

Dear DMS Families,

It is fantastic to be back on site and leading the school once again following my operation! Improvement work at DMS continues at a rapid pace and there is a huge amount of work being undertaken over the coming months ready for September which I will share with you as the term unfolds.

One project is our ongoing refurbishment of the school's library which has already received a huge investment over the last twelve months but is now being increased in size to accommodate a growing and dedicated non-fiction area.

I have shared previously my view that **reading is the most important skill all young people can be taught** and I have continued to research extensively what we can implement at DMS to support children to read with fluency whilst comprehending what a writer is saying. We absolutely **cannot** have any children at DMS leaving us unable to read properly.

Books are critical to our mission and the library is at the heart of that mission being successful. Back in 2016, Norway took the decision to issue all children with an iPad when they started school at the age of five and reduce the physical books available to them. Over the following years, children were found to have a reduced vocabulary of around 17,000 words compared with that of a 'bookworm' who had a command of 55,000 – 70,000 words. Norway went from having children who were some of the best readers in the world to being below the international average. The country is working hard to correct their mistake and we are working hard to ensure we have the best library in any school within the local area in order that DMS pupils have a high exposure to a range of rich vocabulary.

*Mr Webb*

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**Important dates for your diary**

22nd April	Parent Consultation Evening – Year 7 – 4-6pm
23rd April	Parent Consultation Evening – Year 7 – 4-6pm
24th April	Support Hub and Food Bank – Community First at DMS – 3:15 to 4:30pm
24th April	PTFA Quiz Night – more information to follow
6th May	Y8 Residential trip to Torquay
11th – 14th May	Y6 SATs
20th May	Y7 Residential trip to Exmoor

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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. Contact Mrs Stewart-Pope at: [cstewart-pope@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:cstewart-pope@dms.wessex.ac)

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 you on the next event!!

**Community First Support Hub & Food Bank**



Due to high demand we can provide one parcel per family to ensure every family receives a food parcel. Thank you for pre-booking as this helps us plan.

**Supported by Mosaic, The You Trust, Early Family Help, MHST and Young Carers**

The You Trust can help with benefit and housing issues. Please reach out.

**Next date: Friday 24 April**  
**Location: the HUTS (outside buildings next to the PD Base, by the Year 6 gate)**  
**Time: 15:15 to 16:30**

Thank you to Tesco, Asda, Waitrose and all supporters

**We look forward to seeing you at the next event**

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## Parent Question of the Week

### How do you encourage reading for pleasure at DMS?

DMS is part of the National Year of Reading programme through the 'Go All In' pathway which follows a guided programme each term, taking part in a participatory award and accessing exclusive event recordings.

We celebrate World Book Day and Book Talk is embedded into all library lessons. At tutor time, tutors select books from the DMS Reading Spine which offers a selected mixture of contemporary fiction, classics, diverse authors and poetry to engage and challenge pupils.

Additionally, we have strong links with Dorset library, engage with author visits and participate in the Dorchester Literary Festival. Our after school-book clubs continue to be over-subscribed and our Reading Ambassadors meet regularly to support reading across the school by purchasing new books, leading assemblies and launching class reading trolleys in KS2.

## Pupil Questions of the Week

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### Are there new teachers who have joined the school at the start of the summer term?

Yes, we have Mr Shortman who is our new lead for Music, Mrs Hughes who is our English teacher at KS2 covering for Miss Ashley whilst she is on maternity leave and Mr Nicholson who is our new KS3 English teacher.

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### Celebrating our amazing pupils...

At DMS we love to celebrate the achievements of our pupils. Right before the Easter break, we celebrated them in the respective end of term assemblies held at the theatre of the Thomas Hardy School for each year group. We were pleased to have so many of our DMS families joining us!!



A huge well done also to Isabelle in Year 6, for gaining her Grade 8 proficiency in Trampoline!! This is a fantastic achievement awarded by British Gymnastics. We are so proud of you Isabelle!

## 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

### Casterbridge 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

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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

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Don't forget that **Friday 24th April** is Quiz Night!! Doors will open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start. Join us for a fun evening with a quiz for the whole family, raffle, bar and refreshments. Only £3.00 per person, pay at the door, cash and card payments accepted.

