

Dear DMS Families,

As many of you may have seen in the news recently the Government has launched a new White Paper to outline its plans for SEND education over the next 10 years. This White Paper has prioritised changes in the way SEND education will be led and driven for students who need extra support to achieve alongside their peers. This paper excites me, as it opens the door to allow us to find ways, we can be more inclusive to support the families in our community, but it has also allowed me space to reflect upon the amazing success all our students have at DMS.

We write about the 'busy weeks' often; performing arts; our sporting achievements; trips and residential; Roars Certificates, the list seems endless! At all of these events and celebrations, I see students from a range of backgrounds, all thriving and all active members of the DMS community. As the SENDCO, this makes me proud; to be part of the journey but also inspires me to want to do more. I hope over the coming few months we will be able to do this, with our families' help and support.

Our next Coffee morning for SEND parents is on the 18th March at 2pm. I hope to see some of you there, as your views and opinions help to shape our school for your children and help me to learn more about them. I have attached to this newsletter a Parent Guide and a Children's Guide to the White Paper which helps to explain it all.

Ms Layfield

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Important dates for your diary

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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Introducing this week

Miss Bennett joined DMS this week as our new Pupil Support Worker. She joins us from St Mary's First School, Charminster, where she was the Family Support Worker.

Miss Bennett has a wealth of experience supporting pupils and their families, we are really pleased she has joined the DMS Pastoral team!

In her spare time Miss Bennett loves running, walking her lovely black Labrador, Alfie and attends a monthly book club. She also is an all-year round sea dipper!! Miss Bennett is the mum to a 14-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son.



My child has a place at the Thomas Hardy School, and is on the SEND register, what happens now?

Moving schools is always a really anxious time for students and parents. This can be a particularly difficult time for parents and students with additional SEND needs. Over the next few weeks meetings will start taking place with the SENDCO and the leadership team at the Thomas Hardy School and I will be sharing all information about individual adaptations and support needs. We will also begin the Enhanced Transition program. This program is led by staff at the Thomas Hardy School and is an important part of getting your child ready to move on. We want the next term to continue to be an enjoyable time for all as we prepare to celebrate success and say goodbye, If you have any questions, please do contact me.

Miss Layfield

Pupil Question of the Week

How will I know if I am part of the Enhanced Transition program to Thomas Hardy School?

Over the next few weeks, we will start meeting with students who we think will benefit from being part of this program. It is important to remember that feeling nervous about moving on to a new school is completely normal, but there are some students who may need a little bit more help and support. The Enhanced Transition itself will start after in Summer 2.

ROARS

It is always a pleasure to share with you all, the proud recipients of the ROARS certificates. These come a week behind, as they are handed in the assemblies at the end of each week.

We are so very proud of our pupils!!!



Year 5

Year 6



Year 7

Year 8



PTFA News

Don't forget that the PTFA will draw the winner for the Winter Walk, on Friday 20th March, so there is still time for you to participate!! There are amazing prizes to be won!!



Also on Friday 20th March, our amazing PTFA are hosting the traditional end of term Disco for both KS2 and KS3 pupils. Tickets are £3 and you can use the QR code to purchase them, you will have to enter your child's name and class. Tuck shop with drinks and snacks on the night, please bring cash. It is always a great evening for all the children, plus it is another way to raise funds which go to support our school.

The Great British Spring Clean is back!!

The Great British Spring Clean launches today, with more than 350,000 bags already pledged. People across the country, from families, to community groups to schools, councils, and businesses are preparing for their litter-picking events. We hope everyone can join in!!



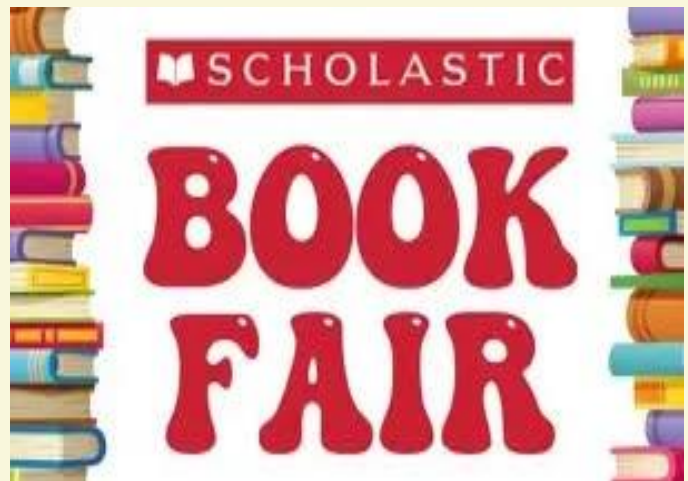
Our incredible pupils from the Echo Club, led by Ms Sharman, are joining in this amazing environmental campaign. They have pledged to join the Great British Litter Pick Event.

More information to follow next week from our DMS Environmental Heroes!! #GBSpringClean

Reading News

Thank you to everyone who visited and supported the School Book Fair last week. Our DMS families spent nearly **£1300** on books for their children, which means that the library has received over **£700 worth of free books** from Scholastic!!!

A wide variety of new books will be arriving in the Library soon, all thanks to your support, thank you again!!



Celebrating our Amazing Pupils...

Huge congratulations to Roo in Year 7, on achieving an impressive milestone, his Blue belt in Kickboxing! We are beaming with pride at DMS!

We are also super proud of how our pupils joined in the many activities and challenges as we celebrated World Book Day last week. From extreme reading, to the 2p coin artwork, to the amazing costumes. There are many photos on Facebook, but here is a small sample!!



What else has been happening in our Community?

We have had a lot of Sport events during the last few weeks, busy organising it all!! Well done to our Year 7 and 8 footballers who played matches against Studio school on Wednesday! You represented DMS brilliantly!



Great show from the Year 7 basketball team today, runners up in the area cup! Great defense and team play saw the team go through the group undefeated with 3 wins from 3 games. They faced Budmouth for the second time in the final and could not quite defeat them for a second time. A narrow defeat by one point saw the DMS team finish runners up. Great effort and sportsmanship throughout from the team!

Don't forget that on **Friday 20th March** we'll have the next session of the **Support Hub and Food Bank at DMS, from 2.30 to 4pm**. You can contact Mrs Stewart-Pope if you have any queries: cstewart-pope@dms.wessex.ac

And finally...

This is a very short term and it feels like Easter is nearly upon us, but we still have a very packed diary of activities. Next week we will be waving off our Year 5s on their first DMS residential trip (fingers firmly crossed for good weather!) and upon their return we will have our PTFA disco for all years so don't forget to buy your tickets. The PTFA always put on a fabulous event and the disco is one of my favourites.

I would like to end this week by welcoming Miss Bennett to the DMS Pastoral team. As you would have read earlier, Miss Bennett is our new Pupil Support Worker.

Ms Layfield