who achieved an incredible 100% attendance, and to 3S with an amazing 99.3%. Well done also to 3J (98.2%) and 1/2SP (97.9%) for excellent attendance.

Thank you to all our children and families for continuing to make every school day count!



Attendance FAQ

Q: Should I send my child to school with a cough or cold

A: In most cases, yes. Children can usually still attend school if they have a mild cough, cold, runny nose or sore throat, as long as they are otherwise feeling well and are able to take part in their normal school day.

We understand that it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough for school. If they seem generally well, are eating and drinking normally and have enough energy to manage the school day, a minor cough or cold would not usually be a reason to keep them at home.

However, if your child is very unwell, has a high temperature, is unusually tired or is unable to manage their normal activities, they may need to stay at home until they are feeling better.

If you are unsure whether your child should attend school, please contact us before deciding to keep them at home. We are always happy to talk things through with you and offer advice.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wellbeing Through Nature

As the leaves begin to change colour, autumn provides wonderful opportunities to support family wellbeing through outdoor activities.

Spending time in nature has been shown to: 🍁 Reduce stress 🍁 Improve mood 🍁 Increase physical activity 🍁 Encourage family connection

Ideas for this weekend:

- Go on a leaf hunt
- Collect conkers
- Create autumn pictures using natural materials
- Take a family walk in a local park
- Listen carefully for birds and wildlife



Children do not need expensive activities to support their wellbeing. Simple experiences together often create the strongest memories.

Challenge your family to spend at least 30 minutes outdoors this weekend and see how many signs of autumn you can find!

Reception Phonics Development

The children have made a fantastic start to their phonics learning and are becoming increasingly confident at recognising sounds and using them in their reading and writing. A little practice at home can make a big difference. The best learning often happens through everyday conversations and play.



When practising sounds at home, please try to say the **pure sounds**. For example, say "mmmm" rather than "muh" and "t" rather than "tuh". Using pure sounds helps children blend words more easily when they begin reading.

Here are some simple questions you can ask throughout the day:

- What sound does your name start with?
- Can you find something in this room that starts with **s**?
- What sound can you hear at the beginning of **dog**?
- Can you think of another word that starts with **m**?
- Can you think of a word that rhymes with **hat**?

You can also make phonics part of your daily routines:

In the car or on a walk

- "I spy something beginning with **b**..."
- "Can you spot the letter **t** on a sign?"
- "What sound does **tree** start with?"

At home

- "What sound does **banana** start with?"
- "Can you find something in the kitchen beginning with **c**?"
- "Let's see how many things we can find that start with **s**!"

At the supermarket

- Look for sounds your child has been learning on posters and packaging.
- Ask, "Can you find something that starts with the same sound as **milk**?"

Remember, just a few minutes of fun, playful practice each day can help build your child's confidence. Celebrate every success and enjoy watching them grow into enthusiastic readers!



SEND

PODS Befriending Scheme

PODS Befriending Scheme is a network of trained parent carer volunteers who offer emotional support to other parent carers of children or young people with a disability or additional need, at the time of diagnosis or during challenging times related to their child's disability.

Every Befriender has a child or young person with a disability or additional need themselves. They have the relevant lived experience and know what it is like to cope with a new diagnosis and the challenges

that come with it in the future. The Befriending Scheme is a free, confidential service which supports parent carers of children with any type of disability or special need.

PODS link parent carers with Befrienders who live locally, offering support by phone, however, this can also be done in person, and at their monthly family group. The parent carer and Befriender decide how often they will have contact and over what period. Sometimes one conversation can be enough, other times a Befriender may support parent carers over several months. Every Befriender receives training and ongoing support to make sure they are comfortable and confident in their important role.

To request a Befriender or more information about becoming a PODS Befriender, please contact, Kerrie Seagrave, Member Support Co-ordinator

Email: kerrie@podstelford.org

Telephone: 07309 753044



Joining PODS is easy and free. Go to [Sign Up – Together We Can Make a Difference](#) or to [Social Support Groups – Together We Can Make a Difference](#) to read more about how PODS can support you.

Internet Safety

Young people are growing up in a world where technology has always been present for them, which can have a positive and negative impact on their lives. In the following link, you can get advice on yours and your child's digital wellbeing:

[Digital wellbeing | Childnet](#)



Other Notices

October Happy Healthy Active Holidays (HHAH) Bookings Now Open

Information for Parents and Carers

We are pleased to let schools know that the Happy Healthy Active Holidays (HHAH) October Half Term booking system is NOW LIVE!

This year, families can access a wide range of Happy Healthy Active Holiday Club activities taking place throughout the October half-term holiday. The programme offers children and young people opportunities to take part in fun, engaging activities while staying active and enjoying healthy food.

The HHAH programme is available to children and young people who are eligible for Targeted Free School Meals, with a range of activities available across the borough during the holiday period.

Due to the changes to Free School Meal eligibility that came into effect in September 2026, we have secured Crisis Resilience Funding to support families affected by these changes who now fall within the expanded Free School Meals eligibility criteria. In addition, through recently awarded Crisis Resilience Funding, we are able to offer additional holiday club places to support families who may be experiencing financial hardship. This funding will help ensure that more children and young people can benefit from accessing enriching activities and healthy meals during the October half term.

Bookings are now open, and families can check their eligibility, register, explore and reserve activities by visiting the HHAH booking system: [👉 https://hhah.telford.gov.uk/](https://hhah.telford.gov.uk/)



Dates for your diary: Autumn 2026

Grandparent Tea Party 2pm	5.10.26
Flu Vaccinations	14.10.26
Open Afternoon for Prospective EYFS 2pm	19.10.26
Year 3 Stone Age Day	21.10.26
Friends: Spooky Spectacular Event	23.10.26
Break up for October half term	23.10.26
Return to school (PD Day 2 nd November)	3.11.26
Autumn Term Parents Consultations	9.11.26/10.11.26
Year 6 Telford Town Park /Library	10.11.26
Year 4 Roman Discovery Centre – Chester	12.11.26
Open Evening for Prospective EYFS 5pm	17.11.26
Friends: Christmas Film Night	30.11.26
Year 5 Christmas Event 2pm	1.12.26
Open Morning for Prospective EYFS 10am	2.12.26
Year 4 Christmas Event 2pm	2.12.26
Year 3 Christmas Event 2pm	3.12.26
EYFS Stay and Play (RWT) 2:15pm	4.12.26
EYFS Nativity 9:30am	8.12.26
Year 6 Christmas Event 2pm	8.12.26
KS1 Christmas Performance 2pm	9.12.26
KS1 Christmas Performance 9:15am	10.12.26
EYFS Stay and Play (RGT) 2:15pm	11.12.26
Christmas Dinner/ Wear a Christmas Jumper	16.12.26
Meadow Stay and Play	17.12.26
Friends: Festive YES Day	18.12.26
End of Autumn Term	18.12.26
Spring Term Begins	5.1.27



**Ready
Respectful
Safe**

BE YOUR BEST

Everyone
welcome!
= ♥ =

The Friends of
Dothill



AGM

Annual General Meeting

Find out what we've been up to,
share your ideas and help shape
our plans for the year ahead!



Monday
19th October



8pm



Virtually
on Teams



Your voice matters!



The Friends of Dothill
= ♥ =