

Dear DMS Families

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some of the sunshine! It was fantastic to welcome our new Year 5 pupils to the school on Wednesday. They have settled in incredibly quickly and seem to have smiled their way through their first week. Speaking with pupils at breaktimes, it is clear that they are enjoying moving between different lessons, meeting new teachers, and exploring new subjects. We place great importance on our ROARS values of being **Ready to Learn, Original, Ambitious, Respectful and Safe**, and our new Year 5 pupils have demonstrated these beautifully from day one.

Our Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils returned on Thursday and have enjoyed seeing the many improvements made to the school over the summer holidays. Our new IT room is looking fantastic and will be ready for pupils to use next week. You can see photos I follow soon! The refurbished Food Technology room and our wonderful new library space are already being enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

As your child settles back into the school routine, sharing their timetable, planner and reading books, I would encourage you to continue supporting their learning at home. Regular reading, helping them to complete homework on time, and encouraging them to earn achievement Points all make a real difference to their success.

I shared with pupils this week that some days it is easier to come to school than others. On those more challenging days, resilience is key. Please encourage your child to keep putting one foot in front of the other, getting a good night's sleep, and starting each day afresh. If they are in school, they are learning, growing and giving themselves the very best opportunity to succeed.

Finally, please remember that your child's tutor is your first point of contact should you have any questions or if your child needs any support.

We are committed to ensuring that every child has the very best start to the year and thrives here at DMS.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Mrs King



Important dates for your diary

24th September	Y5 and Y7 individual photographs in school
1st October	Open Morning for Y4 families – School Hall – 9-10am
13th October	Open Evening for Year 4 families – School Hall – 4:30-6pm
9th October	Y5 Stonehenge trip – more info to follow
15th October	Y6 Winchester Science Museum trip – more info to follow
16th October	PTFA Family Quiz Night – School Hall - evening
13th November	PTFA Boogie Bingo – School Hall – after school

Introducing this week...

Mr Waterman joined DMS as the Head of the Year 6 team this term, having recently moved to the area from Wimbledon with his lovely family. He has been teaching for 10 years working across the whole Primary age range.

Mr Waterman loves to spend time on the beach with his family and if there is ever some rugby to be watched you can be sure he will be aware of it!

Mr Waterman is an avid reader and is currently re-reading the Harry Potter series. When you see him around the school make sure you ask him which one of the Harry Potter books is his favourite.

Welcome to DMS Mr Waterman!!



Does my child in Year 6 need to go to Skills start?

For our Year 6 pupils, Skills Start will begin next week. You should have received a letter this week from Mr Waterman, Head of Year 6, explaining it all.

Pupils will be able to make their way directly to their tutor groups each morning for independent Maths and English learning activities.

Although it is only a short session, this dedicated time can have a significant impact on their progress and confidence. Please remember that Breakfast Club remains open, and pupils are welcome to pop in and collect breakfast before heading to their tutor rooms.

Pupil Question of the Week

When are after school clubs starting?

The clubs list will be going out on Monday with lots of exciting clubs for you to sign up to! There is a huge variety and there will be something for everyone we are sure!

All of the details of how and when to sign up will be on the letter.

Go on and be brave – perhaps try a club you've never tried before!

Gardening and Eco Club News

We were very pleased to return to school to receive these two fantastic certificates! Our amazing gardening club members, along with Miss Sharman and Mrs Whiter, plus their wonderful volunteers, have achieved our first gardening award, alongside achieving the bronze award from the Bumblebee conservation trust!

Well done to all our gardening club members for making a difference!



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Music News – Last few TOPs places available!!

We are excited for pupils in Years 5 & 6 who have applied to start learning an orchestral instrument via the Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme (TOPs), organised by Wessex Schools Music! TOPs provides an excellent pathway for children beginning orchestral instruments by offering subsidised lessons and instrument hire. The cost of the TOPs scheme is £60 per term. Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals can access the scheme free of charge through funding provided by their school.

