

Dear DMS Families,

It is with great pleasure that I bring you the DMS Dozen this week, after what has been a fantastic start to the year. The start of the year brings so many unknowns and unexpected challenges, which can be exciting as well as daunting for all of us, whether a teacher, pupil or parent. What has made the return so enjoyable is the way pupils have come back so polite and ready to learn. We talk a lot about our ROARS values, but it's living through them that really matters and makes a difference to the lives we all live. Pupils this week have lived through them. I am honestly so proud to work in a school where pupils show manners through a simple "Thank you" when a door is opened for them, or they stop to ask "How is your day going?".

This week I have also had the pleasure of launching the Student Council for this year in Assemblies and Mr Kelsall has been organising our Anti-bullying Ambassadors so we are all up and running with our ambition to grow leadership for our pupils even further this year. While walking around school, it has also been a joy to see the original and creative ideas that pupils are already showing – and the reality with it, that the Summer Holidays are already long forgotten as learning takes centre stage once again.

Our intent this year is to continue to grow the positive culture around the school, and support our pupils further through the arts, sports, leadership and encouragement, and we look forward to sharing the success we have with you throughout the year.

We are also excited this week, to bring to you 'Fruity Friday'! Mrs Stewart-Pope, our amazing Attendance Officer, has managed to get funding by working with school partners such as Tesco to provide a free piece of fruit for every single pupil in the school every Friday – starting this week!

We'll make sure we get a picture or two when we hand out the fruit at breaktime.

Mr Murray



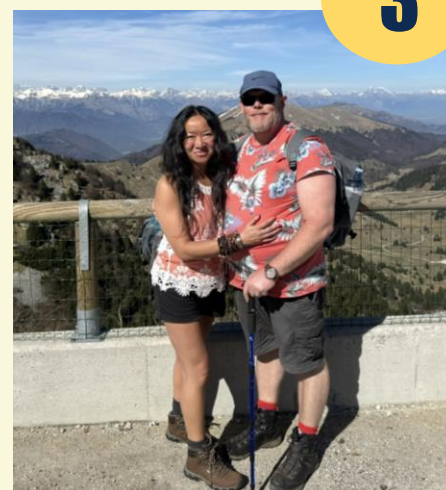
Important dates for your diary

24th September	Y5 and Y7 individual photographs in school
1st October	Open Morning for Y4 families – School Hall – 9:15 to 10:15am
13th October	Open Evening for Year 4 families – School Hall – 4:30 to 6:00pm
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...

This week we officially welcome Mrs Mok to DMS!! She has joined our Teaching Assistants' team this academic year. Mrs Mok has many years of experience working in education and she really enjoys supporting children with their learning, confidence, and development.

Mrs Mok is passionate about creating a positive and encouraging environment where children feel valued and supported. Outside of school, She has a real love of photography 📷 and particularly enjoys capturing nature, landscapes, sunsets, sunrise, and those special moments that might otherwise go unnoticed. We are so happy you are part of the DMS Community Mrs Mok!



What happens if my son/daughter is not wearing the correct uniform?

Firstly, we recognise that there could be many reasons why a child may not have the correct uniform. Clothing can break or fall apart, go missing or get dirty or wet. In these cases, please put a note in your child's planner or e-mail their tutor to explain the situation. Try and then dress your child in clothing as close to the uniform as possible, although having a spare pair of certain items is always helpful.

Also, please check our school uniform policy and expectations around things like make-up, earrings, socks, school shoes and skirt length, as these are the most common items picked up by staff in the morning. We will be sending home a reminder to all parents about common uniform misconceptions early next week. Going forwards, it may be that you receive a courtesy phone call from your child's tutor to support uniform expectations. By doing so we hope to be able to work with parents to ensure equity and equality in the school around these simple rules.

Pupil Question of the Week

What are the expectations around rewards in the school?

