

Dear DMS Families,

When will the rain ever stop? I hope that everybody has now recovered from all the flooding and that nobody suffered any long-term damage to their property. A special thank you for last Friday when several parents became very creative in their quest for getting their children to attend school safely when the county transport was cancelled.

I am delighted to say that this week, we hit a record for the free KS2 breakfast club, serving 152 pupils on Monday. Please remember that any child in years 5 and 6 can attend from 8:30am in the drama hall. We serve a variety of cereal, fruit and toast and the children can sit and chat with their friends, play games, draw or complete homework. Breakfast Club forms part of our offer for wraparound care and we can provide childcare from 7:30am through to 5:30pm for all children. If you would like further information on Wraparound care, please contact Mrs King at: nking@dms.wessex.ac or the school office.

As a reminder, no toys of any kind are allowed in school. Specific pupils have been allocated fiddle toys from the SEND department as part of their education plan, and these are the only ones allowed. Thank you for your support and understanding.

We have a busy week coming up, with the Children's Mental Health Week and our Community First Support Hub and there is more information in this newsletter

I will also (finally!) be taking the year 7 and year 8 netball teams to their area tournaments after being postponed 3 time due to the weather.

Miss Clements

2

Important dates for your diary

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| 8th – 14th February | Children's Mental Health Week – Sunday 8th Feb Junior Park Run |
| 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 |

3

PTFA News

It is finally here... tonight it's Bingo Night!! 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, don't miss out!!

You child should have received a leaflet to take home about the Winter Walk. Wrap up warm and join the DMS PTFA Winter Walk around Poundbury! Use this Clue Sheet and head out to explore the local area. As you walk, work out the clues, answer the questions, and enjoy discovering Poundbury at your own pace. Once you're done, return your completed sheet to school to be entered into a prize draw to win a hamper! It's a great excuse to get out and about with friends and family over the next few weeks. Enjoy some fresh air, have a bit of fun, and support the PTFA at the same time. Happy walking!



What is the Community First support hub and food bank?

We are running our Community First support hub to help all our families. The next one is taking place on Friday 13th February from 2:30pm until 4pm in the drama hall. Over the next 3 sessions, we will have a number of agencies represented who will be able to offer help and guidance: Early Help, Mosaic (youth bereavement), the targeted youth team, MHST (Mental Health Support Team), Citizens Advice, The YouTrust/Paragon (domestic abuse) and MyTime (young carers).

The food bank will have essential items like bread, pasta and sauce, tinned goods, toiletries and sanitary products. We will also have winter coats and PE hoodies for you to take home with you.

If you would like a food parcel made for you to collect from the support hub, or reception on Friday, please email Mrs Stewart-Pope: cstewart-pope@dms.wessex.ac

Pupil Question of the Week

Why did Mrs Hyde show us a video in assembly about the Wild Haggis that lives in Scotland? (Parents, yes you did read the question correctly)

Next week is Safer Internet Day and the theme is "**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**". Mrs Hyde spoke about the power of AI (artificial intelligence) and how it is being used to generate fake news and information. Mrs Hyde wanted you to understand how easy it can be to look at information online and believe that it is real. Lots of you thought that the 'haggis' was a cute and cuddly creature and the AI generated voice over by 'David Attenborough' made it seem real.

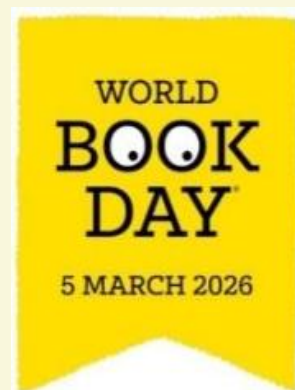
It is important that you have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when you are using smart technology. Click [here](#) for top tips for parents and carers.

World Book Day at DMS – Go All In on Reading!

World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 5th March 2026**. This year's theme, "Go All In", celebrates the National Year of Reading 2026 and encourages children to explore their interests and enjoy reading. At Dorchester Middle School, we have a range of activities planned to celebrate reading and inspire a love of books. A full letter has been sent home, but here's a quick summary of what's planned:

- **Scholastic Book Fair:** open after school from Tuesday 3rd – Monday 9th March. Card payments only or by using the following link: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/84585027>
- **£1 World Book Day Voucher:** all pupils will receive a £1 voucher to spend on books
- **Competitions:**
 - *Extreme Reading* – read somewhere unusual (but safe!)
 - *Go All In on a 2p Coin* – create tiny book-inspired artwork
 - Entries due by Wednesday 4th March
- **Book Swap:** bring up to three suitable books to the library by Wednesday 4th March to receive swap tokens for our breaktime book swap on World Book Day
- **Reading Ambassadors:** applications for this year's Reading Ambassadors open on World Book Day
- **On the day:** a whole range of book and reading related activities!
- **Dress-up (optional):** pupils and staff are invited to dress as a **book genre**
 - Attenborough: Action & Adventure
 - Le Bron: Mystery
 - Malala: Fantasy
 - Simmonds: Other Times & Places

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day with our Pupils, parents and carers for their continued support in inspiring a love of reading.



