

Dear DMS families,

We hope you're beginning to settle back into the school routine after a lovely summer break. As a staff team, we've been delighted to see how quickly pupils have returned and settled into school life engaging in their learning and enjoying the newly improved surroundings. Pupils have already been working incredibly hard in lessons and have earned a significant number of achievement points. We hope you're seeing these on the Parent ARBOR app. Please do encourage them to keep up the great work, as these points will be converted into stripes during our termly celebration assemblies.

Our Year 5 pupils are now finding their feet and are close to mastering the layout of the school—it can feel like a bit of a maze at first!

In this week's assembly, we launched a new way for electing our School Council members. Last year, pupils learnt about British values and this year we're putting democracy into action with a formal voting process. Students who wish to stand for the council will deliver a one-minute speech to their year group. Afterwards, pupils will vote using a ballot paper, placing a cross next to the name of the candidate they wish to elect. It's a serious and exciting process!

The possibility of a trip to Parliament might be adding to the enthusiasm—last year's visit was a fantastic experience! If your child is interested, they will have completed an application form to take part in the speeches. We wish all candidates the very best of luck.

As Greta Thunberg once said, *"I have learned that you are never too small to make a difference."* We are encouraging our pupils to be game changers for the better in every environment they find themselves in.

*Mrs King*



## 2

## 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

## 3

## Introducing this week...

The amazing Mrs Davidson is one of our new teachers here at DMS. She teaches Maths brilliantly! The pupils are already enjoying the pace of learning and her teaching style. Mrs Davidson is an experienced teacher who taught in her previous school for 16 years.

Mrs Davidson has 3 daughters, the eldest is 8 years old and she has twins who are 3 years old and keep her very busy! Mrs Davidson also has a Border Collie named Summer, so lots of girls in her house!!

She loves anything outdoors; mainly family bike rides, playing netball and snowboarding. She also loves going to see live music.



## Parent Question of the Week

4

### How do I know if my child is receiving any achievement points?

If you haven't already done so, please make sure you're signed up to the new ARBOR app so you can keep track of how your child is getting on.

Each week in our assemblies, we celebrate pupils who have demonstrated our school values—**ROARS**:

- **Ready to learn**
- **Original** in their thinking or actions
  - **Ambitious** in their learning
  - **Respectful** to others
- **Safe**—helping to keep themselves or others safe

We share the ROARS winners on our school Facebook page each week, and your child will receive a certificate to take home and celebrate with you.

## Pupil Question of the Week

5

### How can I get involved in school clubs?

Your parents will be able to sign you up for a school club via the ARBOR app from 4pm today (12-09-25). It is important that we know how you will get home – whether you are walking, being picked up or going home with another parent – that way we can make sure you stay safe. Please make sure you read the club information carefully – for example, some clubs are for particular year groups and other clubs (such as some music clubs) ask that you play an instrument to a particular standard.

6

### Open mornings and evening everyone welcome to DMS!!

If you know anyone who may be considering DMS as a school for their child next year, please do encourage them to attend one of our open mornings or our open evening.

During the evening session, Mr Webb will be speaking and sharing our school vision. Mrs Ray and some of our Year 5 pupils will also be offering first-hand insights into what joining DMS is really like.

Our school prefects will be on hand to give tours and share their experiences from a pupil's perspective. We truly believe our pupils are the best ambassadors for our School! We'd love to welcome you—do come along if you think it would be helpful.



#### OPEN MORNINGS FROM 9.15-10.15

- 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025
- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

#### OPEN EVENING 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025 4.30PM-6PM

- 📞 01305 265651
- 🌐 <https://www.dms.wessex.ac>
- 📍 Address: Queen's Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2HS

COME AND SEE ALL OF THE EXCITING CHANGES AT DMS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR CHILD AS YOU VISIT OUR SCHOOL



To book a place to come and visit our school, please follow the link here <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FGRE> or the QR Code



## 7

## Reading News

### Supporting Reading at Home

Reading regularly at home plays a key role in improving literacy and supporting pupils' progress in all subjects. We ask that all pupils read **at least five times a week**, for a **minimum of 20 minutes** each time.

Please ensure that every reading session is **recorded in the planner**. **Tutors will be checking planners regularly to make sure reading is happening and logged consistently.**

To encourage and reward good habits, **pupils will earn stripes** for regular reading.

- In **Key Stage 2**, parents and carers are asked to **listen to and log at least three sessions each week**, with pupils recording the rest themselves.
- In **Key Stage 3**, pupils are expected to **take full responsibility for logging their reading** and are encouraged to add a brief comment, thought, or question about what they've read.

Thank you for your continued support in helping pupils develop strong reading habits.

## Celebrating our amazing pupils...

## 8

### Dorset county show winner!

During last weekend, Eleanor M entered the 12-16 years old cookery classes at the Dorset County Show. She won both the classes and come away with the cup! Well done, Eleanor! A fantastic achievement!!



## 9

### 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 and current pupils - we look forward to Watching it with you.

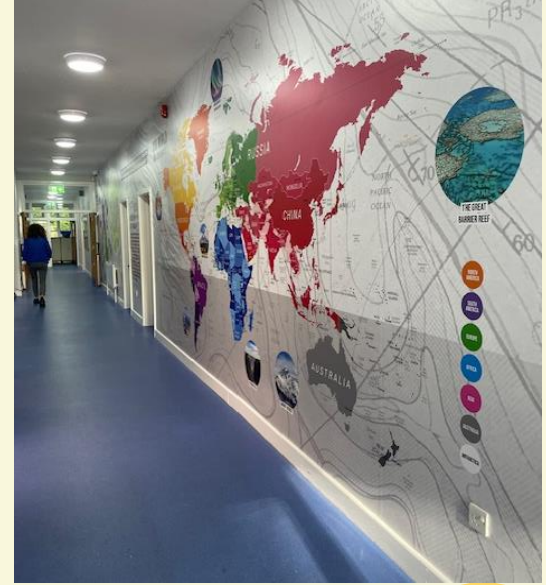
See you then!!

Mr Hellier/ Mrs King



## Improvements to our school fabric...

This week we are showing you our Year 6 corridor. We changed the flooring, redecorated and added this fantastic mural which not only provides colour to the walls but also has amazing facts which the children can learn from, they absolutely love it!!



## What is happening in our Community

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION for all our DMS parents and carers

We are pleased to announce that we are now using the **Arbor Parent Portal** for all our communications with home! Please use the below links to download the app from your relative App Store!

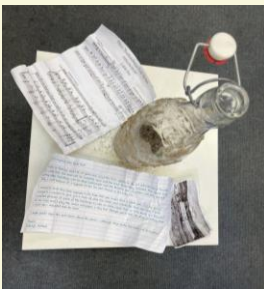
<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/arbor-parent-app/id1448707412>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...>

You will be able to see your child's timetable, achievement & behaviour points and much more! **Please note that we will no longer be using the school gateway to send or receive communication regarding your children.**

### Year 5 News

Last Friday The children in Year Five had a bit of a surprise when they came into their English lesson after break time today! In each classroom, there was a mysterious bottle that had been 'discovered' by their teachers. We had great fun working out that it was, in fact, a time capsule. The questions they asked and the predictions they made were simply brilliant. Watch this space!



## And finally...

We love sharing good news about our pupils and celebrating their achievements both in and outside of school. To help us do this, please ensure your child's photo permissions are up to date so we can feature them on our school Facebook page.

If your child accomplishes something wonderful outside of school that deserves recognition, we'd love to hear about it! Please send any information and a photo to the school office so we can celebrate their success with our school community.

*Mrs King*