

Dear DMS Families,

Happy New Year!

It was wonderful to welcome our pupils back to school on Tuesday and see them well-rested. The early morning start was certainly a shock for many—pupils and teachers alike—as the alarms went off again! We've started the term in true DMS style: fast and strong! Pupils across all year groups have taken part in inter-house sports competitions, and the winning house will be announced after the final matches today. Next week, we look forward to the House Spelling Bee competitions!

Our assemblies focused on New Year's resolutions—making positive changes that are meaningful and last longer than just a week. We revisited our ROARS values and reflected on how they guide us every day:

- Ready – Come prepared and ready to learn.
- Original – Be yourself, not a copy of someone else.
- Ambitious – Try new things, like joining a new club, and aim high in everything you do.
- Respectful – Show kindness and value everyone in our school community, both inside and outside the classroom.
- Safe – Speak out if you feel worried, anxious, or notice something that isn't right for you or others.

These values aren't just for the start of the year—they're for life! Let's keep them at the heart of everything we do.

We are excited about our Fragility of Freedom Exhibition, led by Mr. Greetham and our pupils next week. This exhibition will showcase beautiful artwork, poems, and models that tell powerful stories about the importance of human rights and freedom.

Pupils will have the opportunity to share their knowledge, and parents are warmly invited to attend—details are below.

Just a reminder: clubs start next week! Many pupils have signed up, and some are trying new clubs for the first time, which is fantastic. If possible, encourage your child to join a club—it's a great way to meet pupils from other year groups and develop new skills.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make DMS a vibrant and caring community. We look forward to an exciting term ahead!

*Mrs King*

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### Important dates for your diary

12th January	Workshop for parents – Difficulties w/sleep - 4.30 to 6pm
13th January	School Council trip to Houses of Parliament
14th January	Y8 Parent Consultation Evening
15th January	Y8 Parent Consultation Evening
16th January	Y8 The Fragility of Freedom – 11am
2nd February	Y6 SATS Parents' Information Evening – 5pm (separate letter to be sent to all Y6 families)

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### Introducing this week...

The lovely Miss Sales, recently joined DMS as our Lead First Aider/Practical Assistant and she has hit the ground running, already doing an amazing job at our Medical Room. She is a qualified midwife and has lots of experience in a school as well. Miss Sales is also a parent at DMS, her daughter is in Year 5.

Miss Sales and her family have 2 cats named Poppy and Nala. In her spare time Miss Sales loves to get a coffee with friends and spending lots of time with her sister, nieces and nephews doing different activities such as swimming and shopping.

Welcome to DMS Miss Sales!!!



## Upcoming Information Evenings for Parents

This week, we held our Year 6 RSE evening, giving parents an opportunity to understand the content covered in these lessons. We also have a Year 6 SATs information evening on 2nd February at 5pm.

Next week, there will be a session focused on supporting parents with children who experience poor sleep, offering practical advice to help improve their sleep routines.

Later this term, we will host another Parent Voice meeting. These meetings are invaluable in ensuring we work in partnership with you, listen to your views, and address any issues or miscommunication. If you can attend, we would love to see you there.

For all dates and details, please refer to our school calendar on the website.

## Pupil Question of the Week

### Are there opportunities for me to apply for any new roles at school?

Absolutely! Mr. Palmer will be launching his Sports Ambassadors program this week and will be looking for young leaders in Year 5 to get involved.

The Art and Music departments are also preparing presentations to share with pupils from all year groups about how they can gain extra leadership experience in Art and Music. Mr Kelsall will be holding a meeting next week for our current Anti bullying ambassadors, to listen to new ideas and to make sure everyone is feeling safe!

It's very exciting! Watch this space, be brave and volunteer for these roles if you're interested!

## Reading News - Celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026 at Dorchester Middle School

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign encouraging everyone to make reading a regular habit. DMS is excited to take part, with a range of events like reading challenges, book swaps and author visits throughout the year.

To launch the National Year of Reading, we're thrilled to welcome Emma Green, former DMS pupil and author of *The Not-So Great Escape*, to speak with our KS2 pupils on Tuesday 20th January. Emma will share the inspiration behind her book, talk about her three alpacas, and offer creative writing tips. She will also answer questions from the children. We can't wait to make this year full of exciting reading adventures and inspire a lifelong love of books!



