

O  
Z  
E  
N

Dear DMS families,

It's been another action packed week here at DMS!!

We held our first consultation evenings on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, so Year 6 parents could come and meet with teachers. There were lots of smiling faces on the way out so that must mean our Year 6 pupils are working hard and making lots of progress! Some of our Year 8 Prefects helped to run the event by welcoming parents and guiding them to their appointments. I was impressed by their organisational skills and professional approach.

This morning, we have a display of the projects created by Year 8 following their work on WWI poetry in English. There are some incredible pieces of work on show (and some incredible cakes)! I'm sure there will be lots of photos in next week's Dozen.

Clubs are still in full swing with some in full preparation for Christmas activities. Remember to book a slot in your diary for 'Songs Around the Christmas Tree', our Christmas Reflection Concert at The Dorford Centre and other festive events that will be taking place in the last couple of weeks of term. There were a number of sports fixtures this week – more about them later in the newsletter.

During assembly this week, our amazing Eco Club spoke about a Christmas clothes swap they have organised. The idea is that pupils (and staff) can bring a selection of Christmas jumpers, hats, scarfs, gloves etc., to swap in school. They will start receiving the items in school from Monday 8th December. More detailed information will follow next week.

Our interhouse football tournament begins next week in Year 5. There is a great deal of excitement around this and much speculation about which house will be the champions. I think Simmonds are bound to win...

*Mrs Hammonds*

2

### Important dates for your diary

10th December	Songs around the Christmas Tree – Years 5/6 - 2pm – more information to follow
<b>11th December</b>	<b>Open morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am</b>
12th December	Choir Carol Singing at Waitrose, Poundbury – 3.45pm
<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, time TBC
19th December	Inset day – school closed to pupils
<b>22nd December to 2nd January</b>	<b>– Christmas Holidays</b>
5th January	Inset day – school closed to pupils

3

### ARBOR Parent App

If you haven't downloaded it already, please do look into the ARBOR Parent App we are now using at DMS. There are lots of benefits to having it as you can receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone.

You can also make payments, sign up for clubs, book parents' evenings, see your child's progress, attendance and behaviour.

Scan the QR code to download it and use your email address to log in.



## There is a lot of talk about SEND in the news now. Where can I find our more information?

The next Dorset's session of **Let's Talk SEND**, is taking place on 8th December 2025. These online sessions, run by Dorset Council, are a great opportunity to hear from professionals about a range of topics that have an impact on families of children with SEND needs.

This session is an 'Ask us anything' session and they are asking parents and carers to submit questions in advance regarding any area of SEND that the council supports.

To sign up to the event please click on the following link, which also tells you how to submit your questions: [Let's Talk SEND - Dorset Council](#)

## Pupil Question of the Week

### Will there be a school Disco before the Christmas break?

Yes!! There will be a Christmas disco on Friday 12th December, organised by our PTFA, as it has become a tradition now.

- Years 5 & 6 from 4:45 to 5:45pm
- Years 7 & 8 from 6 to 7pm
- Tickets are £3.00, tuck shop with drinks and snacks on the night (please bring cash)

Cash payments for tickets available on selected dates after school in the playground, check the PTFA Facebook page for dates. The PTFA also have a link for payments, on a new site to purchase tickets which is:

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q4KRYBDV>

This means that your parents/carers can purchase tickets in advance!! They will need to enter your name and class in the full name box, when they purchase the tickets for you, to make sure that they go to the right pupil. It will be a very fun evening!!



## How to sign up for Free School Meals

Check if your child can get free school meals by applying online here:

[https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free\\_school\\_meals\\_application](https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_application)

**Please note:** all children already approved for free school meals will remain eligible until the end of the 2025/26 school year. There is no need to reapply until summer 2026.

You will need your National Insurance number (available from your payslip or P60) or your National Asylum Seekers Service number. If you don't have either of these, contact HMRC on [0300 200 3500](tel:03002003500). All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically qualify for universal infant free school meals, but for children older than this you need to apply online.

When you qualify for free school meals, you can also get additional support for your child and their school, such as:

- free holiday activities
- holiday food vouchers
- extra funding for the school (Pupil Premium)

7

### Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Jensen in Year 7 had an incredible performance in Taunton last week with his team, the **Jurassic Chargers!** In his very first football match, he scored a goal within the first five minutes—what an amazing achievement! We are so proud of you, Jensen! Although the team didn't take the win, they played brilliantly against strong opponents from Gloucestershire and Cornwall. The next match is scheduled for **25th January 2026**, and we're excited to see what's next. Fun fact: there are two former DMS pupils in the team as well—what a great connection!