The few remaining spaces on the TOPs scheme for pupils in Year 5 or 6 are:

- Flute (max 1)
- Clarinet (max 4)
- Trumpet (max 4)
- Violin (max 1)

If you are interested in your child taking one of these places, please apply directly here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuNEVGmHT3cKfL7wihUFIxtypeYxZV55OX5xe1rrxU7YVwg/viewform>

If you are interested in your child starting other instrumental lessons this year, please go to:

<https://music.wessex.ac/apply-for-music-lessons.html>

And if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact our Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Shortman at Jshortman@dms.wessex.ac, who will be delighted to assist.

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Welcome to our new Year 5s!!

What a fantastic day Wednesday was!!! It was the first day of our new Year 5s. It was so lovely to see you looking so smart - we are convinced that you've all shot up since we last saw you in July! We were also very impressed with how polite you all are. What a terrific way to start your DMS journey and with a fantastic Year 5 team of tutors, lead by Mrs Ray. We wonder if our current Years 6, 7 & 8 remember their first day at DMS?



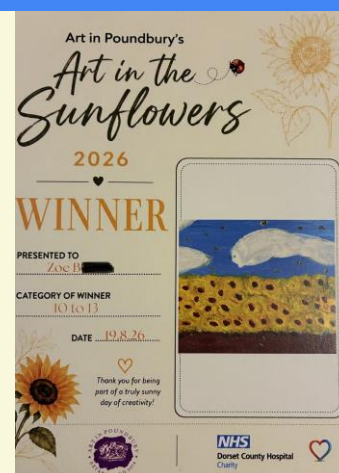
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Celebrating our amazing pupils

At DMS we love to celebrate our pupils and their accomplishments. For our new parents in Year 5, there is no small achievement which is worth celebrating, do feel free to email Mrs Araya at: aaraya@dms.wessex.ac with your photos of medals, trophies, certificates, etc., letting us know if you are happy for us to share these in our newsletter and Facebook page.

We have such talented pupils at DMS. This first week of the academic year, we celebrate Zoe B of Year 6, who won the age 10-13 category of the 'Art in the Sunflowers' competition run by Art in Poundbury over the summer holidays. Well done Zoe! We are very proud of you!!

Toby D, also of Year 6 has been volunteering at The Great Field Junior parkrun since 2022, helping to set up the course each week so that others can get involved in running. Over that time he has passed many milestones. During the summer holidays Toby reached his 150th volunteering milestone which was recognised and celebrated by the presentation of his milestone wristband in front of his other fellow volunteers. Very well done Toby, we are so proud of your commitment and fantastic achievement!!



At Dorchester Middle School we believe that we can take inspiration and encourage aspiration through role models. We hope to be great role-models at school, but also recognise that there are so many people we can learn from.

At DMS our House system is designed to not only nurture aspiration but to also widen pupils' knowledge and understanding of the traits and personal characteristics that make us successful. With this in mind, our Houses are named after inspirational people from around the world. Every pupil and member of staff is placed into a house, with competitions taking place throughout the year to create a wider sense of belonging and community. All achievement points double up as house points to add to the motivation to do well, and help pupils understand that we are all part of a wider community.

Our houses are called: **SIMMONDS**, **LEBRON**, **ATTENBOROUGH** and **MALALA**.

Over the next few weeks, all pupils will learn about the House that they are in as well as what it means to be in each house. House Captains will also be introducing their house and their aspirations in an assembly soon.

We will also give more information and updates in the DMS Dozen about each House in the coming weeks.

What is happening in our community

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As we continue to improve the school fabric, this summer we had a lot of work done to make sure our pupils have the best learning environment. Our Food Tech room was completely refurbished including an inclusive height adjustable work station and stove. How great does it look!!!



Our Library also had the last bit of work done and an extension was built to allow more space for our avid readers!

A big shout out to our amazing Site Team for all the work behind the scenes during the summer, to have our school ready in time for this academic year.

Thank you
Mr Eveleigh and
Mr Lacey!!



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And finally...

As we come to the end of our first week back, I would like to thank our pupils, staff and families for helping to make such a positive start to the new academic year.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs King