

Dear DMS Families,

Some weeks there just seems to be so much going on in DMS it is difficult to know where to start – this is definitely one of those weeks!

The highlight of the week has been World Book Day and the amazing participation by the pupils. Events like these are highly reliant on the enthusiasm and engagement by the whole school community so it is only right to thank all the parents, students, and staff for their efforts in making it such a memorable day in the calendar. A special thank you must also go to Mrs James, Mrs Jeffrey and Mrs Schnorr for their organisation and tenacity in putting all the different activities together – without them, none of what has happened this week would be possible. If you would like to see more of the amazing photos from World Book Day, please see our social media posts. A few highlights can be found further down in the Dozen, but more highlights I am sure will be included in next week's DMS Dozen. So, watch out for pirates, princesses, scientists and dinosaurs - you have been warned. But as Mrs Woodley put it, it was "Totally ROARSOME!"

Thank you also to everyone who came along to the Year 5 Parent Consultation Evening. We hope that the evening was positive and informative around the progress your child is making, now they are half-way through their first year at DMS. It is scary to think how fast that time flies by. If you have any feedback about the evenings, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are always looking at ways we can improve these opportunities.

Going into next week, we have our DMS Careers Week. We will be using some time in each subject to present and discuss future jobs and careers so that pupils can start thinking about the avenues their learning might take them. We like to remind them that through education they are 'prioritising their future' even if they are not quite sure where it might be taking them at this time. Please feel free to support the discussions around careers at home to see what ambitions there might be.

Mr Murray

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Important dates for your diary

9th March	Last day of the Scholastic Book Fair (you can purchase books up to 4:30pm on Monday)
9th March	Information Evening for Y5 Residential trip - 5pm – Hall
18th March	SEND Parent Forum Meeting – 2pm
19th – 20th March	Y5 Residential trip to New Barn
20th March	Support Hub and Food Bank at DMS 2.30 to 4pm
20th March	PTFA Disco
23rd March	End of term assembly – Y6 – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
24th March	End of term assembly – Y5 – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
25th March	End of term assembly – Y7 – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome
27th March	End of term assembly – Y8 – 2-3pm at THS – parents/carers welcome

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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Very well done to Mina and Isabelle in Year 6, as they shared some of their fantastic self-portrait work done in in their art lesson. They both earned a gold Headteacher sticker!!

Whenever you create work that you are proud of, in any subject, do come and show it to Mr Webb or Mrs King (during his absence). They would love to see the amazing work you are doing in school!!!



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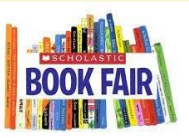
Parent Question of the Week

I couldn't make the book fair but my child would still like to buy a book, what should I do?

All children have had the chance to look through the school book fair during Library lessons and breaktimes this week. The Book fair was also open late after school on Wednesday and Thursday for Year 5 Parents' Evening. The Book Fair is still here and will be available until 4:30pm today as well as Monday 9th March.

If a pupil sees a book that they like but knows that their parent will not be able to come in purchase the book in person, we have provided a form for them to fill in which they can bring home and hand to you. There is information on the form to help, but you can pay from home by following

this link: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/84585027>



Pupil Question of the Week

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When will the cutoff be for Achievement Points ready for the Celebration Assemblies?

Good question. As it is a shorter term this time, achieving some of the 'higher' awards might be a little bit harder, but definitely not impossible. With this in mind, we will be running APs up until the 16th of March for the Spring Term. We will then use these totals to work out which stripes you have earned.

Remember, this does not mean you should stop there. Any Achievement Points earned in the last week will then go towards your Summer totals, so you don't miss out on the successes you have had.

If you want to know where you are with your APs, just ask your parents, who can check the Arbor App to see how you are doing. Alternatively, your Tutor might also be able to check for you. #DMSROARS

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EXTREME READING CHALLENGE

One of the many activities we had for World Book Day, was the Extreme Reading Challenge – Go All In!! From playgrounds to the sea, from sharks to trolleys... the adventure never stops for our avid readers!!

We had an incredible number of entries, well over 60!! So many, that we have run out of display space and had to put some of the photographs on the Library door to display them!!

Judging took place on World Book Day, so, watch this space next week, for information about the winners of this Challenge and the winners of the 2p Coin competition next week. The photographs will remain on display for a few weeks as they have generated some fantastic discussion amongst the children... and staff!!

Thank you all for taking part!!!

