

Dear DMS Families,

Another action-packed week at Dorchester Middle School.

For our Assemblies this week, the House Competition has again been a focus. Pupils from each house have been fervently recalling spellings in the House Spelling Bee competition. To find out who has won, read on below. We are also still waiting for the final outcomes of our inter-house sports competition that we started before Christmas. However, as I'm sure we have all noticed, the weather has not been helpful. Fingers crossed for some drier weather soon.

On Tuesday, a group of our School Council representatives visited the Houses of Parliament to learn more about the democracy in our country. You will see from the update later in the 'Dozen' that they had a fantastic time. It was a long day, though definitely worth it!

In the middle of the week, we welcomed our Year 8 parents for the Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening. It was lovely seeing so many parents attend and discuss the success of their child's learning as well as find those next important steps for future achievement. If for whatever reason you were not able to make an appointment or you missed the event for one reason or another, please don't hesitate to contact the teacher of the subject you are interested in seeing via e-mail. E-mails can be found on the school website.

Today, we finish our week with the highly anticipated 'Fragility of Freedom' Exhibition. Over the last few years, this event has grown to be one of the standout occasions for pupils to showcase their talents, creativity and the traditional values we hold so dearly. We can't wait to see what has been produced; and with the models and work that have been sneaking in this week, it could be better than ever!

Mr Murray

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Important dates for your diary

20th January	Author visit for Y5 & Y6
22nd January	Parent Voice Meeting – 5 to 6pm – all parents and carers welcome
2nd February	Y6 SATS Parents' Information Evening – 5pm (separate letter sent to all Y6 families)
6th February	PTFA Bingo Night - Eyes down at 6:30pm
16th – 20th February	Half Term break
5th March	World Book Day – information to follow closer to the date
20th March	PTFA Disco

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PTFA News

The next upcoming events our PTFA are already working on, are the **Bingo Night** on **Friday 6th February**, followed by the KS2 and KS3 **Discos** on **Friday 20th March**, which are always a huge success amongst the children.

Doors will open at 6pm for the **Bingo**, eyes down at 6.30pm. £5 per Book (which includes 6 games). There will be a bar and refreshments Available (cash and card payments accepted on the night). Do join us and have a lovely family night out supporting the school!!!



DMS PTFA Invites you to... **BINGO NIGHT**
 • GAMES • FUN • PRIZES •
Friday 6 February
 Doors open 6.00pm
 Eyes down 6.30pm!
 In the School Hall
 £5 per book (6 games)
 Bar and refreshments available
 (cash and card payments accepted)

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Parent Question of the Week

Next week, there is a parent voice meeting. Is there anything I need to do to attend?

On Thursday next week (22nd January), between 5-6pm we are holding our next Parent Voice meeting. This is a great opportunity to come into school and speak to Leaders to find out more about the progress the school is making. It's a chance to share ideas and questions as well as raise queries you may have. All parents/carers are welcome. All you need to do to attend is fill out the form in the link below and then we know you are coming. We look forward to seeing you and working together for the benefit of our children, school and community.

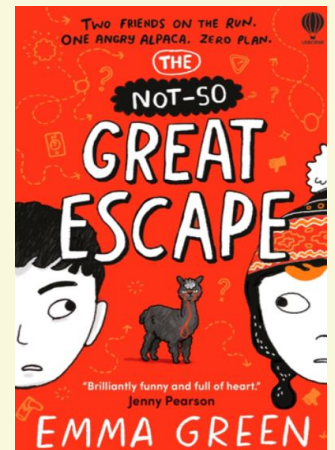
[Link: Parent Voice - Thursday 22nd January - 5-6pm. – Fill in form](#)

Pupil Question of the Week

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I forgot to order a book for the author visit next week. What do I do if I would like a copy?

If you are in KS2 (Year 5 or 6), you are probably aware that we have Emma Green, a local and successful children's author visiting the school next week. Pupils had the chance to pre-order a copy of the book, but if you have missed the deadline, or after hearing from Emma on her visit, you wish to know more about an escaped alpaca, you can purchase the book from local bookstores or online retailers, where it is readily available.

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Performing Arts Club - News

On Monday we had the first session of the Performing Arts club for this year, and they got straight into learning 'Matilda'!! Pupils learnt about the characters to audition for, did some reading of parts, sang a song and started learning a dance routine, all in the space of 75 minutes!!

We currently have 96 pupils signed up for this very popular club, and they all seemed to have had a fantastic time!!

If you haven't seen a video of it on our Facebook page yet, don't miss out, it's a real treat and a sneak peak of what is to come!!



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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Massive congratulations to the brilliant winner of the DOMVS Story House competition, our very own Rokaya in Year 6!! This is an incredible achievement and we are so proud of you!! Huge congratulations must also go to the other fabulous DMS children who took part, you are all winners in our eyes!!



Last Sunday, our James H in Year 5, played his debut game for the Dorchester Raiders and only went and scored 2 out of the 3 goals, winning the game for the Raiders!! James got awarded MOTM (man of the match); what an amazing achievement!! Very well done to you both, we at DMS are very, very proud!!

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KS2 and KS3 Spelling Bee

On Monday we had the KS3 Interhouse Spelling Bee. Lots of competitiveness and support for those who took on the challenge! Well done to House Simmonds who won the first day!

On Wednesday it was the turn of KS2 turn to participate in the Interhouse Spelling Bee. The teams were brilliant and worked vey well together. Well done to LeBron House who snatched victory from the other teams!!



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Volunteers for SATS week

We are looking for volunteers to help support our Year 6 pupils during SATS week in May. It is of upmost importance that the process runs smoothly and that every pupil feels confident and supported. Your involvement will make a real difference in helping us to achieve this. Even if you can only spare a short amount of time on one or more dates your help would be very much appreciated.

No previous experience is necessary - we will provide clear guidance and training - volunteers will need to be available on one of the following dates for training. Please note: if you have said you are available to help, a form will be sent to you in due course to book your training session. These sessions will run on:

Tuesday 14th April 2026 2.45pm - 3.30pm

Thursday 16th April 2026 4.00pm - 5.00pm

Please follow the link to complete a short form to share your availability:

<https://forms.office.com/e/XaPYA0LgdK>; further details will then be sent out in due course.

Thank you for considering this opportunity!!

ROARS

Huge congratulations to the first recipients of the ROARS certificates of the year. You are all superstars!!!



Year 5



Year 6



Year 7



Year 8

What else has been happening in our Community?

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Visit to the Houses of Parliament and the London Science Museum

On Tuesday, our School Council went to London to visit the Houses of Parliament and the Science Museum followed by a cheeky meal. The children had the opportunity to learn about the power of petitions and how they can change laws in a workshop they participated in. They were greeted by our MP Edward Morello and got to ask him questions about his role!! What an amazing day for everybody!! More photos and video on our Facebook page.



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And finally...

We are pleased to announce the launching of a Food Bank and Support Hub at Dorchester Middle School; it will take place on **Friday 23rd January, from 2:30 to 4:00pm in the Drama Hall**, and everyone is warmly welcome to attend. We understand that many families can find it difficult this time of year and we would like to support you all in any way we can. We have many external teams joining us on the day: Early help, Mosaic, Targeted Youth, MHST, Citizens Advice and many more organisations who can support our families. We are planning future dates as well: February 13th and March 20th, April 17th. We look forward to seeing you then!!

Mr Murray