

Dear DMS families,

As we reach the end of the first term in the 25-26 academic year, I have really appreciated the amazing work produced by our children, the hard work and professionalism of our staff and the tremendous support received by parents. It takes a community to provide a well-rounded education underpinned by traditional values of hard work and resilience, which I feel at DMS we have really embedded into all that we do.

We have some 'good-byes' to say to members of our staff team, including Mr Hellier and Mr Hoddinott who are leaving us at Christmas. Shortly after Christmas, we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Bessaad, our Medical Lead. We appreciate their hard work and wish them well for the future.

After 35 years of service, we also wish a happy retirement to Miss Hobern. I know that over many generations of young people, she has been an inspiring, caring and dedicated professional, nurturing a love of English in many of the pupils who have attended here over the years. Comments received clearly show that she is one of those teachers whom everyone remembers with fond memories, and I know that she is going to find it very strange initially as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement. She will be very much missed, and I know she will remain in contact with the school over the coming years. Thank you, Miss Hobern – you are a great example of what being a teacher is all about and we wish you the very best for the future.

When we return in January, we have new colleagues who are joining us. In Music, Mr Butler will be joining us just for the Spring Term. He has extensive experience with county music tuition services. From Easter, our permanent Music teacher, Mr Shortman will be joining us from Perrott Hill Independent School. I have no doubt that Music at DMS will be taken to another level upon his arrival including our development of Music Technology. Mr Faulkner will be our interim teacher of English to replace Mrs Hobern, prior to our permanent replace, Mr Nicholson, who is joining us from Bryanston School. Finally, our new medical lead, Miss Sales, will be working alongside Mrs Bessaad in the last week of term to ensure an effective handover. She is a registered nurse and previously a midwife. I am very confident that all our new colleagues will bring a professionalism and dedication to DMS that is so important to all that we do.

Mr Webb

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Important dates for your diary

- 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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Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper day was, without a doubt, a roaring success! The school was awash with colourful Christmassy cheer. Our school community really does know how to embrace the festive season, with pupils and staff joining in the fun!!



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Parent Question of the Week

What are the new plans for further improving the site and facilities at DMS?

I am very pleased to confirm that planned by Easter, pupils will have a new Food Tech room and a new IT lab, as part of our refurbishment of the site. The final decorating of the corridors will be completed as will some additional wall art in the library and KS3 corridor. This will continue to make our environment welcoming and modern whilst at the same time retaining the heritage of our building as much of it is almost 100 years old.

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Pupil Question of the Week

Are breakfasts for Year 5 and 6 still going to be free next year?

Yes, the school is one of the first in the country to be part of a new national scheme and we now serve over 140 breakfasts a day. I am really pleased with the take up and hope you are all enjoying what is on offer.

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Reading News

DMS Christmas Reading Bingo 2025

Please don't forget that 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, give it a go.

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!

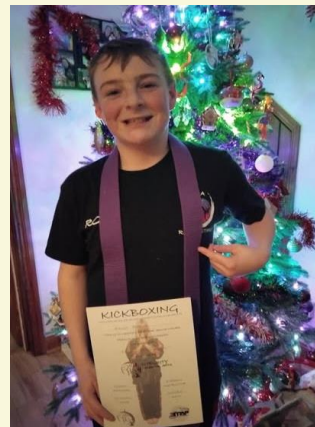
Celebrating our amazing pupils...

It has been another fantastic week of achievements for our children practicing Kickboxing. After a very successful public grading in Weymouth on Sunday, Riley P in Year 7, passed his new grading and is now a full adult purple belt! This is an Incredible accomplishment for a pupil of Riley's age!! You are a super star Roo!!



At the same time, Mina P in Year 6 went on to pass her first public grading!! It was really hard as not only it was her first time being graded, but it was mixed with adults too!!

