

Dear DMS Families,

The Easter holidays are finally here! It may have been a short half term, but we've certainly packed a lot into the last five weeks. Our pupils have been working incredibly hard in lessons, and we're especially proud of our Year 6s who have taken their mock SATs this week. Visitors often comment on how calm and focused our classrooms feel - a real credit to our pupils!

We've also got plenty to look forward to after the break. Next half term is shaping up to be a busy one with the Year 8 River Trip, Year 7 parent consultation evenings, the PTFA Quiz Night, Community First and Food Bank collections, the Year 6 visit to see *Matilda* in Southampton, Year 8 Residential to Torquay, Year 7's Medical Mavericks workshops, Year 6 SATs, the Year 5 BSO sessions, and the Year 7 Residential to Exmoor.

We would also like to welcome new members of staff starting after the Easter break: Mr Shortman, Head of Music; Mr Nicholson, Teacher of English and Ms Hughes, KS2 Teacher. A warm welcome to them from the DMS community.

Lots of exciting experiences ahead for everyone! But first, let's reflect on this past week.

Mrs Hammonds

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Important dates for your diary

30th March to 13th April (inclusive)

13th April

14th April

17th April

22nd April

23rd April

24th April

Easter Holidays – School closed to pupils

Inset Day for staff – School closed to pupils

All year groups back to school

Community 1st Event – Support hub and food bank 3:15 to 4:30pm

Parent Consultation Evening – Year 7 – 4-6pm

Parent Consultation Evening – Year 7 – 4-6pm

PTFA Quiz Night – more information to follow

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Community First - Support Hub & Food Bank

It has been wonderful to see so many families attend these events and due to the enormous success and demand, we can now only provide one parcel per family, to ensure every family has received a food parcel. Thank you for pre-booking your food parcel, as this helps us to organise the volume needed.

We have had fantastic support from all the agencies/charities involved, such as: Mosaic, the You Trust, Early Family Help, MHST and Young Carers. The You Trust can help you with benefit and housing issues, please reach out.

We continue to raise funds and collect donations from Tesco, Asda and Waitrose amongst others, who have supported us through out these events. The next date is Friday 24th April and it will be held in what we call the HUTS (outside buildings next to the PD Base, by the Year 6 gate) from **15.15 to 16.30hrs**.

Thank you to everyone involved for all of your support. We are really looking forward to seeing on the next event!!

Parent Question of the Week

How do I make appointments for the Year 7 Parent Consultation Evenings?

Our final consultation evenings for this academic year as for our Year 7 parents and pupils and will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd March from 4 – 6pm. These meetings will be face in person with meetings in the drama hall and ICT suite.

Bookings will go live at 2pm on Monday 13th April and can be made using the Arbor app for all those who teach your child. They system will close for bookings on at 12pm on Monday 20th April in order to give us time to prepare. As some members of staff are part time, they might not be available on both evenings so bear this is mind when making your appointments.

Our lovely office staff are more than happy to help you with any issues with the booking system.

Pupil Questions of the Week

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When will my end of term report be sent home?

Your Spring Term Reports were sent to your parents on Thursday afternoon. Make sure you read through your grades, paying particular attention to your EWL (Engagement with Learning) as this tells the story of the effort you put into every lesson. Concentrating and actively taking part in each lesson will help you to focus, hold information and develop skills.

When do I come back to school after the Easter holidays?

You will be delighted to learn that you don't have to come to school on Monday 13th April as it is a teacher training day. Enjoy an extra day of holiday and spare a thought for your teachers who will be in DMS working hard to get ready for your return on Tuesday 14th April. We look forward to seeing you then!

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Celebrating our amazing pupils...

A big well done to our Year 6 netball team who played with fantastic skill and precision!

They showed great positivity and enthusiasm throughout the tournament, winning 5 games and only narrowly losing 2 - an amazing achievement. Finishing joint second is something to be really proud of! Unfortunately, they just missed out on a place in the final on goal difference, placing 3rd overall. A brilliant effort from the whole team - you represented us superbly!