[#worldbookday2026](#) [#nationalyearofreading](#)



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World Book Day 2026

We had such a fantastic day yesterday celebrating World Book Day and made so many great memories, that it is difficult to summarise in a few photographs. We have lots more on our Facebook page: from dressing up, to the lunch quiz, awarding the Extreme Reader challenge and the 2p coin competition, to sharing a gripping story each lesson and finishing the day with a free book!! Everything was so well thought out, thank you Mrs James!



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English News

7C and 7D put Victor Frankenstein on trial in English today to decide whether he was innocent or guilty of the deaths caused by his 'monster' creation. All sides argued their cases valiantly and passionately - we definitely have some barristers in the making! The verdict? Judge Laurie of 7C declared Frankenstein 'Innocent', while the court of Judge Tosin found him 'Guilty'!



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Sports News

Thank you to Mr Roberts, who invited John Stewart into a Year 8 Rugby lesson last Thursday and gave a first class workshop to our eldest pupils.

John Stewart
Rugby union player

Age: 23 years
8 March 2002

Education: Beechen Cliff School

Overview: John Stewart is an English rugby union player who plays hooker for Leicester Tigers. Wikipedia >

John, who comes from Dorchester has represented Bath Rugby Club and now, more recently, Leicester Tigers - he has been a full-time professional sportsman for 6 years. John has travelled the world playing rugby and has represented England at U20. He plays in the forward line as a Hooker.

Pupils learned precise body management when entering a contact point in the game.

Thank you John for making the time and coming to DMS and sharing your talent and knowledge with us!!



A big hello from the PTFA team! We can't believe we are already halfway through the academic year — and we still have so many exciting events to bring you!! There's still time to complete the **Winter Walk**, so grab your family or friends and head out around Poundbury. Once you have finished, hand your completed sheet into the school office. A winner will be picked at random, along with 10 runner-up prizes. Next up is our **School Disco on 20th March**; please see the attached poster for details on how to buy tickets, but you will also be able to buy them on the door, on the day. Our **Family Fun Quiz Night** will take place on **24th April** — we hope to see lots of you there!! Planning is also well underway for some of our biggest events of the year:

- **The Summer Fete**
- **The new Casterbridge Canter (trail run)**
- **Our community-sponsored school run**, where everyone can earn points for their Houses!

As always, we are keen to welcome new volunteers. If you have some time to spare, a business, or a particular skill that could help the PTFA continue to provide additional support and funds for the school, we would love to hear from you!! Please contact us at: ptfa.dms@gmail.com. We are also looking for local businesses to sponsor the upcoming Casterbridge Canter, which is already shaping up to be a very popular event.

Thank you very much for your continued support!!



What else has been happening in our Community?

End of term assemblies – at THS

As every end of term, parents and carers are invited and welcomed to the end of term assemblies to be held at **the Thomas Hardy School's theatre, from 2 to 3pm** on the following dates, depending on the year group:

Year 6 Celebration Assembly - Monday 23rd March 2026 - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCXR>

Year 5 Celebration Assembly - Tuesday 24th March 2026 - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCXT>

Year 7 Celebration Assembly - Wednesday 25th March 2026 - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCXH>

Year 8 Celebration Assembly - Friday 27th March 2026 - <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GCXX>

DMS Careers Week

Thank you to Mrs Hammonds for sharing the information about Careers Week to our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils in assembly on Monday. DMS Careers Week is next week, and this is when the pupils in KS3 will learn a little more (in their subject lessons) about the many different careers that relate to particular subject specialisms.

The Royal BooksNBiccies Society

Our KS3 book club went to the Thomas Hardy School to take part in the Wessex Amazing Book Award last week. They have been busy reading the shortlist of six books since November and met up with book club members from eight other Dorset schools to vote for the winner. They discussed their favourite book and contributed to a presentation given for each one. The winning author from last year, Kathryn Foxfield, gave a Zoom talk with lots of tips about writing your own book. Of course, there was some amazing cake to eat, with double portions this year!!



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As always, we wish you a wonderful end to the week and an enjoyable weekend. Please continue to look out for updates around Celebration Assemblies, PTFA events and, as we get closer to the Summer Term, information around upcoming trips and residential. Let us hope the drier weather stays with us (as he imagines the universal groan of tempting fate and then looks at the weather forecast!) so we can make the most of the opportunities on the horizon.

And it would not be fair to finish, without wishing Mrs Schnorr all the best for the future. She is leaving at the end of today to start a new adventure. She has worked in the school for 6 years and the impact she has had cannot be underestimated – just look at the support she put in for World Book Day. We wish her all the very best!

Mr Murray