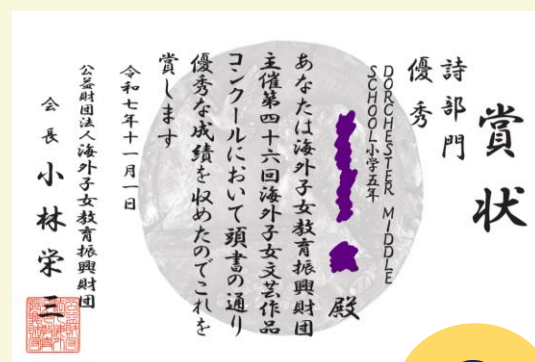
A huge well done to both of you Riley and Mina, you should be both very proud of yourselves! We at DMS, are!!



We also would like to celebrate Momo T in Year 6. Earlier this year, she entered the '46th Overseas Children's Literary Works Competition' held by Japan Overseas Educational Services and she was given the 'Excellence Award'!! This annual competition is designed for school aged

Japanese children living overseas, whose

environments are greatly different from Japan in terms of language, culture and customs and so on, to express their feelings, thoughts, emotions and valuable experiences in the form of an essay, a poem. Tanka or Haiku in Japanese language. Momo wrote a beautiful poem about an imaginary friendship between herself living near Dorset coast and a little fish living in the Setouchi sea. Momo is feeling very proud that her creative writing in Japanese was recognised and celebrated. Very well done, Momo, we are super proud of your talent!!



Sports News

The heavens may have opened last Tuesday, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the Year 5 and Year 8 pupils who played in the Inter House Football Tournament. We hope that everyone dried out eventually! They were a credit to the school and played brilliantly!! Then, on Monday this week, on another drizzly afternoon, thirty-one buoyant Year 6 pupils took on St.Osmunds. Two football and two netball teams clashed against their Ossies counterparts. Our pupils were not disheartened by the weather nor the fact that this time last year it was a very different story - but the moral taken from the previous year and the moral learnt is to work hard and show resilience. Our Year 6s this time recorded victory in netball; and in the football a win and one loss. We are hugely proud of the pupils and what they have achieved but most importantly, the way our pupils conducted themselves says a lot about their attitude and determination to succeed. May this fantastic mentality serve all them well in the years to come!!



Houses Competition – Current Results

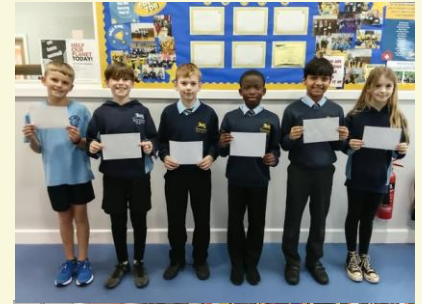
With the end of term approaching fast, the House competition is hotting up. The results below are not complete as we still have the results of the recent inter-house football competition to add to the totals. These results, can easily swing totals by hundreds of points – it's looking close!

Attenborough:	12,183
LeBron:	12,267
Malala:	12,683
Simmonds:	12,970

Well done to last week's ROARS winners across the school! It is always lovely to celebrate how our pupils show our school values; you are amazing!!



Year 5



Year 6



Year 7



Year 8

What is happening in our Community

Bereavement Café

This week Miss Easton, our Pupil and Family Support worker, hosted our Bereavement Café in partnership with Mosaic Children's Bereavement Charity. The session provided a calm, welcoming space for pupils who have experienced the loss of someone special in their lives.

With the gentle guidance of Mosaic's trained practitioner and volunteers, children were able to share feelings, explore memories, and take part in activities designed to help them understand and express their grief in a safe and nurturing environment. If you feel your child may benefit from additional bereavement support, please contact Miss Easton.



Songs around the Christmas Tree

On Wednesday this week, we had the privilege of watching our Years 5 & 6 perform songs around the Christmas Tree. We invited all our families to join us and our amazing PTFA provided hot drinks and treats. All our children did such a fantastic job, either by singing, playing instruments or dancing, everyone was so moved and sang along. A huge thank you to Mrs King and Mr Hellier for adding these magical events to our end of term.



And finally...

Christmas is one of the most important times of the year in which to spend time with your family. I sincerely hope you enjoy your time – I am certainly looking forward to spending it with my son, Elijah, who unbelievably is now a one-year-old! I look forward to seeing you all in 2026 when we continue our journey to make DMS the best school to send your child to!

Mr Webb