

Dear DMS families,

I hope this edition of the DMS Dozen finds you well and adjusting to the darker (and wetter) mornings and evenings. Despite the weather, there has been lots of bright moments this week that have again showcased the amazing Respect and Ambition that we have in the school.

Ultimately, the key markers of the week has been remembrance on Tuesday and the fact it is anti-bullying week. Thankfully, the weather stayed dry and the whole school came together to mark remembrance with other members of the school community, including ex and present soldiers. Pupils demonstrated their respect throughout the two minutes silence, selected readings, laying of the wreaths in front of the un-named soldier and the choir singing. Throughout the week, assemblies have continued to support the theme of remembrance with members of the armed forces leading in some instances.

This week KS3 have also had a visit from 'Vita Nova' who performed a play called 'The Wasps' Nest'. The show supports work around Personal Development and our PSHE curriculum. The themes of the play revolved around contextual Safeguarding issues and presents both the dangers as well as the strategies to keep ourselves safe in and around our communities. Needless to say, the show was not only engaging but also another superb way that we can support pupils in our school to stay safe.

Things have also been as busy out of school, with many of our pupils celebrating their own individual successes – read on to find out more!

Mr Murray



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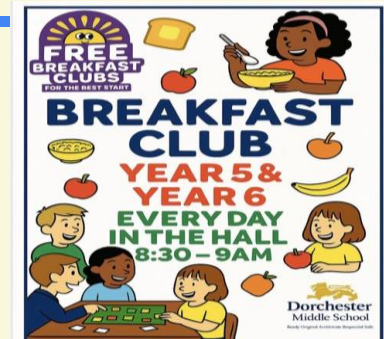
Important dates for your diary

- 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
- 17th December Christmas reflection concert at the Dorford Centre – evening
- 19th December Inset day – school closed to pupils
- 22nd December to 2nd January – Christmas Holidays**
- 5th January Inset day – school closed to pupils

3 **Years 5 and 6 Breakfast Club – Reminder**

Just a little reminder that our free breakfast club is open from 8.30am each morning for all our KS2 pupils (Years 5 and 6).

You don't need to book your children in advance or sign up for it; the children can just show up and join each morning.



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Parent Question of the Week

How do I sign up to Year 6 Parents' Evening if I have not already done so?

Year 6 parent consultations are taking place on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th November. All subject teachers will be available for you to see if you book through the Arbor Parent App that you can download on your mobile phone.

On the App you can choose the subject teachers you would like to see and book times that suit you. However, spaces can fill up fast, so please book early to reserve your place. Reservation will close on Monday 24th November.

If you are finding booking online difficult, via the App, please don't hesitate to call the school office. From here we will be able to support any appointments you might like to make.

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Pupil Question of the Week

What will happen with all my Achievement points at the end of the term?

At the end of the term, in your celebration assemblies, all pupils will be presented with the award of a 'stripe' that you can stitch on to your school jumper or hoodie. You will receive a stripe based on the number of achievement points you have been awarded each term – up to and including a 'Headteacher's' award. This a small token of recognition for all of the hard work and success everyone has during a term.

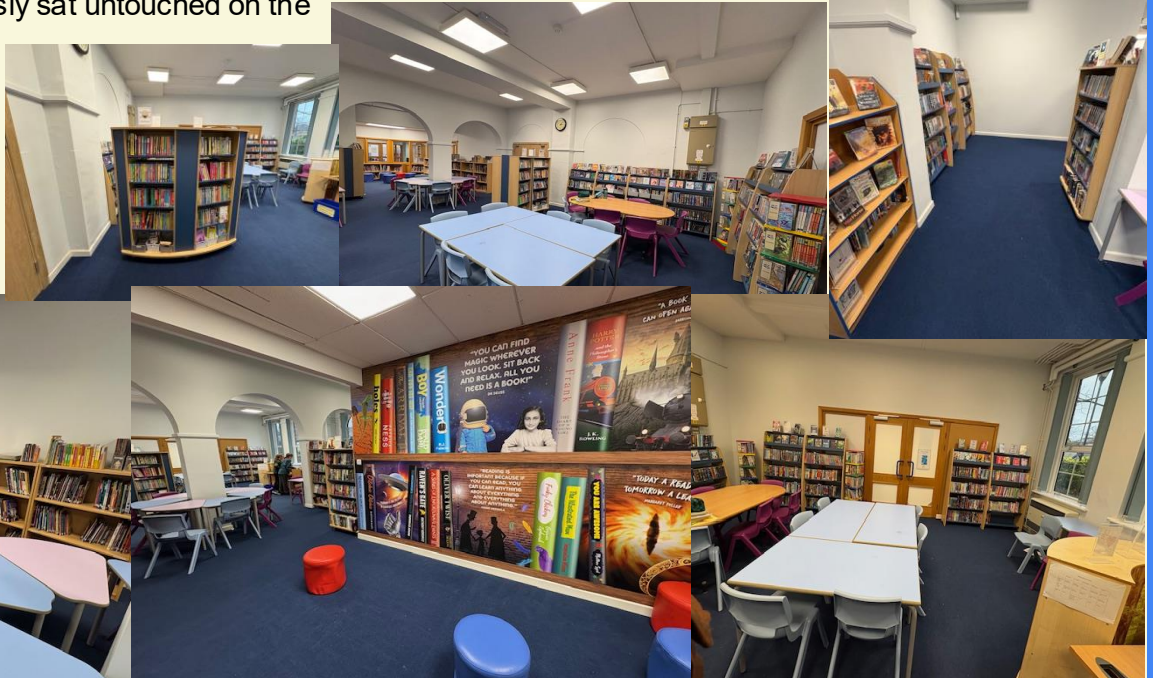
Not only that, but each Achievement Point you earn gets added to your House (be it Attenborough, Malala, Simmonds or LeBron) – so every point does matter!

