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Dear DMS families,

It's lovely to be writing my first DMS Dozen for this academic year!

This week, some of our Year 5 pupils had a surprise visit from their former Year 4 teachers, who popped in to say hello and catch up. This marks the final step in our transition programme, helping pupils settle in with confidence. Meanwhile, we're already preparing for next year's intake, having hosted our first open morning for Year 4 parents and pupils on Thursday.

On Tuesday, the school photographers were in, capturing portraits of our Year 5 and Year 7 pupils — as well as a few staff members. We can't wait to see those smiling faces in print! And on Friday, Year 5 headed off to Stonehenge for our first field trip of the year — a brilliant way to bring learning to life!

We've noticed a few pupils arriving at school with sweets and lollipops in hand, and some lunchboxes packed with crisps and chocolate. While we understand the desire to include a treat, too much sugar early in the day — or at lunchtime — can lead to a crash in energy and focus later on.

This is especially noticeable in Year 5 and 6, who have two lessons after lunch. Some pupils are finding it hard to stay alert and engaged during this time.

We'd really appreciate your support in helping your child maintain steady energy levels throughout the day by keeping sugary snacks to a minimum. I'll admit I have a sweet tooth myself, and I'm working on cutting back to help me stay focused too!

It's been a fantastic start to the term, and we're so proud of how our pupils have settled in. Thank you for your continued support — it makes a real difference.

*Mrs Hammonds*

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**Important dates for your diary**

10th October	Hello Yellow Day – World Mental Health Day – swap a piece of uniform for something yellow!
<b>10th October</b>	<b>PTFA Bingo Night – doors open at 6pm – 6.30pm eyes down</b>
13th & 14th October	Year 8 and Year 6 author visits (see letter sent to each year group)
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
31st October	Closing date for Year 9 school applications
18th November	Open Morning for new parents – 9 to 10am
<b>28th November</b>	<b>PTFA Quiz Night</b>

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**Reminders for Next Week...**

**Friday 10th October** is going to be fantastic!! We are supporting Hello Yellow, so our pupils (and staff) are invited to substitute an item of clothing from their uniform for something that is yellow in exchange for a £1 donation. The funds

raised will go to Young Minds.



We also have Bingo Night!! Organised by our amazing PTFA, it is always a great fun night with for the whole family and members of staff. Do join us!! There are amazing prizes and our fantastic MC, Mr Murray, does an incredible job. There will be refreshments and a bar available. Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 6:30pm each book is £5.00 for 6 games. See you then!!!



## Year 5 parents were invited to the 'Settling In Evening' this week. When will I get the chance to meet my child's teachers?

Each year group will have two scheduled evening consultations with subject teachers at key points during the academic year. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps.

### Parent Consultation Evening Dates:

- **Year 6:** Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th November 2025
- **Year 8:** Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th January 2026
- **Year 5:** Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th March 2026
- **Year 7:** Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd April 2026

We encourage you not to wait until these dates if you have any concerns about your child's academic progress. Please feel free to contact subject teachers directly via email at any point during the year. We're here to support your child's learning journey every step of the way.

## What should I do if I'm struggling with my homework?

Sometimes it's tricky to concentrate at home, or maybe you've forgotten what your homework is. Don't worry — that happens to lots of people! If you ever feel stuck, come along to one of our **Homework Clubs**. You can drop in during **lunch** or stay for a session **after school**. Here's when each year group can come:


### Lunchtime Homework Clubs:

**Years 5 & 6:** Mondays and Thursdays

**Year 7:** Mondays and Wednesdays

**Year 8:** Tuesdays and Fridays

### After School Homework Club:

- **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** (for all year groups)
  - Runs for **1 hour** — perfect if you've got a longer task or need to use a laptop.
-  **Bonus!** The **Science Department** is running a special lunchtime drop-in session too.

Keep an eye out for posters going up in classrooms!

## Dorchester Literacy Festival 2024 (12th–19th October 2024)

Dorchester Literacy Festival is coming soon, and just like previous years, there are many exciting authors and events taking place in our County town. Please do check out <https://dorchesterliteraryfestival.com/> for further information, there is a diverse programme to entertain, inspire and enlighten readers of all ages.