On **Wednesday 8th July at 7pm**, our PTFA and Casterbridge Canter have organised a Fundraiser for DMS. This will be a 10K and a 5K trail race around some stunning farmland. A pure trail run with no roads but maybe some hills!!! There will be a bar, BBQ and lots of cake for a challenging and enjoyable evening!! Entries now open at: [www.casterbridgecanter.co.uk](http://www.casterbridgecanter.co.uk)

If you want to contact the PTFA, because you have queries, or you would like to support them in any way on this fantastic events, please email them at: [ptfa.dms@gmail.com](mailto:ptfa.dms@gmail.com)

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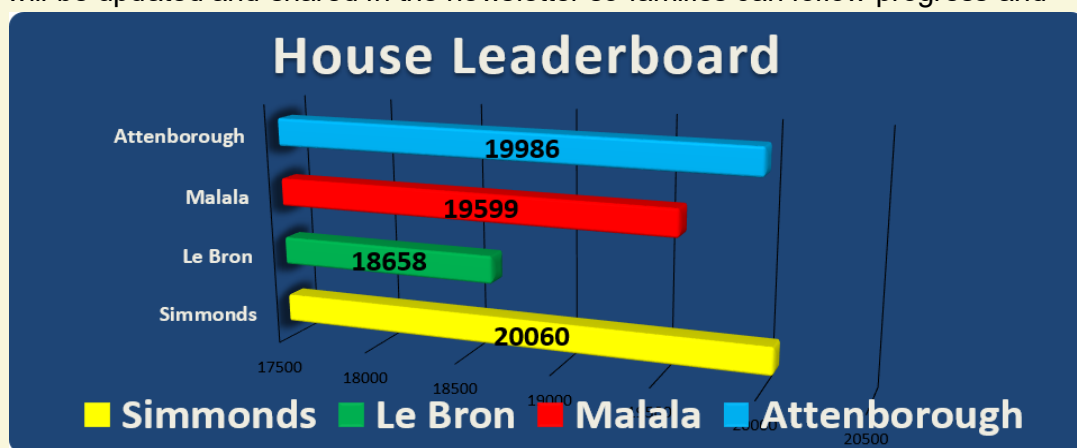
## DMS Houses Leaderboard Introducing Our Rolling House Points System

We are pleased to share that we are introducing a Rolling House Points System, which will be showcased weekly in our school newsletter.

House points are awarded to recognise positive behaviour, effort, participation and values demonstrated by our pupils, both in and out of the classroom. The rolling system allows us to celebrate achievements over time, keeping the focus on consistency, teamwork and continued improvement rather than a one-off total.

Each week, the house point totals will be updated and shared in the newsletter so families can follow progress and join us in celebrating pupils' successes. This approach encourages friendly competition while reinforcing our school values and sense of community.

We look forward to seeing our pupils take pride in contributing to their house and supporting one another as the totals grow week by week. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



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## Reading News

Thanks to the support of parents and pupils, the **School Book Fair** raised enough money for us to receive **£700 of free books** from Scholastic!!

We have lots of exciting new titles as well as the latest instalments of popular series, new books by favourite authors and some non-fiction about sports stars, games and cars. There really is something for everyone! The children have been looking through a selection of these new books during their library lessons and have enthusiastically borrowed them. They are a fantastic way to begin a new term of reading. We had an impressive amount of reading stripes awarded in our Celebrations Assemblies last term and we want to keep the momentum going.

Remember to log your reads in your planners every day and that we are looking for 5 reads every week.

The Eco Club will be kicking off the next interhouse school competition, with their litter assembly, celebrating this year's great big school clean.

Throughout the UK there have been **585,038** litter Heroes who collected **451,882** bags of rubbish for the Great British Spring Clean 2026!!



## What else has been happening in our Community?

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Some of the amazing contributions of our PTFA this year have been aprons for our Food Tech lessons. Our Year 7 pupils were using them this week, whilst cooking a delicious potato soup!



During the last term, our Year 8 pupils had been studying first aid in their PSHE lessons. They learned how to treat burns and scolds, put people in the recovery position, call the emergency services and keep people safe. In the last week of term we had a visitor in to show them how to administer CPR!! It was amazing to be able to practice on the dummies and teach our pupils how they could help in an emergency situation.



## 12 And finally...

There is so much for the children at DMS this summer term – from our extra-curricular provision to curriculum enrichment trips such as Geography fieldwork, our production, our sports day and much more besides – we cannot wait to see the smiles on your children's faces!

*Mr Webb*