**Well done, everyone!**



8

### More celebrations of our amazing pupils...

Leo and his dance partner have spent the weekend competing in Blackpool at the British National Championships, they came away with some amazing results, making both the Juvenile Ballroom and Latin finals placing 3rd in ballroom and 5th in Latin, we are super proud of them both as they really gave everything they had with such a strong competition. They were also being followed by the BBC, during the weekend as part of a documentary that will be aired in December!!



9

### More celebrations of our amazing pupils...

During last weekend two of our super talented pupils added more medals to their collections of achievements!! Roo in Year 7, competed in a Dorchester tournament bringing home 2 gold medals!! 1 for sparring (fighting) and 1 for power.



Ellis in Year 6 took part in the Integrity Martial Arts Tournament and earned a gold medal in the high kick discipline. How can he kick that high? Ellis' dedication to his kickboxing journey is incredible and we are hoping that his next public grading in December will progress him to the next belt.

Not only are their families very proud of them, we at DMS are so proud of their achievements too!!!

Very well done, Riley and Ellis, you are both superstars!!!!



The Year 8 Football Team have played two fixtures so far this term and have played extremely well. They were unlucky not to beat St. Osmund's at home just before the half term break securing a 3-3 draw against a very good side. Just last week, they played Budmouth School and despite controlling parts of the match they unfortunately lost 3-2 in the final moments of the game.



A huge congratulations to our year 7 and 8 Cross-country runners. Our pupils were magnificent!! Considering there were more runners from other schools, our athletes remained unperturbed by the competition and did extremely well. Thank you and well done to our runners!! We are very proud of all our children participating in different sports, they epitomise hard work and resilience. Well done to all of them!

## What is happening in our Community

### ROAR Singing Workshop

On Friday last week, 60 of our students ranging from years 5-8 have had the most fantastic vocal workshop taken by Charlie from Gabrielle ROAR singers! Thank you, Wessex Music, for organising such a great event! You can see a video on our Facebook page. Our pupils worked hard and sounded awesome!!

### Singing Assemblies

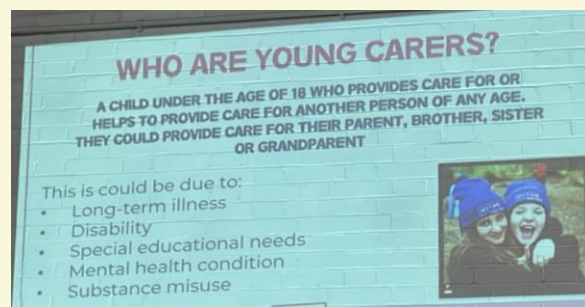
We all LOVE our Singing Assemblies with Mrs. King, including the staff. Her fabulous assemblies leave everyone with a smile on their faces and a song in their hearts, literally!! Have a look at some of the videos on our Facebook page, you'll love them too!!

### Reading After School Club

Both after school book clubs have been very well attended this term. Our KS3 club, who recently named themselves the Royal Books n Biccies Society, are taking part in the Wessex Amazing Book Award with eight other Dorset schools. The short list has now been voted on, and we will be reading six different books before going to the Awards Day to vote for the winner on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Our KS2 book club has also been voting and decided that "The Explorer" by Katherine Rundell is their favourite book and that Hedwig from the Harry Potter series is their favourite fictional pet. They have asked for early Christmas activities and so they made Christmas Trees from old books this week.

### Young Carers

In assemblies this week, Miss Easton, our young carers' champion, delivered a messages to our pupils. She explained what a young career is, how to recognise if you are a young carer, and how to get support if you are one. We have young carers in our school, those who go above and beyond at home, doing tasks that their parents or siblings cannot manage. They may be completing daily tasks, offering emotional support, doing the food shop etc. Mrs Easton explained that young carers are needed at home rather than just being helpful. Pupils know to come and speak to Mrs Easton or a trusted adult if they think they might be a young carer and hadn't realised before, so we can offer them all the support we can.



## 12 And finally...

I hope you enjoyed reading this week's DMS Dozen and are as proud of our fantastic community as I am. I can't believe it will be December next week – how can it be here already? I wonder how many of you will be putting up your trees and getting out the decorations this weekend.

Best wishes,

*Mrs Hammonds*