Our Year 6 and Year 8 families should have received a letter about some upcoming exciting author visits which have been arranged as part of the festival. On **Monday 13th October** our **Year 8 pupils** will be meeting author **Sue Cheung**, and on **Tuesday 14th October** our **Year 6 pupils** will be attending an event with the bestselling author, **Ali Sparkes**. If pupils would like to buy a book to be signed by the author, these are now available on the day (Numbers are limited) and pupils will need to bring correct change. If your child is in Year 6 the price to purchase the book is £8.00 (My Sister is a Dog By Ali Sparkes) If your child is in Year 8 the price to purchase the book is £8.99. (Chinglish By Sue Cheung) Please see the letter for further information.

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## Celebrating our amazing pupils...



A HUGE well done to Jessica and Caleb, who both performed at Disneyland Paris with the performing arts group 'Razzamataz!'

It takes a lot of confidence and energy to bring the magic alive at Disney and according to the audience - they smashed it!

We love performing arts here at DMS and are so proud that some of our pupils took their love for the arts and talents over to France to share!

Well done to you both! You are fantastic!

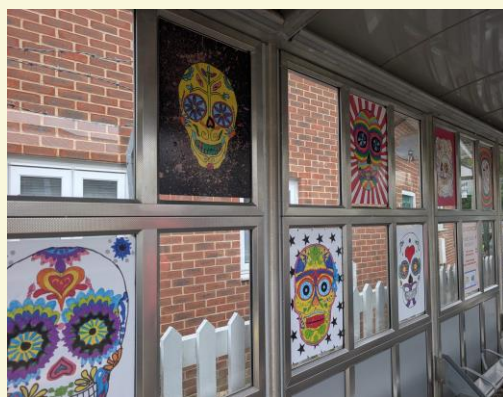


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## Candy Skull Art Project

Last academic year some of our Y8 pupils (now in THS), took part in a community art project in conjunction with the Great Western Railway. They designed colourful candy skull posters (drawings and paintings), which were inspired by candy skulls given as gifts on the Mexican holiday, [Day of the Dead](#). Their work was selected and is now proudly on display at the Dorchester West Train Station as part of the art exhibition at the station platform.

Isabelle N, Daisy B and Robyn C came to the unveiling of the artwork, representing DMS ex-pupils and collected their medals, certificates and prizes from the mayor and mayoress of Dorchester this week as part of the 200-year anniversary of Great Western Railways. The artwork looks amazing and can be seen at the platform shelter at the station.



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## Careers

An important aspect of my role at DMS is to continue to grow our careers provision. We work hard to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks, targets which ensure that we provide information, guidance and experience of the workplace for our pupils during their four years with us.

On Tuesday, Years 7 & 8 listened to a guest speaker during assembly. Becky is an architect, and she shared her journey from training through to designing the visitor centre at Upton Country Park. She talked about her skills and interests, and how she has to work with several different trades in her role. I hope that our pupils left feeling inspired.

We would love to work with any parents or members of our wider school community who might like to share their passion for their chosen career with our pupils. We are looking for people who would be happy to talk in assembly or who might host small groups of pupils, enabling them to gain some experience of the workplace. Please email me at [dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac) if you would like to get involved.

## R O A R S

Year 8



Year 7



Well done to our ROARSOME pupils this week!! We are so very proud of you all demonstrating our school values! Well done!!!

Year 5



Year 6



## What is happening in our Community

### Y5 Stonehenge trip

As this newsletter goes to print, we are off on our exciting field trip to Stonehenge. In our Year 5 history lessons we have been learning about Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza. We couldn't quite stretch to a trip to Egypt but felt that Wiltshire was more within our grasp! We will be battling the wind and rain to gather information and make sketches of the famous landmark. I must admit that even though I've lived down here for over 30 years I have never been to Stonehenge. I have visited other stone circles though having grown up on the Orkney Islands. Will Stonehenge be more impressive than the Ring of Brodgar and the Standing Stones of Stenness? I think the weather might be similar!

### Open Morning – New pupils 2026 intake

Our first open morning of this academic year was a great success. We had lots of visitors coming to have a look around our school and popping into lessons. The tours were led by our team of prefects, and they did a great job! Thank you! We have more events like these coming up – the next being our open evening on Tuesday 14th October. Teachers are busy planning our curriculum showcases and will be looking for pupil volunteers from all year groups to help on the night.

We have trips planned for all year groups throughout the year as we believe that getting out and about, bringing learning to life.

### And finally...

I'm delighted to see so many of you joining in with clubs. It's my dream that by the end of this academic year every child in the school will have been a member of at least one club. We are already thinking about what we can offer next term. Please get in touch if you have any ideas or suggestions.

Have a fantastic weekend,

*Mrs Hammonds*