

Dear DMS families,

### Celebrating a Strong Start to the Autumn Term

As we reach the midpoint of the autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the achievements, energy, and spirit that have defined the first half term of this academic year. It has been a truly inspiring start, and I am immensely proud of our school community.

From the very first day, the corridors have been filled with enthusiasm and purpose. Pupils have a renewed sense of curiosity and commitment, and it has been a joy to see classrooms buzzing with learning, creativity, and collaboration. Whether it's the confident strides of our new starters or the mature leadership shown by our older students, every child has contributed to the positive atmosphere that makes our school so special.

Staff have once again gone above and beyond to ensure a smooth and successful first half term. Their dedication, professionalism, and care have been evident in every lesson, every pastoral conversation, and every extracurricular opportunity offered. I am deeply grateful for their tireless efforts and the high standards they continue to uphold.

We've already celebrated several successes this half term across the curriculum, and it is these moments which remind us of the breadth of talent within our school and the importance of nurturing the whole child.

As we head into the half-term break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and reflect. The second half of the term will bring new challenges and opportunities, and I am confident that we will continue to move forward with the same determination and unity that have defined this term so far.

Thank you to our pupils, staff, families, and wider community for your continued support. Together, we are building something truly remarkable. Enjoy a well-earned break.

Warm regards,

**Mr J. Webb**  
*Headteacher*

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## Important dates for your diary

<b>22nd to 31st October</b>	<b>Half Term - (including inset days for staff – school closed)</b>
31st October	Closing date for Year 9 school applications
11th November	Flu immunisation for all year groups – parents to sign up or opt out
<b>14th November</b>	<b>PTFA Quiz Night</b>
<b>18th November</b>	<b>Open Morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am</b>
10th December	Songs around the Christmas Tree – Years 5/6
<b>11th December</b>	<b>Open morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am</b>
<b>12th December</b>	<b>PTFA Disco</b>
12th December	Christmas Lunch – Local Food Links
17th December	Christmas reflection concert at the Dorford Centre - evening

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## End of term Assemblies – All Year Groups

During the last week of December, we will have our end of year assemblies for all the year groups. We have been lucky enough to have booked the theatre at the Thomas Hardy School (THS), so we can invite our parents/carers to join us and celebrate with the children. These assemblies will take place at the end of every term, so if you can't attend these dates, you will have the opportunity to join later in the year. The dates for these assemblies are as follows, and more information will be emailed to you closer to the dates:

- Year 6 - 15th December – 2 to 3pm - THS
- Year 5 - 16th December – 2 to 3pm - THS
- Year 7 - 17th December – 2 to 3pm - THS
- Year 8 - 18th December – 2 to 3pm - THS

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## Parent Question of the Week

### How up to date is the calendar tab on your website?

Our calendar is now updated weekly, not only informing you as to which week of the timetable we are on, but now we are also sharing events such as consultation evenings, sports day and productions.

We hope that you find it useful! We have also just sent out an overview of key dates for the year.

## Pupil Question of the Week

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### When is the library upgrade being completed?

Over the October half term, the next phase of the library upgrade should be completed. We are very grateful for the PTFA funding to replace rather old and worn wooden shelving with more modern shelving and new carpet will also be laid. Additional wall art will be added to ensure the library is welcoming, entertaining and encouraging all of you to read as widely as possible!

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## Reading News - Dorchester Literary Festival Visits

As part of the Dorchester Literary Festival, Year 6 enjoyed an inspiring talk by talented author **Ali Sparkes**, best known for *Frozen in Time* and the *Shapeshifter* series. She shared insights into her latest book, *My Sister is a Dog*, which is a funny and heartfelt story about love, loss, and, of course, dogs!

Year 8 also took part in the festival, meeting **Sue Cheung**, author of the award-winning *Chinglish*. Sue spoke about how her childhood inspired her

semi-autobiographical novel, mixing humour and real-life challenges. We're excited to read the upcoming sequel!

