

Dear DMS families,

We now find ourselves in the full swing of a new term and what a ROARSOME start it has been. Building on from the last few weeks, Year 5 are now well settled and contributing beautifully to the culture of the school.

The older Year Groups are back into the groove and have set an excellent example to our newcomers.

This week has been exciting as clubs have started up once again with hundreds of pupils participating in a whole variety of opportunities: be it running, reading or something art-astic! Furthermore, we have used this week to start introducing our House Captains, Vice House captains and prefects to the whole school. Every pupil and member of staff are a member of a House. The Houses represent our school values and celebrate core characteristics that will hopefully shape success in the future:

- House Simmonds represented by the colour **yellow** celebrates the values of Perseverance; Conscientiousness; Empathy; Equality; Ambition; and Hardwork.
- House Lebron represented by the colour **green** celebrate the values of Ambition; Excellence; Generosity; Responsibility; Sensitivity; and Creativity.
- House Attenborough represented by the colour **blue** celebrate the values of Tenacity; Bravery; Humility; Curiosity; Knowledge; good Communication; and Compassion.
- House Malala represented by the colour **red** celebrates the values of Bravery; Determination; Pride; Kindness; Fairness; Confidence; and Protection.

Our first House competitions are only just around the corner, but every Achievement Point earned is contributing to each House's total points. So, keep showing ROARS!

Mr Murray

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...

Ms Boyce joined us at the beginning of the academic year to cover for Mrs Way who is currently on maternity leave. Ms Boyce is an ECT which means she has qualified recently as a teacher. She trained at the Thomas Hardy School so she knows some of the big brothers and sisters of some of our pupils. Ms Boyce speaks fluent French; she lived in France when she was little and taught English as a foreign language in the Alps during her degree. Ms Boyce also speaks Spanish and a little German. She has a rescue dog called Khiri and two rescue cats, Sisko and Neelix. Ms Boyce is super active and loves doing big walks for Charity. This summer she did the Macmillan Jurassic Coast Mighty Hike and she has also completed the Jurassic Coast Challenge before. She is an avid kickboxer and loves skiing and baking. Ms Boyce says she is a huge dinosaur fan!!



Parent Question of the Week

4

My son/daughter needs to complete reads for their reading log, what do I need to do?

KS2: If your son or daughter is in KS2, we expect as part of their homework to read at least 5 times a week. Each time your son or daughter reads, please fill in the reading log found in your son's/daughter's student planner. Here you can make a quick note of the book they are reading, how many pages they read and any other comments on their reading. There is then a place to sign. These will be checked weekly in their library lesson.

KS3: If your son or daughter is in KS3, we still expect as part of their homework to read at least 5 times a week. Ideally, we would want parents to still be involved in their child's love of reading and complete the reading log found in their diaries. However, as pupils have moved into secondary education, we will accept pupils filling in their logs. These will be regularly checked as part of their homework and monitored during library times.

5

Pupil Question of the Week

I really wanted to sign up my child to a club, but I forgot, if there are no more spaces, what do I do?

If you have forgotten to sign up to a club, still check by signing up through the Arbor Parente App as there may still be spaces and you might be pleasantly surprised. If you have signed up but have unfortunately been told there are no more spaces, please don't be too disappointed: sometimes spaces become available again as circumstances change, and although not ideal, there may be other clubs your child could try in the meantime. Have a look at the long list of clubs and see if there is something different that might take their fancy!!!

6

Houses continued...

Over the next few weeks, we will introduce you to our new House Captains in more detail, but in the meantime, we are pleased to introduce our House Captains and Vice Captains for 2025-2026:

Simmonds: Kaicee-Mai (Captain) and Piran (Vice Captain)

LeBron: Theo (Captain) and Holly (Vice Captain)

Attenborough: Gracie (Captain) and Fleur (Vice Captain)

Malala: Kaylen (Captain) and Leo (Vice Captain)

We will also be updating you weekly on the progress of our House competitions – so watch this space... it's going to get competitive!

7

ROARS

Well done to our Year 8 and Year 6 pupils for receiving their first ROARS certificates last week!! What a fantastic start of the year for all of them.



Celebrating our amazing pupils...

8

Well done to Alice in Year 6!

Alice applied for her Blue Peter Book Badge in April '25. She filled out the application by herself and based it around Mr Stink by David Walliams.

She finally got her badge in the second week of the summer holidays, she was so patient. As a result, she can now go into lots of places for free. So, during the holidays she went to the Oceanarium at Bournemouth, and The Royal Mint, where they make coins for all around the world. She even got to stamp her very own £2 coin with a special edition train stamp.

Blue Peter badges are so special and clearly Alice is making the most out of it! A big well done from DMS!



9

ARBOR Parents App

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.**

Improvements to our school fabric...

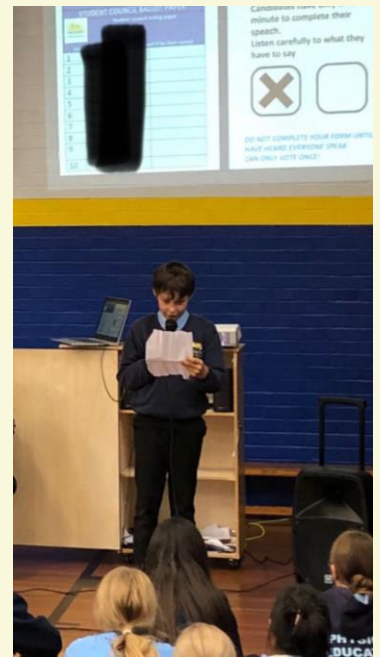
This week let us show you our Year 5 corridor. Needless to say, our children are loving the fun facts on the walls, and we love how clean and bright it looks!!



What is happening in our Community

School Council

We have had a fantastic and exciting week, with elections of the School Council representatives of the different year groups for this academic year. The speeches that the candidates gave were nothing short of outstanding, thoughtful and very entertaining!!! Well done to all, not only the representatives who will be elected but all those pupils who were brave enough to stand up in front of their year group and participate!! Their names were on ballot papers, and all had to vote. The winners will be announced next week in assembly. Well done to all who took part!!



PTFA upcoming events and the Easy fundraising scheme

As usual, our amazing PTFA has already started organising the events for this academic year. Starting with the Bingo night on the 10th October, followed by the Family Fun Quiz night on the 14th November and the Christmas Disco on the 12th December. Don't forget that you can also sign up for '**easyfundraising**' in this link: [Dorchester Middle School PTFA Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#). This scheme helps fundraising by earning cashback for the PTFA every time you shop. They have raised £735.51 with this scheme alone!!!!

12 And finally...

Don't forget to keep checking the calendar for exciting opportunities and events at DMS. With this in mind, and just around the corner, as previously mentioned, we have our first PTFA event in the form of our ever-popular Bingo night. A great evening with fun prizes, good humour and competitive 'dabbing'... and of course it's all for a fantastic cause!! I can't wait to see you there! In the meantime, I wish everyone a peaceful and happy weekend.

Mr Murray