At the end of each term, we will also celebrate the House that is currently sitting top of the standings until the grand finale at the end of the year.

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Improvements to the School Fabric

Thanks to the generosity of our PTFA, we were able to install brand-new bookcases in the library over half term. The fiction sections for Years 5 & 6 and Years 7 & 8 have been completely updated, and with the addition of a brand-new carpet, the library has been truly transformed. The modern design allows us to display books in a much more accessible and appealing way, and pupils are already borrowing titles that previously sat untouched on the shelves. The children are delighted with the new-look library, and we are extremely grateful to the PTFA for helping us to inspire and support a love of reading.



We have extended the date to return the stubs and monies for the Rotary Club Christmas Draw, to **Friday 21st November**. The raffle is to be drawn on Friday 19th December at Pavillion in the Park, Poundbury.

Tonight, we have Quiz Night!!! 6pm for a 6:30pm start, £3.00 Per person, pay at the door, cash and card accepted. Hosted by the amazing Mr and Mrs Martin, it is always a fantastic and fun night for the whole family. Come and join us!!

The next event will be **Friday 12th December**, the final Disco of the year.

DMS PTFA Presents

FAMILY FUN QUIZ NIGHT

Join us for an evening of fun with a family quiz, raffle, bar and refreshments!

Friday 14 Nov
6pm for 6.30pm start

£3 per person

Pay on the door, cash and card payments accepted

Soup and a roll available on the night

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ROARS

We came back after half term with our pupils ready to work really hard. This showed during the different year groups' assemblies where the children were awarded their 1st ROARS certificates of the new term!!

We are very proud of all of them!!



Year 5

Year 6



Year 7

Year 8



Celebrating our amazing pupils...

During last weekend, this pair of DMS siblings, Charlotte in 5C and Joseph in 8C, took part in the Dorchester Young Musician Festival. They both got Highly Commended certificates and were invited back to play their solo pieces in the evening concert at the Thomas Hardye School's theatre.

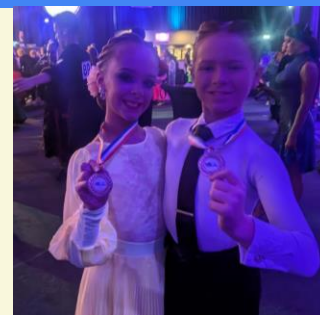


Charlotte plays the piano and Joseph the flute.

We are so proud of them, they are both so talented!!



Following on Leo's journey, we have had the fantastic news that he had been competing at the Dutch Open in Assen last week, Leo and his dance partner made the semi-finals and made the final of the Open World Juvenile Ballroom RS and came third, which is a massive achievement for them both. We are so proud of them. Their next competition will be next weekend in Blackpool for the British National championships.



Three of our talented DMS pupils – Matilda (Year 6, dancing in the Juvenile age group) and Rosa and Gracie (both Year 8, competing in the Junior category) – took part in the NATD London Area *Medallist of the Year* Grand Finals U16s qualifier last Sunday. All three performed brilliantly, earning medals and trophies for their exceptional ballroom and Latin dancing, including several first and second place awards. Their fantastic achievements mean that all three girls have now qualified for the Grand Final in Blackpool next year. Congratulations, girls – we're so proud of you! Keep dancing! 🎉 ✨

What is happening in our Community

House Competitions

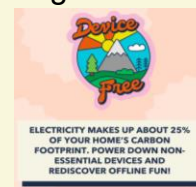
Last Term, Malala came out on top in the Year Group Quiz competition, so it is now up to the other Houses to step up this half-term and beyond. Nearer the end of the Term, there will be a House 'Spelling Bee' competition while there will be 'inter-House' sports competitions taking place regularly throughout the year. Mr Palmer will be sharing these in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the Houses are neck and neck in terms of achievement with less than 600 points separating first to fourth (and that is not counting any additional points from all the competitions on the horizon!

Upcoming Book Swap – Wednesday 19th November

Our Reading Ambassadors are hosting a Book Swap in the library during Key Stage 2 and 3 morning breaks on Wednesday 19th November. Pupils should bring in a book they've already enjoyed before the day of the swap to exchange for a token, which they can use to choose a new book. Extra book donations are also welcome to refresh our library and classroom trolleys. Bring a book, swap a story, and spread the love of reading across Dorchester Middle School!

Cut your Carbon Emissions Challenge

You will find attached a checklist from the Eco-Schools, calling young people in the UK (and their families) to tackle carbon emissions, one simple action at a time. We will also share these in the classrooms and will be explained to the children with a presentation. The idea is to complete these 6 challenges at home with family and friends to raise awareness and spark change. We will log it in the students' diaries, in each classroom, and then we will do a final count at the end of the month and submit the results, to see how much carbon emissions we would have saved and celebrate your amazing efforts!!



And finally...

We wish all of our PTFA Quizzers all the best this evening and hope that everyone has a great time raising money for a fantastic cause – our school community! If you are present tonight, please make sure that the teachers are not... cheating - they are desperate to do well this year!!

To everyone else, have a fantastic weekend!

Mr Murray