

Dear DMS families,

What a week! Well done to all the footballers who have represented their houses in the inter-house football competition this week. The year 5 pupils on Tuesday deserve commendation for battling through horizontal rain and hail in the name of their houses. The excitement is building for the results to be announced by Mr Palmer. Thank you also to our stoic year 8 sports leaders for helping with the organisation and running of the games.

As we get closer to Christmas, Pastor Mark Topp from The Storehouse Church came into our assemblies this week to talk to pupils about the meaning and symbolism of advent. He spoke about the five candles that are lit on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas and the fifth that is lit on Christmas Eve/day. Do you know what they all symbolise? Your child should be able to help you if you are stuck! (The answers are on the last page).

The countdown has definitely begun and next week we have Christmas jumper day and Songs around the Christmas Tree. I can't wait to see all the songs that pupils have been practising with Mrs King and Mr Hellier being sung to an audience – hopefully, we will all be doing the actions at the correct time! Our Christmas tree is already in the school foyer and it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We also have the reflection concert at the Dorford Centre on the 17th December at 7pm (doors open at 6:45pm), for the pupils who participate in choir, nativity drama group, orchestra, rock band and their families.

It was a privilege to welcome Mr Edward Morello MP, into school this week. Mr Morello is our Local MP and came to meet with our parents of children with SEND and listened to their experiences and challenges that education can bring for their children. There are currently a lot of conversations in government about the SEND system so it was really important to have our parents' voices represented in this.



Miss Clements

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Important dates for your diary

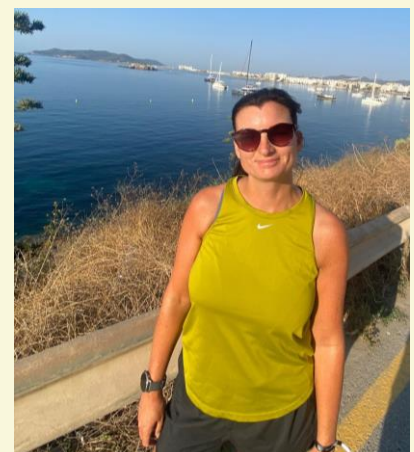
- 10th December Songs around the Christmas Tree by years 5/6 - 2:45pm, doors open at 2:30pm – All welcome
- 11th December Open morning for new parents – 9.15 to 10.15am**
- 12th December Choir Carol Singing at Waitrose, Poundbury – 3.45pm
- 12th December PTFA Disco**
- 12th December Pupils' Christmas Lunch – Local Food Links (**orders need to be placed by 6.00pm today 05.12.25**)
- 15th December Y6 end of term assembly – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
- 16th December Y5 end of term assembly – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
- 17th December Y7 end of term assembly – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
- 18th December Y8 end of term assembly – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
- 17th December Christmas reflection concert at the Dorford Centre – 7pm (doors open at 6:45pm)
- 19th December to 5th January – Christmas Holidays**

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Introducing this week...

Mrs Mudge recently started working at DMS as a Maternity Cover for our Data Officer. You would have seen her lovely smiley face at the main office where it feels she has been for ages now, as she fitted right in! She has joined us from a SEN school in Weymouth and has lots of experience. Mrs Mudge is also a parent at DMS.

In her spare time when she's not dragging her family out for a dog walk, she'll be keeping fit in the gym. With a move to Poundbury on the horizon she is hoping to get a selfie with King Charles!!



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Parent Question of the Week

Are parents allowed to Songs Around the Christmas Tree?

Yes – the more the MERRYier (hope you like the pun!). An email inviting all parents and carers at DMS to join us should have been received this week. The songs will be performed by our year 5 and 6 children and KS3 choir on Wednesday 10th December at 2:45pm. The 'doors' (year 5 gate) will open at 2:30pm.

Our fantastic PTFA will be selling snacks and refreshments, so another great reason to join us!

Pupil Question of the Week

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Are we having a Christmas Jumper Day this year?

Wednesday 10th December is going to be our DMS Christmas Jumper Day. It is the same day as the Songs Around the Christmas Tree, so we can all get very festive!!

We would like you to take part and wear your most festive jumper! You don't have to buy one; you can always decorate a jumper with tinsel or other Christmassy decorations. It's your chance to get creative!

