

Dear DMS Families,

I hope you are all well and have managed to stay fairly dry this week! It certainly has been eventful in terms of weather and transport. In addition to the external events, we have had another action-packed week at school.

Our school council met earlier this week for their half termly meeting. We believe it is so important to develop leadership skills and to involve our pupils in decision making that will impact our school community. In addition to our school council representatives there are many other ways pupils can be leaders within the school: Year 8 Prefects, Anti Bullying Ambassadors, Music Ambassadors, Art Ambassadors and many more.

A number of our Year 8 pupils went to the Holocaust Memorial Day Exhibition at the Corn Exchange on Tuesday. Mr Greetham led the group who were invited to display their Fragility of Freedom projects at the event. We have been so impressed by the quality of work produced by Year 8 this year.

Year 5 and 6 visited our 'inflatable classroom' this week which was led by the SCARF team. Classes have been presented with certificates to show that they have learned about being safe online – a topic which is also being covered in Year 5 PSHE lessons.

On Friday this week Mr Palmer and others held a drop-down day for selected pupils in Years 7 & 8, with a focus on developing football skills. Chatting to those involved today it has proved to be a very positive experience. The pupils have worked in skill building sessions and then implemented them in short games. Thank you to Mr Palmer and his team for enabling the pupils to benefit from this training session.

We hope you enjoy reading about the rest of our activities!

Mrs Hammonds

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Important dates for your diary

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
8th – 14th February	Children's Mental Health Week – Sunday 8th Feb Junior Park Run - more information to follow
13th February	Support Hub and Food Bank at DMS 2.30 to 4pm
16th – 20th February	Half Term break
4th – 5th March	Y5 Parent Consultation Evening – 4 to 6pm
5th March	World Book Day – information to follow closer to the date
18th March	SEND Parent Forum Meeting – 2pm
20th March	Support Hub and Food Bank at DMS 2.30 to 4pm
20th March	PTFA Disco

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PTFA News

Our PTFA are calling for any unwanted or unused gifts you may have at home that you don't think will be used, the PTFA would be very grateful to receive them as donations. These items will be used in upcoming PTFA events and activities to help raise valuable funds for the school and support our children. Donations can be brought to the school and handed to the office up until 1st February. Thank you as always for your continued support, every donation, big or small, really does make a difference!! Thank you very much in advance!!!



Don't forget that next week is **Bingo Night** on Friday 6th February!!! Doors will open at 6pm, eyes down at 6.30pm. The book is £5 which includes 6 games. There will be a bar and refreshments available - cash and card payments accepted on the night!!

My child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding. How has that money been spent?

At present we have 129 pupils eligible for pupil premium funding at DMS. Here are the ways we spend that money to support them: supporting engagement with extra-curricular clubs, supporting attendance at parent consultation evenings, providing books following author visits, covering the full cost of curriculum trips, financially supporting with the cost of residentials, offering uniform vouchers, monitoring involvement in interventions, pupil leadership and sports teams, supporting the cost of instrumental lessons, providing ingredients for Food Tech lessons and working with the team to hold the Community First events.

If you can think of any other ways, we could help to support our families don't hesitate to get in touch.

Pupil Question of the Week

I have auditioned for a part in 'Matilda', this year's production. When will we find out the cast list?

Thank you to all 100 pupils who have joined Performing Arts Club this year! We have been so impressed by the standard of acting and singing throughout the audition process.

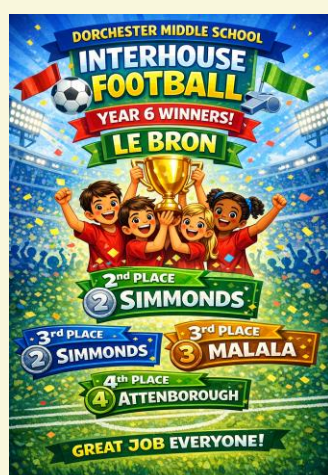
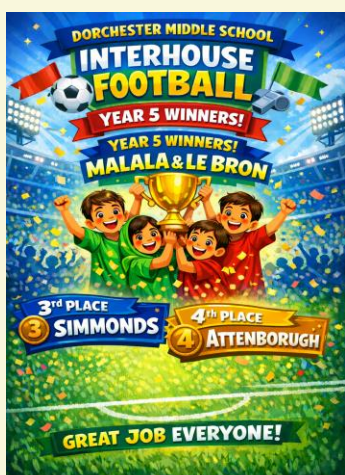
Mrs King, Mrs Davies and Mrs Hammonds met on Thursday after school to finalise the cast list and allocate roles. It took quite a long time as we had to find a way to agree with each other, everyone did such a good job which made it difficult to decide!