A big thank you to Jenny Stevens from Thomas Hardy School and the Dorchester Literary Festival for organising these fantastic events.



## Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone for embracing Hello Yellow Day to mark World Mental Health Day. It was so lovely to see so many of our school community wearing something yellow. We will let you know how much we have raised but it's not too late to make a donation via our [YoungMinds - DMS Fundraising](#)



## PTFA News

The PTFA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Dorchester Middle School Library last week. The key Committee roles were confirmed as follows:

- Chair: Terri Wilson
- Vice Chairs: Jodie Heath & Jules Evans
- Secretary: Jo Dovell
- Treasurer: Kate Boston
- Jules Evans was also added as second bank signatory



The Chair and Treasurer reports were shared and an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was proposed for end of term 2026 to support committee transitions. The PTFA constitution was formally signed by role holders. The AGM was followed by a PTFA meeting to continue planning for the year ahead. Thank you to all who attended and support our vibrant school community!! Both the Chair and Treasurer reports, plus meeting minutes have been added to the school website under the section: About Us/PTFA.

We are thrilled to let you know that we raised the incredible sum of **£918.24** on the Bingo night!! Thank you so much to everyone who participated and helped us make this event a success, lots of photos on FB!!

Please don't forget and keep supporting our upcoming events: **Quiz Night on 14th November (6:30pm start - £3.00 p/person)**, Disco on 12th December and today your child should have come home with the Christmas Rotary Raffle tickets. A letter explaining how it works is attached and was emailed to you as well. If you are interested in joining us or have some time to spare helping out during these events in any way, please do contact us at: [ptfa.dms@gmail.com](mailto:ptfa.dms@gmail.com).

## Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Last Thursday our Yr 8 Rugby team played a match vs St Osmunds Middle School and won 40-5!!! In Mr Roberts inspiring words: "Tries: Charlie 3, Tylon 2, Freddie 2, Leo 1. Charlie's customary ubiquitous running game and try broke St Osmund's brave resistance in the early part of the game-it opened the floodgates for what was-a fairly one side first half. DMS were utterly dominant in all aspects of the match-they passed the ball with sublime skills and maintained a high degree of modesty throughout. Bragging rights go to DMS, the fierce rivalry of the two County Town Middle Schools was compelling at times-it was a celebration of a great sport and a display of characters that I adore. Well done to our seniors and congratulations to debutant Jack B who applied himself Incredibly well." Very well-done team, you have made us proud!!!!



## ROARS

Huge congratulations to last week's ROARS certificate recipients. To hear the reasons why you have been awarded with your certificates was an absolute joy and we couldn't be any prouder.



Year 7

Year 8



Year 5

Year 6



## What is happening in our Community

### Y6 trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium

We were delighted to offer all our Year 6 pupils the opportunity to go to the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium this week. They had an action-packed day of discovery where they had the chance to explore interactive exhibits over two floors at the Science Centre, as well as taking part in an interactive workshop, being able to experience a live planetarium show (a big hit amongst them all) and explore all aspects of science. What a fantastic trip!! More photos on our Facebook page.



### MHST Parent Workshop

The MHST are running a fully funded workshop at Dorchester Middle School on Monday 20th October 4:30pm – 6:00pm, **Supporting Your Child with Anxiety**, this workshop is open to all our parents. This will be an informal but informative workshop, please click the following link to book your place or register your interest for future sessions:

[MHST Parent Workshops](#)

### Y7 History lessons

This week all our Y7 classes have re-enacted the Battle of Hastings. Mr Greetham always plays William of Normandy, which might explain why he is smiling so much!



## And finally...

Please remember that with all our events, not only do we publicise them in the DMS Dozen, but they are also promoted via Facebook and on our website. Christmas will soon be upon us (yes, really!) and there are some great events you can join us for to celebrate the season. We look forward to seeing you.