

Dear DMS Families,

What a fantastic and incredibly busy week it has been at school!

This week, I have had the pleasure of being involved in our school production of **Matilda**. Our Performing Arts Club has worked tirelessly over recent weeks, and their hard work has certainly paid off. Not only are the members of our Performing Arts Club exceptionally talented, but they are also dedicated, resilient and incredibly hard-working. Having been involved in more than 25 school productions throughout my teaching career, I can honestly say that this is one of the most impressive groups of young people I have had the privilege to work with. That praise extends not only to those on the stage, but also to our backstage crew, whose efforts helped make every performance run so smoothly.

A huge thank you must go to **Mrs King, Katie Davies and Mr Shortman** for their commitment, enthusiasm and countless hours of work in bringing the production to life. Be sure to look later in the newsletter for some wonderful photographs from the show.

Elsewhere across the school, there has been plenty happening too. Some of our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a visit to Dorchester Library with Mrs Jeffries, while a group of talented young artists attended a special event at Thomas Hardy School. We were also delighted to welcome Year 4 pupils for transition activities around the school site, helping them to become familiar with life at DMS. Meanwhile, Mrs Ray and Mrs King have continued their visits to our first schools, and our Year 8 pupils have been taking part in transition activities at Thomas Hardy School to support them with their move in September. Pupils who receive free school meals will also have the opportunity to meet key members of THS staff before the summer break. Finally, our Year 6 Civic Award group are setting off on their residential visit this evening – we wish them a wonderful time and hope they manage to get at least a little sleep!

Looking ahead, next week promises to be just as exciting. We have our **Summer Concert on Monday evening, Transfer Day on Tuesday, a Year 5 trip to Monkey World on Friday**, and we will finish the week in style with our **Transition Disco**.

Finally, a polite reminder to all DMS families that the **Visitors' Car Park on Coburg Road should not be used for pupil drop-off or collection**. We have disabled pupils and families who rely on access to these spaces, and recent congestion has made this increasingly difficult. We would be very grateful for your cooperation and consideration in helping us ensure that everyone can access the school site safely and conveniently.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs Hammonds

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Important dates for your diary

6th July
7th July
8th July
10th July
10th July
13th July
14th July
15th July
16th July

Summer Concert for parents of children playing an instrument – 6:30pm – School Hall
Transfer Day
Coffee morning for SEND parents – 9am
Y5 trip to Monkey World
End of Term Disco – KS2 and KS3
Y6 End of Term Assembly – 2-3pm – THS
Y5 End of Term Assembly – 2-3pm – THS
Y7 end of Term Assembly – 2-3pm – THS
Y8 Leavers Assembly – THS – 7pm – doors open 6:30pm

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Community First at DMS – Summer Food Parcels

Continuing our Community First incentive, we will be offering Summer Food Parcels. You do not have to be receiving FSM, PP or any additional benefits to access this service. This is open to any DMS Family who needs support.

Please order by Friday 10th July to secure your parcel. Collection from 2:30pm on Friday 17th July.

If you would like to order a food parcel, please either scan the QR Code on the poster or follow the link below:

[Form to order Food Parcels for the Summer holidays](#)

Will my child be able to get free school meals under the new Government rules from September 2026?

The Government has announced changes to free school meals in England.

What is changing?

From **September 2026**, all children whose families receive **Universal Credit** will be able to get free school meals. It will not matter how much their family earns.

Who will benefit?

- Over **500,000 more children** will be able to get free school meals.
- Families could save up to **£495 per child each year** on school lunch costs.
- The Government says the change could help reduce child poverty.

When will this start?

The new rules will start in **September 2026**, at the beginning of the 2026–27 school year.

What if my child already gets free school meals?

Children who already receive free school meals will continue to get them. However, from September 2026, some of the special protection rules that have been in place for families since 2018 will end. Eligibility will then be based on the new rules.

Pupil Question of the Week

I've got school uniform that no longer fits, or I'm moving to a new school. What should I do with it?

You could donate it to someone you know who would appreciate it or hand it in for us to give out to those who might need it!

If your uniform is clean and in good condition (no rips, stains or chewed sleeves), please bring it into school at the end of term.

We will keep it and make it available to families from September and throughout the school year. You could help another child while also reducing waste and saving money.

Thank you for your support!

PTFA News

The Casterbridge Canter fundraiser to support DMS is being held next week on July 8th at 7pm. This is a unique opportunity to run around areas that are not open to the public. Do join in!!

As you would have seen on Facebook, Mr Palmer finally revealed the amount raised at the Community Challenge. You all contributed to raise the incredible sum of **£3,010.82!!** Thank you so much for all your generosity and support with all the activities we have organised throughout the year; we couldn't do it without the DMS Community!!

Don't forget that the last remaining event is the end of term **Disco for both KS2 (5 to 6pm) and KS3 (6.30 to 7.30pm) on July 10th**. Tuck shop on the night, please bring cash!!

