DOTHILL NEWS

23rd 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

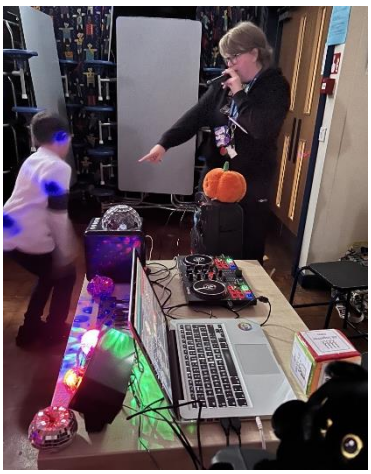
News and Highlights this Week

We have reached the end of the longest half term of the school year and, as always, it has been an incredibly busy one!

Our children have enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences and opportunities this term. Key Stage 2 pupils took part in a fantastic Cross-Country event, and we would like to thank our school community for their generosity in supporting local charities through our Harvest collection. Meadow children have even made their own Scarecrows to celebrate harvest!

Across the school, pupils have immersed themselves in exciting curriculum experiences. Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed an engaging Great Fire of London workshop and Year 3 had a memorable Stone Age Day (more details below). Year 4 have been super busy: exploring our local area through pond dipping, taking part in a Harvest workshop at All Saints Church, and finishing the term with a French Café experience – Ooh la la! Year 5 took part in an immersive Anglo-Saxon workshop and this week they also enjoyed setting off rockets (not real ones!) despite the rain! Year 6 have created some fabulous, powered fairground carousels demonstrating their design skills and electricity knowledge.

We also celebrated Diversity Week, welcoming Rowan the assistance dog and Sarah the Makaton tutor into school. We were delighted to open our doors to around 180 grandparents, who joined us to share in the wonderful learning that takes place every day and of course sample some of our kitchen's fantastic school cake!



Today, we rounded off the half term with our Spooky Spectacular, made possible with the support of our fantastic Friends of Dothill group. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success and of course DJ Brotherton for providing the tunes!

Next half term promises to be just as busy, so I hope you all enjoy a restful and relaxing break with family and friends. Please remember that Monday is a PD Day, so we look forward to welcoming children back to school on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

Have a wonderful half term break from the whole Dothill team 😊

Applying for Secondary School Places – message for Year 6 parents from the T&W admissions team

A reminder that for transfers to secondary school in September 2027 you will need to apply online at www.telford.gov.uk/admissions. The online application system is available until the 31st October 2026. Applications submitted after this date will be treated as late and could affect the outcome of your application.

Please remember that you must apply to the local authority where you and your child live, regardless of which schools you wish to apply for.

We advise that you apply to four schools, including your catchment or nearest school, to improve the likelihood of securing a school place. Schools should be listed in order of preference with the school you want most as your first preference. The schools you list on your application will be considered in line with the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for each school. Listing more schools on your application does not reduce the likelihood of being offered a place at your most preferred school.

You can find more information, including the Guide to Secondary School Admissions, details of admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria, at www.telford.gov.uk/admissions

Year 3 Stone Age Day



Our very own Stig of the Dump (of course it wasn't Mr Jones in costume!) led a fantastic day of learning, creativity and teamwork that brought history to life!

Year 3 stepped back in time for an exciting Stone Age Day packed with hands-on learning and fun! The children gathered around campfires to listen to stories, discovered how Stone Age people hunted and gathered food, and had a go at making their own Stone Age jewellery and tools. They worked together to build shelters, practised throwing spears to hunt, and explored what life was like thousands of years ago. To finish an amazing day of prehistoric adventures, everyone enjoyed a special story about Ug the Caveboy.







Year 4 Pond Dipping and French Café



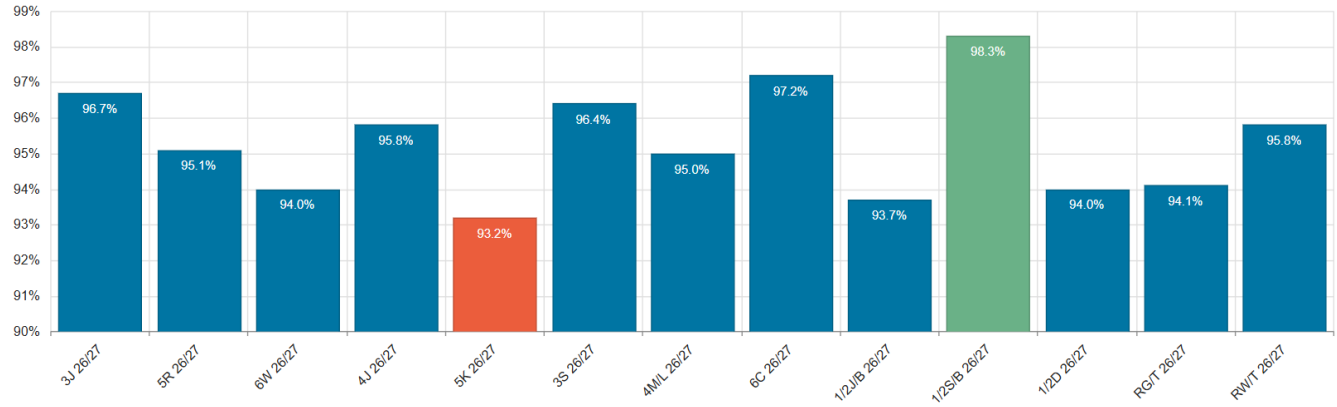
On Monday Year 4 went to Dothill Nature Reserve to complete this term's Science topic. Even though we didn't find many creatures hiding in the water, we had great fun pond dipping in Tee Lake and we really enjoyed a scavenger hunt in the woods looking for wildlife and plants in their natural habitat.



