

Dear DMS families,

Hasn't time flown? It seems like only yesterday that we started the term and we are now looking forwards towards half term. As you know, the next few weeks are very busy ones. We have our open evening for new parents on Tuesday, and our staff and pupils can't wait to show off our school to prospective parents. I am very jealous that the year 6s are off to the science centre in Winchester on Thursday. The Year 6s are also working their way through their swimming assessments – I had the pleasure of taking 6A up to 1610 this week - it is the turn of 6C next week.



I am so pleased with the continuing success of the free KS2 breakfast club. We consistently have over 110 pupils every day coming to the hall from 8:30am. If your child hasn't come along yet, then please remind them to attend. Cereals, fruit and toast are available every day and your child can sit in the hall or go back outside. We have board games, drawing materials and an area set aside for the year 6s to complete their 'soft start' activity at 8:45am. Please also remember that we have wraparound care available every day from 7:30am until 5:30pm.

As a reminder to everyone, we encourage our pupils to have a water bottle with them every day and to have it in their lessons. With the growth in use of more environmentally friendly metal bottles, we have started to see an increase in pupils bringing sugary/squash type liquids in their bottles. Please ensure that your child is only bringing water to school. All KS2 rooms have drinking water available and there is a water fountain outside the gym.

It has been brilliant seeing so many pupils at our extra-curricular clubs this term, and personally it's been a highlight seeing so many girls attending sports clubs. With the Lionesses' Football Euros victory and the Red Roses' Rugby World Cup win this year there are so many positive sporting role models – I'm hoping that the England Cricket team can now complete the hattrick and bring home the Women's Cricket World Cup from India!

Miss Clements

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Important dates for your diary

- 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 - (including inset days for staff – school closed)
- 31st October Closing date for Year 9 school applications
- 14th November** PTFA Quiz Night
- 18th November** Open Morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am
- 10th December Songs around the Christmas Tree – Years 5/6
- 11th December** Open morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am
- 12th December** PTFA Disco
- 12th December Christmas Lunch – Local Food Links

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Introducing this week...

The fantastic Mr Gillett joined DMS in September 2024 as a Midday Supervisor. He makes sure that our children are safe during lunch breaks, and he also supports the school with Breakfast Club, wraparound care and other events at DMS during busy times.

Mr Gillett and his family moved to Dorchester from Southwest London in 2023, having worked in retail logistics for many years. Now he is happy living in Dorset and enjoying the fresh air.

In his spare time, he likes camping, going for long walks at weekends and spending time at the beach hut in the summer with his family.



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Parent Question of the Week

I want to take my child on holiday for five days – what do I do?

As a school, we cannot authorise holidays during school time. Children need to be attending school at all times to support their learning.

Dorset Council can give each parent a fine of £80 per child, rising up to £160 if not paid within 21 days. From September 2024, each parent will get up to 2 fines for the same child in a 3-years period. A second fine in 3 years will be £160. If you do not pay the fine in 28 days you may be taken to court for keeping your child out of school. If your child is off school 3 or more times within the 3 years you will not be fined but may be taken to court.

Please see [here](#) for the full government information and the attached infographic document.

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Pupil Question of the Week

How did the house captains and vice captains get their roles?

At the end of Year 7, everyone had the chance to apply for special leadership jobs in school. Teachers then chose the students they thought would be great leaders, and the top 8 pupils were interviewed by Mr Webb and Miss Clements. After the interviews, Kaylen, Theo, Kaycee-Mai, and Gracie were chosen as house captains, and Leo, Holly, Piran, and Fleur became vice captains for the houses Malala, LeBron, Simmonds, and Attenborough. All 8 students were introduced to the school during assemblies, along with our prefects. You might have already seen some of them helping at the Year 5 settling evening and open morning.

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Our School Website – New awards



You may have noticed that at the bottom of the home page in our school website we have started adding awards we have received. We currently have the 'Allergy School' award from the Natasha's Foundation, which has created Allergy School to help everyone with food allergies to feel empowered, included and protected. They deliver education for both school staff and pupils so that children with food allergies can participate fully in all activities in and out of the classroom at DMS. You can find more and useful information in the following link:

[Welcome to NARF Allergy School, Teaching Children About Food Allergies](#)

We also have won the Silver award for a 'Smartphone Free School' which means that in our school, pupils hand their smartphones in at the beginning of the day and these are locked away in the school office. Silver standard schools ensure that smartphones are inaccessible to students during the school day. Research has shown that this is an "Effective Policy", which improves behaviour and sees a rise in academic attainment, as well as other benefits. Thank you to our DMS families for your support with this initiative!!!