DMS PTFA UPCOMING EVENTS

24
April

Family Quiz

Lots of fun to be had at our family quiz night! Always an enjoyable evening

15
May

Disco

Dance to all your favourite songs and enjoy some treats from the tuck shop

5
June

Community Challenge

Run, walk or jog 200 metre lengths of the field to win house points and raise money!

20
June

Summer Fete

The Summer Fair is back again this year, with a BBQ, bar, games, raffle, and lots more!

8
July

Gasterbridge Canter

New and exciting fundraising event - 10K* and 5K* chip timed trail races around stunning local farmland, followed by bar, BBQ and cake! *minimum age limits

10
July

End of Term and New Starters Disco

Welcoming our new starters, and celebrating the end of the school year, get ready to boogie at the final discos of the year!

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PTFA News

The Winter Walk winner was announced on Friday 20th March, along with the 10 Runner ups!

Our amazing PTFA have done it again and raised £844 on the recent school Discos, they are fantastic!

As you may have heard, there are loads of upcoming events planned by them, but the next one is the Much awaited Quiz Night! More information to follow after the Easter break. If you want to contact the PTFA please email them at: ptfa.dms@gmail.com

Eco Club News

Our Eco warriors are doing the final Eco Club entry before term break, and they are joining the **EARTH HOUR** on **Saturday 28th March 2026 at 8:30pm**. It is a worldwide action, including Big Ben, Sydney Opera House and DMS of course. There are many ways to take part: i.e.: switching off your lights, having a candlelight dinner or board games, get creative!!

WHAT IS EARTH HOUR AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Nature and climate go hand in hand. Together, they form our life-support system - giving us clean air, fresh water, the food we eat and so much more. Yet both are under threat. Earth Hour is a global moment for us to come together, switch off and show support for our world.

Every March, millions of people around the world join Earth Hour to show they care about the future of our planet. From iconic landmarks like Big Ben and the Sydney Opera House, to other iconic landmarks in cities across the globe, lights go out in a powerful display of global solidarity for our natural world. This year, we'll come together for the 20th Earth Hour, a milestone moment since the very first switch off in 2007. Since it began, Earth Hour has always been more than just an hour. It's a chance to connect with what matters most, nature and each other.

More Information on the following link: [Earth Hour: switch off for our world | WWF](https://www.earthhour.org/)



Reading News

Four members of our KS3 book group have taken part in the South West heat of the National Reading Championships. Competing in the online quiz against 24 teams, over the course of two hours they answered 75 questions about books and authors! The answers were marked throughout the quiz and at the end it was announced that DMS had come third! Well done to the team who will share some book tokens as their prize and thank you to the PTFA who paid for the entry fee to the competition.



We kicked off our second DMS Careers Week from Monday 9th to Friday 13th March, and what a brilliant week it was! Our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part, and every subject across the school delivered at least one lesson with a careers twist.

Pupils had the chance to match the skills they use in different subjects with potential future careers, and they got hands-on with practical activities that showed how classroom learning links to the world of work. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they explored innovative ideas and discovered opportunities they may not have considered before.

We are always on the lookout for parents and friends of the school who would be happy to come in and talk to our pupils about their jobs during assembly. Hearing real stories about the journey from school to career makes such a difference, and our pupils love it! If you would be brave enough to share your experiences for just 10–15 minutes, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me at dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac.

What else has been happening in our Community?

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- A massive and heartfelt 'Thank You' to all the amazing adults who came to Bradford Peverell to make the Year Five New Barn Residential the success it was! We genuinely could not have done it without our ROARSome teachers, teaching assistants, and parents. Same time next year?! 😊



- This week we had Y6s Mock SATS! The children all worked very hard. We really want to thank our volunteers and staff who helped our children with SEND needs to feel confident in their knowledge and to understand the questions better. Thank you so much for your time!!
- Another huge thank you to everyone who attended the end of term Celebration Assemblies. It was fabulous to see the pupils from all our year groups, being rewarded for their hard work over this term and for their families to have the opportunity to be there.

12 And finally...

As we head into the Easter holidays, we hope all you all enjoy a well-earned rest and some spring sunshine. Don't forget the clocks go forward this weekend, so we'll all be gaining a little extra daylight to enjoy! Have a wonderful break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, ready for another busy and exciting few weeks at DMS.

Mrs Hammonds