

Dear DMS families,

A very warm welcome back to a new academic year. I very much hope that you enjoyed the summer break and that your children are ready for what promises to be a year of exciting learning, rich extra-curricular opportunities and a real chance to contribute to the further development of the school.

The school building has had a huge investment over the summer, and we will be sharing pictures of the improvements via Facebook. There is more work to be undertaken, but I really hope that our pupils enjoy the further changes that have been made.

We have also been joined by new colleagues this term in the following roles: Mrs Davidson (Maths), Mrs Boyce (Languages), Mrs Whiter (KS2 teacher) and Miss Willey (Technology Technician). I have no doubt they are going to contribute hugely to the quality of education that we provide to our pupils. Mrs Boyce will be covering Mrs Way who is off on maternity leave, and we wish her the very best as she welcomes her first child into the world. Thea Janine Ali-Way was born a week ago and Mother and baby are doing well!

My key message to all pupils this year is to try **your personal best**. We are all different, but what matters most is the taking part in as much as you can to the very best that you can. The staff team are working incredibly hard to strengthen further an environment that enables your children to feel confident in their learning and personal development.

I remain committed to DMS being the best school to send your child to. We are continuing to take steps as a school to nurture an environment where childhood innocence is retained and strong values are embedded, underpinned by good teaching, warm relationships and a clear pastoral guidance.

I really look forward to seeing you all at the various events we hold across the academic year!

*Mr Webb*

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**Important dates for your diary**

30th September	Year 5 and Year 7 individual photos
2nd October	Open Morning for new parents – 9 to 10am
10th October	PTFA Bingo Night
14th October	Open evening for new parents – 4:30 to 6pm
16th October	Year 6 trip to Winchester – Science Museum
22nd to 31st October	Half Term

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**Introducing this week...**

The amazing Mrs Harper-Brown joined DMS back in June 2025 and she is the first lovely face you see when you come to the DMS office/reception. Before she joined DMS she worked in customer services, managing holiday parks for 18 years!!

Mrs Harper-Brown is the proud mum to 9 year old twins, her daughter joined DMS recently too. She loves a beach day down the chalet and has a soft spot for capybaras – her favourite animal.

She finds baking very therapeutic and is known for making the best Victoria sponge with fresh cream there is... we need to taste that, Mrs Harper-Brown!!



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## Parent Question of the Week

**What work has been completed at the school over the summer?**

We have improved the lighting and flooring across the site. The gym has been re-decorated; the library has been reconfigured and is now a separate room, a new CCTV system has been installed across the site, solar panels have been fitted to the roof of the school and a new roof on the hall to ensure that damp and water getting in are no longer an issue. We have also started to introduce 'corridor wraps' in Year 5 and 6 consisting of a giant history timeline in the former and a geographical theme in the latter.

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## Pupil Question of the Week

**Are we going to be getting any new toilets in addition to the ones already refurbished?**

Yes, our plan is to further update other toilets across the site that are yet to be refurbished. We know this is important to all pupils and the intention is that these will be completed by the end of the academic year.

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## Tesco Stronger Starts Vote for DMS!!

Did you vote for DMS over the Summer? Every time you shop at the local Tesco in Dorchester, you can collect blue chips to support DMS! This scheme will help us raise needed funds to upgrade our Music Department.

All the initiatives are amazing and support our community in different ways, but you can still vote for DMS until the end of September 2025!!!



## Attendance matters for your child

Welcome everyone, I hope you all have had a lovely summer break.

I would like to introduce myself; I am Mrs Stewart-Pope and I am the attendance Officer at DMS. Our school follows the Wessex MAT attendance policies and procedures, and we are supported by the local authority. We follow a graduated response which offers support and guidance to our families and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you all.

At the start of the academic year, we will send out Attendance Letter 1, which explains our expectations and how we can support you and your child with their attendance. We monitor your child's attendance daily and we are always here to help. If your child needs support with coming to school, in the first instance please contact their tutor via email. Staff emails are on our school website under: About us/Staff/Class Tutors by Year.

If your child's attendance is 90% or below, we will send you Attendance Letter 2, to support you and your child with any concerns around attendance and monitor your Child's attendance for 15 days. If your child's attendance improves with the support in place, we will send you Attendance Letter 3 for improved attendance. If your child's attendance declines, we will send you Attendance Letter 4 and invite you in for an attendance meeting to look at further support we can offer.

Good attendance supports your child's development in and out of school. At DMS we believe in our community and how we can make a difference to every child's life, helping them become successful and independent in life. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional support by contacting your child's tutor or myself: [cstewart-pope@dms.wessex](mailto:cstewart-pope@dms.wessex). Thank you in advance for your support.

## Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Over the summer one of our Y8 pupils, Gracie H, planned another charity sale. This year she chose the RSPCA as the beneficiary. The sale took place at Portland Bill.

She planned and worked hard all summer preparing for the event. She enlisted the help of her friends, also in Y8, Isla, Iris and Daisy and they raised £230!!! They later visited the RSPCA shelter and delivered the funds to them. Well done girls, you make DMS proud!!!



## The viewing of DMS Aladdin performance

If you missed the Aladdin performance at the end of last academic year, don't worry!!! You will still have the chance to watch the showing of the filming to **Friday 19th September** (instead of 5th September due to technical issues).

**This will be from 3:30-5:00pm.** For any pupils now at the Thomas Hardy School, or if you are a parent/carer and missed it, you are invited to come and join us to watch the performance.

See you then!!

Mr Hellier/ Mrs King



## Improvements to our school fabric...

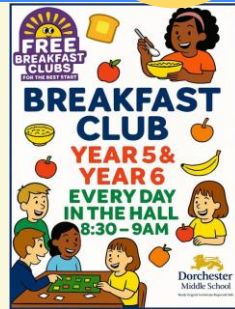
You will start to see a lot of wonderful and positive changes to the school buildings and grounds. We will show you what has taken place and all the hard work our site team put in during the summer holidays. This week, look at our amazing Library! It has been enclosed and refurbished to make sure that it is fantastic and quiet learning space for our children.



## What is happening in our Community

### Free Breakfast Club for Years 5 & 6

We are looking forward to seeing year 5 and 6 pupils at our FREE breakfast club from Wednesday 3rd September. Pupils can come along to the hall from 8:30am, where they can eat a selection of cereals, fruit and toast. Board games and other indoor activities are also available. Come and join us!!



### Welcome back everyone, but a special welcome to our new Year 5s!!

Well, it wasn't quite the start we were hoping for our new recruits thanks to the rain but it was total sunshine as soon as the fabulous Year 5s entered the building! The children looked so smart in their new uniforms and impressed us throughout the day. Well done Year Five on a brilliant first week at DMS, and a huge thank you to the fantastic Year 5 Tutors for all of their hard work.



## And finally...

Remember that our mobile phone ban has now come into operation. I really appreciate all the positive feedback that we received following this decision and I hope the ongoing guidance we provide around online safety and mobile phone use is informative and useful.

Handing phones in each day, will enable children to focus purely on their schoolwork and the wider opportunities offered at DMS. If you have any queries about this, please ask us.

*Mr Webb*