

Dear DMS families,

I cannot believe how quickly my first year at DMS has passed but as we come to the end of the academic year, I want to share with you some of the exciting developments to look forward to over the coming months when we return in September.

First, we are investing in a huge programme of professional development for all our teaching team. This is a project which will be delivered over the next three years and is one of the largest commitments I have made to strengthening even further the quality of teaching that is delivered at DMS.

Secondly, we are investing heavily in our reading programme to enhance what is already offered. Reading is the single most important skill that a school can teach its pupils as it enables them to access the entire curriculum. Whilst we have many good readers across the school, I also want to challenge pupils to be able to read more complex texts fluently. Comprehending text at speed will place pupils at an even greater advantage as they enter the latter years of their education.

Thirdly, I am investing a large sum of money into the learning environment as part of our continuous estate improvement programme. Starting in the summer and into the new academic year, pupils will notice the following: new LED lighting across every classroom; new flooring in corridors and stairwells; an updated library; new CCTV; decoration of KS2 corridors and the Technology corridor and an updated decor in the gym. I very much hope pupils continue to enjoy learning at DMS as we further improve everything! By the end of the next academic year, all remaining toilets not yet updated should also be refurbished but I will keep you updated about this.

Finally, we are already planning many extra-curricular events and opportunities for pupils next year from residentials, to House Challenges, performing arts and sports - there really will be something for every pupil at DMS to enhance the quality of education that we deliver at DMS.

Mr Webb

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Important dates for your diary

Thank you to our parents, carers, volunteers and friends of DMS for all your support throughout the academic year, see you back in September 2025.

1st September	Inset day/training for school staff, school closed for pupils
2nd September	Year 5 pupils only back to school
3rd September	All years back to school

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New Mobile Phone Policy for Pupils from September 2025

As we prepare for the new academic year, there is an important change to our mobile phone policy, one that I believe will have a profoundly positive impact on your child's learning, wellbeing, and school experience.

Over recent years, mobile phones have become a constant presence in young people's lives. While they offer convenience and connectivity, they also bring significant challenges, distraction, social pressure, and increased anxiety among them. Following our recent approach of asking pupils to **turn off their phones and keep them in their bags at the start of each day**, we have reflected on what more we can do to support our pupils.

From September 2025, pupils will **no longer be permitted to keep mobile phones on their person during the school day**. Instead, all students will hand in their phones during **morning tutor time**, where they will be securely stored and returned at the **end of the school day**.

We really appreciate your support with our new policy and have already received a huge amount of positive feedback.

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Parent Question of the Week

Are we able to have information about the curriculum my child is studying in advance of it being taught?

Yes, from September, we will publish on our website, in advance of the half term, what your child will be studying. This is in response to parental feedback and a further need to support children with their learning at home.

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Pupil Question of the Week

Can we still wear our PE kit on days when we are taught PE next year?

Yes, definitely - it means you can engage in PE more quickly rather than spending time getting changed and we know for many pupils, they feel more comfortable wearing their PE kit. I have also heard that parents are very happy there is less PE kit that seems to go missing!

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Tesco Stronger Starts Vote for DMS!!

Please remember that during the Summer Holidays you can continue to support us and you can vote for DMS at the local Tesco store in Dorchester until the end of September 2025.

Last time we checked, we were in 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.

A huge thank you to Mrs King for approaching Tesco and putting DMS forward for this amazing initiative. Keep voting for DMS!!!



This week, as we come to the end of the Summer Term and look forward to the six week break ahead of us, we have been reflecting with year groups about the importance of being RESPECTFUL and SAFE.

Children have learnt more about how to keep safe near water, crossing roads, going to new places and how to protect themselves from the Sun. We've reminded pupils to be 'respectful' to the environments they find themselves in and 'see' potential hazards so that they can enjoy the break with a smile on their faces and have a ROARSOME summer holiday.

Reading News

Last week, we were delighted to welcome George and Amy from Dorchester Library to our Key Stage 2 assembly. They spoke to the pupils about the Summer Reading Challenge and encouraged Years 5 and 6 to take part by signing up either in person at a local library or online at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>.

All libraries in Dorset are hosting a variety of free and exciting events over the summer holidays, suitable for a wide range of ages.

Visit <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/whats-on-in-dorset-libraries> to find out what's on—new activities are being added all the time.

Above all, just keep enjoying books and reading over the summer!
Have a lovely summer holiday 😊

Celebrating our Pupils

Leo is a super star!! He is on his way back from China, he has had the best experience at the World Cup Shenzhen, he competed for Team GB and they came 3rd with only one Point between them and Russia in 2nd place.

Leo and his partner Chloe danced in the ballroom and Latin Juvenile World Cup and made the semi-finals of both the Latin and ballroom which is an amazing achievement as they were competing against dancers from all over the world.

Well done, Leo! We at DMS are all super proud of you and your Team and we will continue to cheer you on your achievements!



End of year assemblies

This year we were lucky enough to be able to hold all our Year group assemblies and our Leavers' assembly at the Thomas Hardy School's theatre, which is a big enough venue to have our pupils and their parents/carers together. We love to celebrate our children's achievements and doing it on a proper stage with our pupils' families is a complete joy for us.



us.



What is happening in our Community

PTFA Disco

When planning events in advance, it is impossible to know what the weather will be like. However, holding a Disco on the hottest day of the year so far did not deter our children one little bit!

It was totally lovely to see so many of our new recruits last Friday night as well as the children from the rest of the year groups. As Usual a huge thank you to our PTFA for another cracking event what a way to end the year! We hope you all had lots of fun!



2024 – 2025 Winner House

This week we celebrated the overall winners of our DMS House Competition. All children have been competing in a range of events over the year to hopefully become House Champions. In its inaugural year, we are proud to announce that **MALALA** are our 2024-2025 House Champions! Congratulations!

Well done to everyone in Malala House who have contributed to your final points total! It was a close-run thing, with LeBron winning up until the very last event! But don't worry, there's always next year! The House Captains received the trophy on Wednesday in front of the whole school.

CHALLENGES	HOUSES AND HOUSE POINTS			
	ATTENBOROUGH	LEBRON	MALALA	SIMMONDS
MATHS CHALLENGE	150	100	200	50
QUIZ	150	200	50	100
SPELLING BEE	50	150	200	100
SPORTS	50	100	200	150
BAKE OFF	100	150	50	200
SPONSORED RUN	100	150	200	50
TOTALS	600	850	900	650



And finally...

I very much hope you have enjoyed reading the DMS Dozen this year alongside everything that we post on Facebook. If you are not aware, by scrolling down the home page of our website to the NEWS section, our Facebook feed is live, meaning even if you do not have a Facebook account, you can still see all that we post.

Thank you again to everyone for their support, kindness and sheer hard work this year - teachers, support staff, the PTFA and of course, our pupils and their parents. Have a well-earned rest and I will see you all again for the start of a new academic year in September.

Mr Webb