

Dear DMS families,

Wow! I fear we may be running out of superlatives to describe yet another action-packed week, full of amazing opportunities and talented children! I also think I may run out of space by the end of this section with the amount still going on at Dorchester Middle School!

Where to begin?! Well, I think we need to first start with the amazing Performing Arts Team and their production of 'Aladdin'. A huge congratulations to them for the spectacle they produced – it was truly enjoyable. The children and the team had been committed for months preparing and it did not disappoint. Long days and even weekend rehearsals led to a packed Com Exchange on Tuesday and Wednesday night. The children were super, with the standing ovations reciprocating the talent and energy on stage. As staff, there is nothing that makes us prouder than seeing children come together and perform in the way that they did. They were an inspiration; summed up beautifully by my seven-year-old daughter who said, "They are all so talented!" Agreed! A huge thanks to Mrs King, Mr Hellier, Miss Cumber and all the team who supported for making it happen!

The DMS show this week, however, did not stop there: some of our Year Six pupils once again stepped outside the classroom and took on adventure at Budden's Activity Center. Pupils camped a couple of nights and took on an exhilarating range of 'extreme sports' such as kayaking, climbing, archery and dare I say hiking. It goes without saying that they had a blast, but there were some very tired looking faces when they returned. Well done the Year 6 team!

We were also pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor of Dorchester to DMS to open our brand new 'Buddy Benches', the next phase of our commitment to ROARS and our community. The Anti-Bullying ambassadors along with Mr Kelsall opened the event discussing the plans with parents, governors and the PTFA who have helped fund the initiative. We hope it makes a difference to the children in the school.

Mr Murray

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Important dates for your diary

- 14th July End of term assembly Y5 – THS – 2pm to 3pm – parents/carers welcome
- 15th July End of term assembly Y6 – THS – 2pm to 3pm – parents/carers welcome
- 17th July End of term assembly Y7 – THS – 2pm to 3pm – parents/carers welcome
- 17th July Leavers assembly Y8 – THS – 7pm to 8.30pm, doors open at 6.30pm

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Year 6 – Last Buddens' trip

It is almost impossible to choose images of all the fantastic moments our Y6 children had this week on the last Buddens camping trip. There is so much they have done, what lovely memories to make working as a team.



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Parent Question of the Week

What do I need to do, if I would like to go to my son's/daughter's celebration assembly?

Next week, each year group will have their own End of Term Assembly.

Year 5 are on Monday 14th July, Year 6 on Tuesday 15th July and Year 7 on Thursday 17th July. Each event will start by 2pm at Thomas Hardy Theatre.

If you are still hoping to make one of the events, please sign in through the link sent previously with information about each assembly.

You will then be sent a QR code which will be your 'ticket' to the event. Your QR code will then be scanned on the door at the Thomas Hardy School when you arrive, confirming your attendance. Our prefects will be there to support you.

Year 8 will have a 'Leaver's Assembly' after school on the Thursday and information has been going out separately.

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Pupil Question of the Week

When will our reports be going home and what will it tell my parents?

Your end of school report will be going home on Tuesday 15th July and will report on key aspects of your engagement with learning, learning outcomes and attendance.

Engagement with Learning: This reflects how hard you work, how well you listen, how much you participate and how much you contribute to your own and others' learning.

Engagement with Homework: This reflects how consistent you are with your homework, including whether it is completed on time as well as the quality and effort you put into your assignments.

Outcomes: This reflects the 'level' you are working at. A '3' means you are where you are expected to be in a subject; a '4' or '5' indicates you are working above, or beyond, where you are expected to be in that subject; while a '1' or '2' indicates that you are working below where you are expected to be in that subject,

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Tesco Stronger Starts Vote for DMS now!!

Remember that you can vote for DMS at the local Tesco store until the end of September 2025.

Last time we checked, we were on the lead!!

Please make sure to get your chips every time you shop and place them in the DMS slot. This scheme will help us raise needed funds to upgrade our music Department.