The cast list will be shared on Monday so make sure you are there! Even if you don't have one of the main parts you are really important as everyone acts, sings and dances!

See you on Monday!

PE News

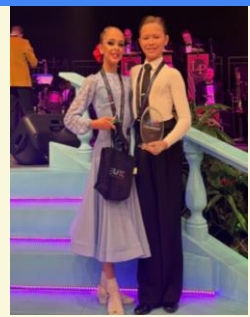
The results to the Interhouse Football competition are in: Comfortably in 4th place is Attenborough; in 3rd place is Simmonds; and due to the never-ending penalty shoot-out in Year 5, we have a tie for 1st place: [congratulations](#) to both Malala and Le Bron.



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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Leo and his dance partner competed at the UK Open International championships at the BIC in Bournemouth on the weekend; they were competing against top competitors from all over the world. They reached the semi-final of the Juvenile Open Ballroom, which compared to last year when they didn't make any rounds is an amazing achievement and shows how hard they have worked to progress. They became Champions of the Juvenile American Smooth!! We are all so proud of Leo's hard work and dedication!!



Congratulations to our Year 7 Footballers who thoroughly enjoyed a competitive five a side tournament. All six players had highlights throughout, they were all fantastic. As it was, it came down to penalties in the final against Atlantic, the tension was unbearable but, credit where credit is due, our young players kept cool heads and took the victory. Again, a massive congratulations to our Year 7s and thank you for your tremendous effort, we are all very proud of you.

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Reading News

Coming Soon to the Library! - ❤️ Blind Date with a Book ❤️

This Valentine's Day, pupils are invited to go on a Blind Date with a Book! Selected books will be wrapped up, so readers won't know which story they're choosing. Each wrapped book comes with a short clue to help them Decide. Will it be funny, exciting, or full of adventure? There's only one way to find out...

Save the Date: World Book Day!

Get ready to celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 5 March 2026!**
Please keep an eye on your email inbox for all the details!

DMS Christmas Reading Bingo

Thank you for your patience while we finalise the winners of the DMS Christmas Reading Bingo. They will be announced very shortly.



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Y8 The Fragility of Freedom – Corn Exchange Exhibition

A huge well done to all our Y8 pupils who went to the Corn Exchange on Tuesday to share their work from our 'Fragility of Freedom' exhibition last week. The authorities who attended were so impressed with the quality of the work, that they wanted it all at the Corn Exchange.

We are so proud of what you have all achieved Year 8s!!



Year 6 have been working on a cable tidy project this term and have been super creative with their designs! Look at some of the fantastic pieces they have produced. Lots more photos on Facebook!!



What else is happening in our Community?

Community First at DMS

We had a range of store cupboard essentials for the food bank last week. We hope that more and new families will come along to visit us next time on 13th February from 3 to 4.30pm. We had professionals from the You Trust who provided housing, benefits and universal credit advice, the Early Help team, My Time – Young carers, Mosaic and Target Youth. Our parents were pleased with the support given!! Do join us next time!!



Medical Room Art Competition

Last week was the deadline for the Medical Room Art Competition. Thank you to all the participants, it was a difficult decision to select a winner, but we are pleased to announce that Madeleine A in Year 6 won!. Her work is now making our medical room brighter and more welcoming. Huge thanks to Miss Sales for organising!



12 And finally...

We look forward to seeing many more of you at our second Community First Event on Friday 13th February. Thank you for supporting your children to attend school regularly and for making sure they complete their homework to the best of their abilities. We work best as a team!!

Have a super weekend!

Mrs Hammonds