All other school uniform must be worn, it is not a non-uniform day.

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Reading News

DMS Christmas Reading Bingo 2025

Our DMS Christmas Reading Bingo is back! After being hugely popular last year, the children asked for it to return, this time with some different challenges to try.

Pupils can tick off a square each time they complete a challenge, aiming for three in a row or even a full house. Bingo sheets are available from homebase tutors or the library (and have been sent home). You can also find it attached to this newsletter.

Named entries should be handed in to the library or to Mrs James by **12th January** to be entered into the prize draw. It's a fun and festive way to keep reading over the holidays.

Happy reading!!

Dorchester Middle School

CHRISTMAS READING BINGO 2025

Read a book with a winter setting	Read a book you have borrowed	Read a Christmas recipe - and make it
Read a book with a magical element	Watch a movie adaptation of a book	Read while eating Christmas snacks!
Read a book with 'Christmas' or 'Winter' in the title	Read snuggled up in bed/under a blanket	Read a Christmas poem or short story

Tick off each square as you complete a challenge. Can you get three in a row - across, down or diagonally - or even a full house? Hand in your named bingo sheet to the library or to Mrs James by 12th January 2026 for a chance to win a prize!

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Attendance

Thank you to you all for your support in getting your child into school, on time, every day. We currently have a **school attendance of 95%**, which is nearly 2% up from last year. An attendance of 95% at the end of the year, is approximately 9 days of learning lost and 90% is 19 days of learning or 95 lessons. We appreciate that we are now at the time of year when illnesses do start to increase, but please do send your child to school if possible.

If you are unsure about whether to send your child to school, the government have provided all schools with the guidance [Is my child too ill for school?](#) 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.

At the start of next term, you will receive your child's individual attendance for this term.

Did you know

 **Dorchester Middle School**
This is same as approximately...

95%	9 days from school	45 lessons
90%	19 days from school	95 lessons
85%	29 days from school	145 lessons
80%	38 days from school	190 lessons
75%	48 days from school	240 lessons

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Christmas is arriving at DMS

Our children across all year groups have been busy making all kinds of things Christmas! They have been baking and creating amazing decorations for their families and the school. Have you seen the fantastic wreath on our front gate? It was made by our awesome pupils at Forest School!!



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Gifts of Love Appeal

As you might be aware, each year our school has supported Age UK to provide Christmas gifts for those in Local Care Homes, an initiative organised by our fantastic Miss Ashley.

Just one more thing to ask you for: gift bags!!

Please have a look at Miss Ashley's last appeal, thank you very much in advance.

Help Required!

We are in desperate need of Gift Bags for our Gifts of Love Appeal.

These need to be of a medium size but any pattern and design will do. They do not need to be new just of good quality.

Thank you for your support. I have been blown away by the amount of donations this year. It is greatly appreciated!

Miss Ashley

Thank you to all our year 5s and parents who were involved with the DMS and St.Osmunds sports event last week. We had 3 football and 2 netball teams in action with varying levels of success but most importantly, high levels of enjoyment! The PE team would like to express how impressive our pupils were, they were an absolute credit to the school. Also, a huge congratulations to our year 7 and 8 Cross-country runners, they were absolutely magnificent. Considering there were a lot more runners from other schools, our athletes were not perturbed by the competition and did extremely well!!



What is happening in our Community

WW1 Exhibition

Last Friday, year 8 showed off their creative responses to their WW1 topic in English in our annual exhibition. The effort that pupils had made was incredible and it was lovely to see the immense thought that had gone into creating their work. As usual, we had a huge array of different pieces, from cakes and paintings, to models and original poems. Well done year 8!! Lots more photos of the amazing work on our Facebook page.



And finally...

I hope that you have got all your diaries up-to-date with all the exciting events that are coming up in the next few weeks. Mrs Gowers and Miss Gardener have asked if I can remind you to encourage your child to enter the Rotary Young Artist Competition. Pupils have until the end of term to enter a two-dimensional piece of artwork based on the theme 'Happiness in Nature' - the winner will receive a £50 gift voucher.

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Clements

Advent candles answers: hope, peace, joy, love, purity of Christ