On Wednesday, we had an amazing French Café in our classrooms. This half term we have been learning French words for different food, the café gave us the opportunity to use our new vocabulary by ordering in French. We enjoyed eating croissants, pain au chocolate, grapes, strawberries and some of us even tried some camembert and brie!

Attendance

Thank you to all of our pupils and families for supporting good attendance this week. Our highest-attending class was 6C, achieving an exceptional 98.7% attendance, followed by 3J with 97.5% and 4ML with 96.7%. It is fantastic to see so many classes attending regularly and making the most of every learning opportunity. As we reach the end of the half term, our overall school attendance stands at 95.3%, which is a positive achievement and reflects the commitment of our school community. Every day in school matters, helping children build confidence, strengthen friendships and maximise their learning. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children arrive on time, ready to learn and succeed.



How We Support Attendance

Good attendance is a team effort.

At Dothill, attendance is supported by:

- Mrs Harvey (Attendance Champion)
- Mrs Thomas (Headteacher)
- Miss Thornhill and Mrs Sturmey (Our Pastoral Team)
- Mrs Mellish (School Administer)
- Leanne Hayward (Our Education Welfare Officer)

Together we work closely with families to identify barriers and provide support where needed.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health Matters

Small acts of kindness can make a big difference to our wellbeing. Research shows that being kind can:

- Boost happiness
- Improve self-esteem
- Strengthen relationships
- Create positive feelings for everyone involved



Kindness ideas:

• Let someone go first • Help with a household job • Write a thank you note • Give someone a compliment • Check in on a friend

Kindness benefits both the giver and the receiver.

Family Challenge: Complete one act of kindness each day over half term. 😊

Reception

Maths All Around Us



Mathematics in Reception extends far beyond counting and recognising numerals. As children play and explore, they begin to notice patterns, compare quantities, solve problems and make connections between different ideas.

Many of these early mathematical experiences happen naturally through everyday routines. Children might count out cups at snack time, notice house numbers on the way to school, compare the sizes of conkers collected in the park or work out how many pieces of fruit are needed for everyone in the family.

Children can find maths in this neighbourhood scene. What can you see two of? Which house has more windows? Can you spot the tallest/shortest house? Etc.

These informal experiences help children develop confidence with number and an understanding that mathematics is not a separate subject, but something that helps us make sense of the world around us.

We know that many of these mathematical moments happen outside of school. Perhaps your child notices a number on a bus, counts out spoons for dinner, spots a repeating pattern or explains how they know one group has more than another. We would love to celebrate these everyday examples of mathematical thinking.

If your child shares a mathematical discovery at home, please feel free to email us a photograph or a brief description. We will use these examples on our **Home Learning Wall** to celebrate the many ways children engage with mathematics in their everyday lives and to help inspire their classmates.

Please send any pictures and a brief description to DothillPhaseLeaderEYFS@taw.org.uk

Internet Safety



Talking about internet safety is crucial in ensuring your child can talk to you about things they might be exposed to online.
The following links, which are aimed at ages 4 to 7 & 8 to 10 years, might help to get those conversations started and are a fun way for your child to learn about online safety.

4-7s | CEOP Education

8-10s | CEOP Education

Dates for your diary



Autumn 2026

Break up for October half term	23.10.26
Return to school (PD Day 2nd 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
Year 3 Gurdwara Visit	23.11.26
Friends event: 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 event: 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

Other Notices

With half-term quickly approaching, there are various activities taking place at Telford Bike Hub in the Town Park over October Half Term, including:

- Group and 121 Learn 2 Ride sessions
- A FREE Halloween Glow Ride – suitable for all the family, enjoy a led bike ride around Telford Town Park, adaptive cycles and standard bikes available to hire for just £3 per person. Thursday 29th October, 6pm
- Glow Ropes - £10 per person – are you brave enough to take on the high ropes in the dark? Thursday 29th October 6pm onwards.


Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council
Protect, care and invest to create a better borough
TELFORD AERIAL ADVENTURE
GLOW ROPES
ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH?
TAKE ON THE HIGH ROPES IN THE DARK!
Experience Telford Aerial Adventure like never before as the high ropes course lights up for a thrilling Halloween evening adventure.
FAMILY FRIENDLY
GLOW-THEMED COURSE
HIGH ROPES ADVENTURE AFTER DARK
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER
6:00PM START
£10 PER PERSON
BOOK ONLINE AT TICKET TELFORD
LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE – BOOK EARLY!
TELFORD AERIAL ADVENTURE • FUN • ADVENTURE • HALLOWEEN THRILLS


TELFORD BIKE HUB
HALLOWEEN FAMILY GLOW RIDE
FREE EVENT!
LIGHT UP THE NIGHT THIS HALLOWEEN!
Bring the whole family along for a spooky and spectacular evening ride around Telford Town Park.
THURSDAY 29th OCTOBER
6:00pm - 7:00pm
Suitable for all the family
Decorate your bike with lights and glow accessories!
Bike Hire Available
Adaptive Cycle Hire Available
Wear your Halloween costumes (optional)
BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!
Book online at Tickets Telford
Telford Bike Hub
Halloween Glow Ride


Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council
Protect, care and invest to create a better borough
TravelTelford
Telford Bike Hub
LEARN 2 RIDE A BIKE
OCTOBER HALF TERM
Monday 26th October – Thursday 29th October 26
Group Learn 2 Ride and 1-2-1 sessions avaliable
Book online at Tickets Telford
Children aged 4+ can learn to ride a bike with Telford Bike Hub
Bike and helmet hire is included in the price
Book your child's place online via Tickets Telford
Everyone is different but we recommend 3 sessions
Any enquires please email: thebikehub@telford.gov.uk