7

Celebrating our amazing pupils...

On Saturday, our winners of the Rotary Club Young Artist competition were presented with their prizes and certificates. It was really special to see them receiving these very well deserved awards!!!

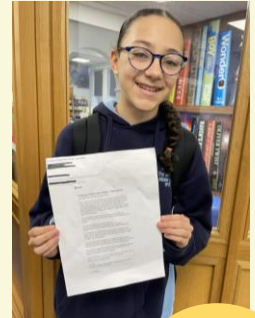


Well done to Matilda in Y6 for winning not one, but two medals on a dance competition, one for Latin and one for ballroom!!



Very well done to Kaylen, who has been invited by the Lionesses to take part in their talent programme! We are so excited for you Kaylen, what fantastic news!!

Have we mentioned we have VERY talented pupils at DMS? They represent the best of our school's core values and we are so proud of each and every one of them!!!



8

ICT News

Last week, our pupils in Year 6, were looking inside a computer during their ICT lessons!! Labelling all of the key parts that make a computer work, they enjoyed looking at RAMS, the computer 'Brain' and many other incredible parts. They thoroughly enjoyed it! Thank you, Mrs Hyde, for making our lessons fun and engaging!!



9

Children's Mental Health Week 8th – 14th February 2026



The Children's Mental Health Week will kick off with the Great Field Junior Parkrun next Sunday 8th February, who is joining us? We hope to get as many children from DMS along as possible! To participate, please have your parents/carers pre-register you, by visiting the Parkrun website to complete the registration form: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/?section=form>. They will need to select: **The Great Field Junior Park Run**, from the drop-down menu on the registration form.

CAKE SALE

Friday 13th February
3:30pm (after school)
on the playground

Any cake donations welcome!

Any cake donations welcome!
Please bring these to reception on the morning of the cake sale.

All money raised will be going to the local food bank. Event run by School Council.

We will also have a drop-down lesson on Tuesday afternoon, assemblies throughout the week from the MHST to talk about friendships and anxiety; the second Community First event on Friday and also on Friday 13th February a Cake Sale by members of our Student Council who will be selling baked goods in the Year 5 playground at the end of the day. Cake donations can be brought to Reception on the morning of this day. All the money raised will be donated to the Local Foodbank!!

As we continue to work as a community, our fantastic PTFA have organised a Winter Walk in line with one of the ways to help our wellbeing which is being active. Just wrap up warm and enjoy some fresh air and a bit of fun by supporting the PTFA. Information how to participate has been shared with the children and yourselves but if you would like more info, please ask in the PTFA via their Facebook page.

Check out our AMAZING Eco club in action! Out in the rain, after school doing a quick spot of litter picking! They have been working hard with Ms Sharman thinking about many ideas to make our school more Eco friendly! They have also been joined by our former pupil Isla, who now attends THS and who has been a role model for them. Well done team, you are fantastic!



What else has happening in our Community?

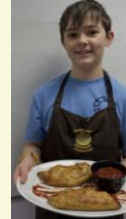
Medical room competition – Certificate and award presentation

Miss Sales presented Maddie A in Year 6, her very well-deserved certificate and a £10 Waterstones voucher, for her amazing poster which now lives in the medical room. Well done Maddie!!!



Food Tech Assessments

Have a look at some of the amazing dishes our Year 8 pupils are cooking up at school! Each pupil has made a selection of dishes over the term, working towards a final piece of their choice for their assessment! Our school smells yummy most of the time!! More pictures to come as they complete these! Move over Bake off!



Fun in the playground

Since we finally have had a bit of a break from the rain, it was time for the skipping rope to come out!! Sometimes we wonder if the teachers enjoy more than the pupils!



Free Webinar for parents – How hormones impact ADHD

We have received an invite to be shared with our parents/carers, to join a free webinar with Kerry Mulgrew, Occupational Therapist, as she shares practical, evidence-based strategies to understand the links, spot patterns, and discover practical strategies to support your child's wellbeing through hormonal changes. 📅 Date: Wednesday 11th February - 🕒 Time: 10am-11am.

In this webinar, Kerry will share:

- ✓ How hormones influence ADHD behaviours and emotional regulation across developmental stages.
- ✓ Insights into neurodivergent brains and bodies, helping you anticipate challenges during hormonal changes.
- ✓ Practical strategies that help children thrive during periods of hormonal fluctuation.

Please click on the following link to register for this free webinar:

[Neurodivergent brains and bodies, how hormones impact ADHD.](#)

And finally...

It will be great to see as many of you as possible at the Great Field Junior Parkrun on Sunday – warm-up is 8:55am. I will be lacing up my trainers to support the runners and parents – don't forget your barcode!

Miss Clements