Thank you very much in advance!!



With the end of the Year arriving fast, we are excited to announce that our brand new 'House Captains' have been chosen ready for next year. Eight proud Year 7s will pick up the mantle of 'Attenborough', 'LeBron', 'Simmonds' and 'Malala'.

Furthermore, we have brought together the House Captain and Head Pupil roles into one so that we raise the profile of both the House system and the individuals that are representing them.

With this in mind, next Wednesday we will be finally revealing the House Champions of 24-25. Will the trophy be going to the House in Green? The House in Red? The House in Yellow? Or the house in Blue? Find out next week!

Reading News

This week, members of Page Turners – our after school book club – took part in the inaugural Wessex MAT Genre Slam. KS3 pupils from four schools in the Wessex MAT (Thomas Hardy, St Mary's Middle and the Purbeck School in addition to DMS) have spent the last term reading a book selected from a variety of different genres – classic, verse novel, historical, family, graphic novel and fantasy. On Wednesday we all met up at the Thomas Hardy School to discuss the books and voted for our favourites. Working with children from other schools, pupils created and gave short presentations on aspects of their chosen books. There was also a dingbats competition and lots of cake was consumed! We all enjoyed this event and hope that it becomes an annual feature of our school calendar.

Buddy Benches at DMS

Yesterday was a special day at DMS. We had the Deputy Mayor of Dorchester and his wife visit to officially open our new buddy benches area on our school playground. Mr Kelsall and our Antibullying Ambassadors presented to parents, governors and members of the PTFA their vision surrounding this area. They shared the importance of a visual area and safe space for pupils to come and talk with fellow pupils when they feel lonely or have any friendship issues.

Sadly, bullying takes place in and outside of school and all through our lives, but as the ABAs shared again today, it's about speaking up and sharing - that way change can happen! The Antibullying ambassadors have done a phenomenal job this year and helped pupils to do just that! The benches are the first stage of our buddy area for our pupils. Mr Kelsall and the ABAs have lots more to share soon! Thank you to all who attended and supported the official opening and thank you to the PTFA for funding these.



Invitation from Dorset Council Parenting Skills and Strategies

The Dorchester Locality have just released dates for their Parenting Skills and Strategies sessions for August 2025. These are 30-min slots which a parent or carer can book with 2 members of their team, for advice and guidance on behaviour. These are either on the phone or face-to-face at Dorchester Library.

Please also find attached a flyer for the Locality Facebook page. To book a place please contact:

dorchesterlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or phone:
01305 224220



Parenting Skills and Strategies

The opportunity for parents/carers to meet 1:1 with 2 members of our team to gain practical and friendly support, information and advice regarding children and young people aged 0-19.

Please book a 30 min slot. Dates as follows:
12th August 10-12 pm face-to-face at Dorchester Library
12th August evening 6.30 - 8.30 pm telephone appointments only
26th August 10 - 12pm face-to-face at Dorchester Library

To book a place, please contact:
dorchesterlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or 01305 224220

for more news, events and support, join us at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dorchesterlocality>



What is happening in our Community

Aladdin – It's a wrap!!!

Wednesday was the last night of 'Aladdin'. It's been an absolute blast! We have had an amazing cast who have not stopped and have given their all to all performances this week! We are so proud of them all! Thank you to all the parents who have made cakes, sorted costumes and read the letter re location and timings and got their children in the right place at the right time! Lots more photographs of our fantastic show can be seen on our Facebook page. Here's to next years' show!!



And finally...

With one week to go, we hope pupils continue to enjoy all the fabulous things that are going on and make the most of the time they have left in school. We hope that Year Eight pupils enjoy their last week at DMS – it is both a sad but very exciting time for all involved, and we are sure a few tears will be shed.

Don't forget to keep up to date with e-mails and messages as there is still a lot going on: the final PTFA Disco is tonight, End of Term Celebration Assemblies start on Monday next week and reports will be coming home. Have a fantastic weekend!

Mr Murray