National Year of  
Reading 2026

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## Celebrating our amazing pupils...

As mentioned a few weeks back, our very own Leo J in Year 7, was one of the dancers showcased in a BBC Documentary about ballroom dancing competitions, released during the Christmas break - It's fantastic to watch!! We have been and will continue to follow Leo's journey to become the amazing dancer that he is. Well done Leo, we are so proud of you!! Here is the link for the documentary: [BBC Documentary - The Real Strictly Come Dancing](#)

On the last week of term, twenty pupils from DMS took part in a dance performance called 'Dancing through the ages' at Herrison Hall in Charlton Down. After the performance, two of our pupils were awarded medals from Premiere Education who hosted



the show and who have also worked with the pupils in school and during dance club.

Everyone who took part shone and had a great time! We are super proud of all of them!!!



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## PTFA News

Our amazing PTFA have done it again and they managed to raise £1,110 on the Christmas Discos!! Thank you to them and to everyone who attended and to the volunteers who helped make it such an enjoyable evening for all. We can also inform that there was a £250 winner from the Rotary Raffle tickets sold by DMS!



They will be soon launching a new event called the 'Winter Walk', so watch this space for more details, but it will be a chance to get families out in the fresh air for a treasure hunt.

Please do continue to support our school by participating in the events organised by this amazing group of DMS parents who form the PTFA. All the monies they raise go to buy equipment and resources for our school. If you would like to join them by either donating your time or goods for these events, please do get in touch with them via email at: [ptfa.dms@gmail.com](mailto:ptfa.dms@gmail.com), you can also follow them on their Facebook page: [Dorchester Middle School PTFA](#). The other upcoming events are the **Bingo Night on Friday 6th February** and later on the **Discos on Friday 20th March**. More detailed information to follow on the next few weeks. Do join in!!

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## Very exciting news! - Children's author visit!

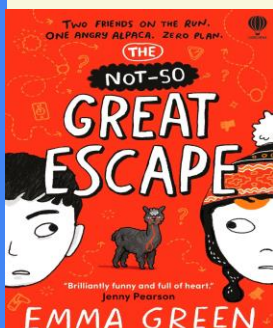
As you know, reading is a priority at DMS and we are pleased to be able to invite Emma Green, children's author and ex-DMS pupil, to our school on Tuesday 20th January to visit our KS2 pupils.



Emma will tell the pupils about her writing journey and talk to them about her new book 'The Not-So Great Escape', which has been described as a 'laugh out loud tale about friendship, grief and the stories we tell ourselves to survive'.

Copies of the book are available to pre-order and Emma will be able to sign these on the day.

The deadline for these orders will be the 9th of January so get your order in quick!!



## Christmas Reflection Concert - Dorford Centre

As you would have seen on Facebook, on the last week of term our children (and staff) put on an amazing reflection concert at the Dorford Centre, which is now becoming a tradition at DMS, leading up to Christmas. What an incredible evening it was! Huge congratulations to everyone who was involved in the event. Just when you think things couldn't get any better, they do - with bells on! It was without doubt, totally fantastic from beginning to end. The huge amount of talent that was on the stage had us all bursting with pride.

Once again, well done Team DMS!!



## What else has been happening in our Community?



### Christmas Jumper design contest

Before the Christmas break, our hot meals provider, Local Food Links, invited all their schools to participate in a contest to design a Christmas Jumper. Our talented Arina in Year 6, won the competition with her fantastic design and got it to be printed in a proper jumper, which she got to keep. Well done Arina!!

### Medical Room Art Competition

The medical room art competition has been extended to Thursday 22nd January, to give more children time to participate. Please can all the entries have the pupils' name and class on the back of the poster and be returned to Miss Sales in the Medical room, by 22nd January the latest. The winner will receive a £10 Waterstone gift voucher!

Show your artistic talents and produce some positive health related art to display in our schools medical room!



Open to all Years

£10 Waterstone gift card for the winner

Join the fun!

Show your colors!

Return your pictures to Miss Sales in the medical room.

## 12 And finally...

As we wrap up the first week back after the Christmas break, I want to thank you for your continued support in helping our children settle back into their routines. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning and the positive energy across the school. We're looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with opportunities for growth and achievement and showing our ROARS values! Wishing you all a restful weekend and a great start to the new year.

*Mrs King*