

Dear DMS Families

Returning to school with some sunshine and no rain is a celebration in itself!

Our pupils have settled back into school life quickly, and there is no doubt this half term will race by, just as fast as the ones before it.

Next week is a **BIG WEEK**- it is World Book Day! In recognition of the National Year of Reading, DMS is “going all in,” which is this year’s theme. I hope your children have already chosen their characters and are excited for the dress-up! As parents, you should have received plenty of information from Mrs James about next week, so please take some time to familiarise yourselves with all the plans. We are so excited!

As many of you will know, Mr Webb is undergoing medical treatment and will be off-site for the next four weeks. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to having him back soon. In the meantime, I will be “borrowing” a few of his Headteacher stickers so that the wonderful work our pupils produce continues to be recognised! I will also be keeping him updated on everything happening here at DMS.

At the end of last term, our Student Council hosted a Cake Bake Sale to round off Mental Health Awareness Week. Thank you to all the *amazing* parents, pupils and staff who baked or bought cakes—the event was a huge success! I was worried we would not have enough cakes to sell! This certainly was not the case! Our pupils served brilliantly and worked incredibly hard as crowds of eager cake-buyers appeared. I was very proud of them all. And the best part... we raised just under £300 for the local food bank! I will discuss at the next student council meeting about how often we should run this event, as I know pupils are keen for it to return soon!

Wishing you a bright and sunny weekend!!

*Mrs King*



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Important dates for your diary

2nd March	Workshop for parents in school – Difficulties w/sleep - 4.30 to 6pm
4th – 5th March	<b>Y5 Parent Consultation Evening – 4 to 6pm</b>
5th March	<b>World Book Day – Information sent to all families</b>
9th March	Information Evening for Y5 Residential trip - 5pm – Hall
18th March	<b>SEND Parent Forum Meeting – 2pm</b>
19th – 20th March	Y5 Residential trip to New Barn
20th March	Support Hub and Food Bank at DMS 2.30 to 4pm
20th March	<b>PTFA Disco</b>

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PTFA News

Wrap up warm and join the DMS PTFA Winter Walk around Poundbury! Use the attached 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 are done, return your completed sheet to the school office by **Friday 20th March** to be entered into prize draw to win a hamper full of goodies, plus 10 runner up prizes of chocolate! If you are out and about with an adult, do snap some photos and share all the fun things you discover on your walk on our PTFA Facebook page. **Happy Walking!!!!**

We wanted to remind you that the end of term **PTFA Disco** is also taking place on **Friday 20th March!!** It is always great fun for the children, more information to follow!!!

**If you are interested in joining our amazing PTFA, or would like to support them in any way, their next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March at 6pm at the Duchess of Cornwall Pub in Poundbury. Everyone welcome!!!**



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## Parent Question of the Week

### My child wants to observe Ramadan – is there a way they can do that at DMS?

Ramadan 2026 began on 18 February and will run until 19 March. If your child would like to observe Ramadan, please let Mrs Hammonds know. We have already made arrangements for other pupils who are observing Ramadan and we want to ensure that everyone feels included and respected during this important time of the year.

## Pupil Question of the Week

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### Can I share what I have achieved outside of school?

We know we have a wonderfully talented group of pupils at DMS. We are always keen to celebrate achievements outside of school and we love sharing pupils' successes on our school Facebook page!!

If you win any awards, certificates or competitions, please come and see Mrs. King. We really enjoy seeing our pupils flourish both inside and outside of school.



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### 🎨 ✨ World Book Day at DMS – Next Week! Go All In on Reading! ✨ 🎨

A reminder that World Book Day will take place on Thursday 5th March 2026. This year we are celebrating the National Year of Reading with the theme "Go All In", and we have lots of exciting activities planned across the school to inspire a love of reading.

#### What's happening next week:

##### 📖 Scholastic Book Fair

After school from **Tuesday 3rd – Monday 9th March**

Card payments only or pay online: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/84585027>

##### 🔪 £1 World Book Day Voucher

All pupils will receive a £1 book token. We have also added the digit *one* to this edition of the DMS Dozen.

##### 🏆 Competitions (*Entries due Wednesday 4th March*)

- *Extreme Reading* – read somewhere unusual (but safe!) email entries to [library@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:library@dms.wessex.ac)
- *Go All In on a 2p Coin* – create tiny book-inspired artwork

##### 📖 Book Swap

Bring up to three suitable books to the library by Wednesday 4th March for breaktime swapping on World Book Day.