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Attendance

Due to the time of year, the school community is suffering currently with a bout of 'flu like and sickness' symptoms. We obviously would like our pupils to be in school all of the time to promote their learning, but understand that sometimes, illness may prevent this.

The government have provided all schools with the guidance [Is my child too ill for school?](#) and a quick checklist is attached.

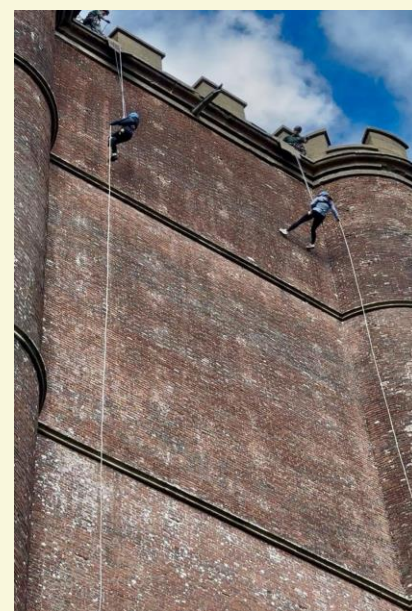


If your child has sickness and/or diarrhea then they need to be off school for 48 hours from the last episode. If they have 'flu like' symptoms then they need to be off school until the fever has gone, and they are feeling well enough to return.

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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Huge congratulations to Nige in Y6, for her epic achievement last weekend. This incredible young lady and her equally incredible Mum, abseiled down King Alfred's Tower! They did this aid of a charity SOS Africa for the education and care of disadvantaged in South Africa. So far, they have raised over £320 which is incredible!



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More pupil's achievements to celebrate...



Three of our pupils in 5D and 7C - Suki, Fern and Laina – participated last weekend in the UK Hobby Horse national Championships with all three winning rosettes in their classes after qualifying over the Summer.

They have to 'ride' a show jumping course of 12 jumps with points awarded for style and speed. They did really well!

More pupil's achievements to celebrate...

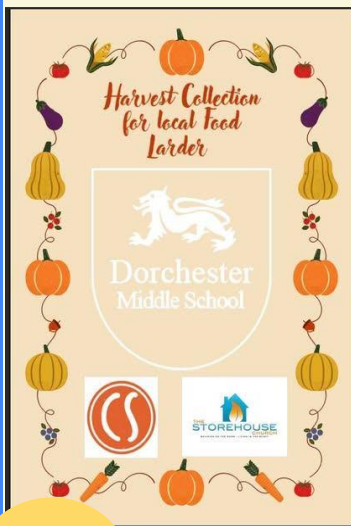
We continue to follow Leo and his partner Chloe's amazing competition journey. They danced at the UK international Dance Championships on Monday, and they became UK International Juvenile American Smooth Champions and made the semi-final of the Juvenile Latin!!! This is such a fantastic achievement, as they were dancing against the top dancers from all over the world. We are so proud of you Leo!!!!



What is happening in our Community

Y5 Stonehenge trip

Our Y5 pupils (and staff) ended up being very lucky with the weather last week and enjoyed a fantastic day at Stonehenge, gathering information, learning about the site and making sketches of the famous landmark.



Harvest Donations – Local Food Larder

Yesterday morning, our Student Council and Mrs King delivered over 200 kg of food donations to the Storehouse Church - local food farder, as part of DMS harvest donations. This was possible thanks to your amazing and generous contributions. Thank you very much for your continuous support!!!

And finally...

Please remember that tonight is Bingo night!!! Our PTFA has amazing prizes lined up and it is always such a fun night for the whole family and members of staff. Do join us and watch Mr Murray in action as our MC, he is fantastic!!

We know it's early for anything Christmas, but... we have received an invitation from Local Food Links for our pupils to design a Christmas Jumper!! The instructions on how to participate are attached in a separate flyer, but you need to hurry as the design needs to be emailed to LFL by Friday 14th November.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Clements