DMS PTFA DISCO

Friday 10 July

Celebrating the end of the school year and welcoming our new starters!

Yr 4 & 5 - 5pm - 6pm

Yr 6/7/8 - 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Tickets £3

Scan QR code to buy, or use link
<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q4KRYBDV>
 Enter child's name and class in full name box

Tuck shop with drinks and snacks on the night - please bring cash

*Separate comms will be sent to new starters about how to purchase a ticket
 Made with PosterMyWall.com

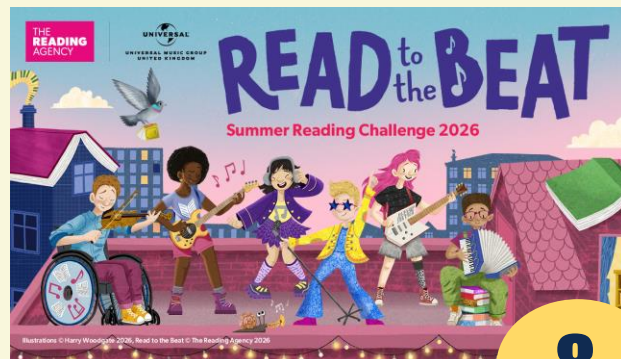
Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

This summer, children aged 4–11 are invited to take part in the national Summer Reading Challenge 2026, **Read to the Beat!**, which launches on **4th July**. It's a fantastic way for our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to keep reading over the summer holidays. This free challenge encourages children to keep reading while exploring the exciting connection between stories and music. Joining in is simple:

- 📖 Visit your local Dorset Council library.
- 🗨️ Tell the librarian you'd like to join the Summer Reading Challenge.
- 📦 Collect your Summer Reading Challenge pack.
- 📖 Read 6 books over the summer holidays. You don't have to read specific titles – choose any 6 library books, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, or audiobooks.
- 🏠 Return to the library to collect your reading rewards 🎉
- 📖 Once the library has confirmed your participation, your certificate will be sent to DMS and given out in our Celebration Assemblies.

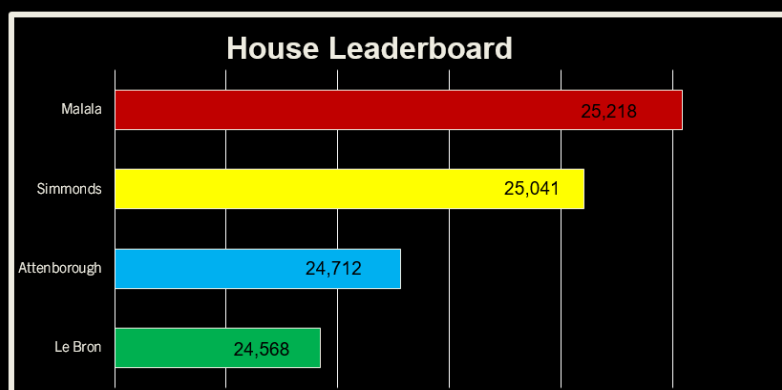
★ Last year, we had more pupils take part in the Summer Reading Challenge than any other middle school in Dorset – let's see if we can beat our own record this year!

📖 ✨ Find out more here: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>



Houses Leaderboard

Friday 3rd July



Celebrating our amazing pupils...

Elizabeth C in Year 7 competed in the Bournemouth Future Cheer International Cheerleading Competition last Friday. This is the biggest event of the season, where teams compete against some of the highest-level athletes. Her team delivered an exceptional, faultless routine, achieving a Hit Zero performance (no deductions or mistakes). They were awarded 1st place and were also crowned Judges' Supreme Champions, recognising them as the outstanding performance of the competition.

We are so proud of you Elizabeht!!



Last Friday our Key Stage 2 pupils came together for another cracking singing assembly. We were treated to fantastic performances from two of our Year 5 children as well as celebrating the ROARSome pupils who received very well-deserved ROARS certificates.

What a wonderful way to end such an extraordinary week!



What else has been happening in our Community?

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Matilda the musical by DMS

Last Friday saw two dress rehearsals, followed by two technical rehearsals on Monday. The official performances then began on Tuesday, when the cast and crew delivered an astonishing three shows in one day – performing for Year 7, then for Years 6 and 8, before taking to the stage again in the evening for family and friends. The excitement continued on Wednesday with an afternoon performance for parents and visiting Year 5 pupils, followed by the final evening show.



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And finally...

I just have enough space for a quick careers update... A group of Year 8 pupils enjoyed a trip to Coastland College in Weymouth to learn about careers in the NHS, including trying CPR and testing out specialist equipment. This week, Year 8 also heard from Mrs Noble and former pupils about post-16 opportunities at the Thomas Hardy School.

Year 7 pupils have been emailed a link to a careers questionnaire to help plan next year's activities. Don't forget – there's a prize for the first tutor group to submit all their responses!

I hope you have a super weekend and are ready for action again next week!

Mrs Hammonds