##### ☀️ Reading Ambassadors

Applications open on World Book Day.

##### 👗 Optional Dress-Up

Pupils and staff are invited to dress as a book genre, linked to our school houses:

- Attenborough – Action & Adventure
- Le Bron – Mystery
- Malala – Fantasy
- Simmonds – Other Times & Places

##### 📅 On the Day

A variety of book and reading-related activities will be taking place throughout the school. The full letter sent to you all, with all the details has been attached again to make everything easy to find. Thank you for your continued support in helping us celebrate reading at DMS! 🎨 ✨

## Celebrating our amazing pupils... Part 1



Our very own Lidia in Year 6 competed with her dance school Quay Theatre Arts at Exeter Dance Festival over half term. She danced and sang in solos, duets and groups for Ballet, Tap, Modern and Musical Theatre.

She came away with six gold, one silver and three bronze medals! Most amazingly their Musical Theatre group entry, School Song from Matilda, placed 4th overall in the whole Festival (out of around 1400 entries!!) Her team are competing next at the All-England Dance Semi-Finals in May!

Very well done Lidia, we are super proud of you!!!

## Celebrating our amazing pupils... Part 2

Last half term, pupils in Years 5 and 7 took part in the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch.

They did a great job identifying the birds visiting our school; from Jackdaws and Starlings, to Great Tits and a particularly bold Robin!!

They had a fantastic time learning about them and are now our experts in the school!

Congratulations to all of them!!!



## Celebrating our amazing pupils... Part 3

Huge congratulations to Kaylen in Year 8 on her invitation to the England women's national football team, the Lionesses' Talent Programme. We shared this great news a few weeks back, but the praise from her Football Coaching club (Paragon), has been fantastic and worth sharing what they have said:



'Your work rate, attitude and commitment never go unnoticed and this opportunity is fully deserved. We're all incredibly proud of you!!!'

Kaylen has been attending their coaching sessions for nearly four years and has consistently shown a real eagerness to learn, improve and push herself.

Well done Kaylen, you are a fantastic role model at DMS!

A little late, but still definitely worth celebrating the efforts of our fabulous Year 8 Netball team! Congratulations to the team who played brilliantly at the area netball tournament before the half term break. Only one goal to Ossies ended up being the difference between us going forward to the county tournament and coming second.



Huge congratulations to our year 7/8 football team. They secured a well-deserved victory against Studio School. Kaylen opened the scoring with a well-placed shot; Captain Carly was exceptional and scored a brace, and to top off the match, Bella scored a hard earned fourth.

Very well done to both of our DMS teams, it was a team effort for both groups, you were all brilliant!!

## What else has been happening in our Community?

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### Children's Mental Health Week

The DMS Love was definitely in the air at The Great Field Parkrun on Saturday 14th February!! A fantastic number of our DMS community rocked up on a beautiful sunny day, ready and eager to tackle 5km which is no mean feat at the best of times!! A massive thank you to each and every one of our superstars for marking the end of Children's Mental Health Week in such a positive Way!!



### Bike Donations

Some of our DMS families have generously donated eight bikes to use for the Bikeability programme, this is so amazingly kind and means that all pupils can have the opportunity to take part. Thank you so much!! The bikes may need a little TLC, so if anyone is able to help get them 'roadworthy', it will be much appreciated. If you have the tools and/or the skills to fix them, please contact Mrs Anderson at: [janderson@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:janderson@dms.wessex.ac). Thank you again!!

### World Book Day Competition: Go All In... on a 2p Coin!

Check out some of the amazing tiny book-inspired artworks we have already received! There is still time to join in for World Book Day: create your own miniature masterpiece on a 2p coin!! This could be: a favourite scene, a beloved character, a magical setting, or even a tiny book cover! Bring your tiny artwork (with a 2p coin if possible!) to the library, by Wednesday 4th March. Prizes await the most creative entries! Let's see more tiny masterpieces like these!!



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## And finally...

As we come to the end of our first week back, it has been wonderful to see the school filled once again with energy, enthusiasm, and a genuine eagerness to learn. Pupils have settled back into routines with positivity, and it has been a pleasure seeing them working well and enjoying breaktimes together.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend with hopefully some drier weather and enjoyable family time.

*Mrs King*