Our reward system reflects the values, ethos and culture that we celebrate at DMS: ROARS. When you work hard and show Readiness, Originality, Ambition, Respect or Safe behaviour in a class or around school, you will receive an achievement point. These achievement Points reflect excellence in an area and we hope you feel proud when you receive one. We add these points up at the end of each term, which then leads to achievement stripes and certificates. All your achievement points also double up as a house point, meaning you are contributing to the success of your house as well.

This year, we will soon be asking for feedback from our newly formed school council around rewards and how we can improve these, so that pupils continue to be motivated by success.

ROARS in the Classroom

Our ROARS values are displayed in every classroom.

We use these to support achievement and to support the positive culture in our school.

Almost 4000 achievement points have already been handed out to pupils in the last week and a half – an amazing amount already!

Please celebrate any ROARS values you see at home, and if you see any outstanding citizenship from one of our pupils, don't hesitate to let us know so we can celebrate with them.

Ready

- 1
 - Arrive ready to learn
 - Have your equipment ready
 - Don't stop anyone else learning in our lesson today
 - You are responsible for the progress you make
 - Be an active listener and ask questions

Original

- 2
 - There is only one you! - Be the best version you can be!
 - Grow the gifts you have been given by trying your best in every subject.
 - Ask the questions that will help you improve
 - Try your best and learn from your mistakes

Ambitious

- 3
 - You can be anything you want to be if you put your mind to it!
 - The first step is the hardest to take!
 - Check your work, present it well, be resilient in producing your best
 - Encourage your peers and help them learn.

Respectful

- 4
 - Respect your teachers – they want the best for you!
 - Respect your peers – they are here to learn - don't get in the way of that.
 - Think carefully about the language you use – build up and encourage – your words have power!

Safe

- 5
 - Be sensible in your classes
 - Treat others as you would treat yourself
 - Be safe with all equipment – use it sensibly

We are very lucky at DMS to have the best PTFA team!!

They are an incredible group of parents that have raised thousands of pounds to support our school and our Children's learning environment.

If you would like to join them in any capacity or would like to find out more about what they do, please do contact them by email at:

ptfa.dms@gmail.com

They already working really hard behind the scenes on the upcoming events for this term. Their first meeting will be held at the Duchess of Cornwall Pub in Poundbury, next Monday 14th September at 6pm, everyone is welcome to attend!

DMS PTFA
UPCOMING EVENTS
AUTUMN 2026

14 Sept	Next Meeting Everyone is welcome at the first meeting of the year to help plan the coming years events	
5 Oct	AGM Reviewing events of the last year and voting in committee members for the coming year	
16 Oct	Family Quiz Night A fun quiz for all the family to enjoy. Refreshments available, raffle, and bar!	
13 Nov	Boogie Bingo Bingo with a twist! Lots of fun to be had at this new event for DMS!	
11 Dec	Christmas Disco Dance to favourite Christmas classics, and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year!	

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Supporting Reading at Home

Regular reading at home is key to developing literacy and supporting progress across all subjects. We ask pupils to read at least five times a week (but no more than seven per week), for a minimum of 20 minutes each time.

Please ensure every reading session is recorded in the planner. Planners will be checked regularly, and pupils will earn our fantastic Reading Stripes for consistent reading. Achievements will be celebrated and rewarded at our end-of-term celebration assemblies.

- **Key Stage 2:** Parents and carers should listen to and log at least three sessions each **week**, with pupils recording the rest.
- **Key Stage 3:** Pupils should log their own reading (a minimum of five per week) and are encouraged to add a brief comment, thought or question.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey!!



Summer Reading Challenge – Final Reminder!

There's still time to complete Read to the Beat! The challenge finishes on Saturday 12th September. Children who complete the challenge can collect their medal and certificate at school during our end-of-term celebration assemblies. Please remember to tell the library that you would like the medal and certificate sent to school.

We hope as many children as possible can complete the challenge and celebrate their reading achievements with us!



Celebrating our amazing pupils...

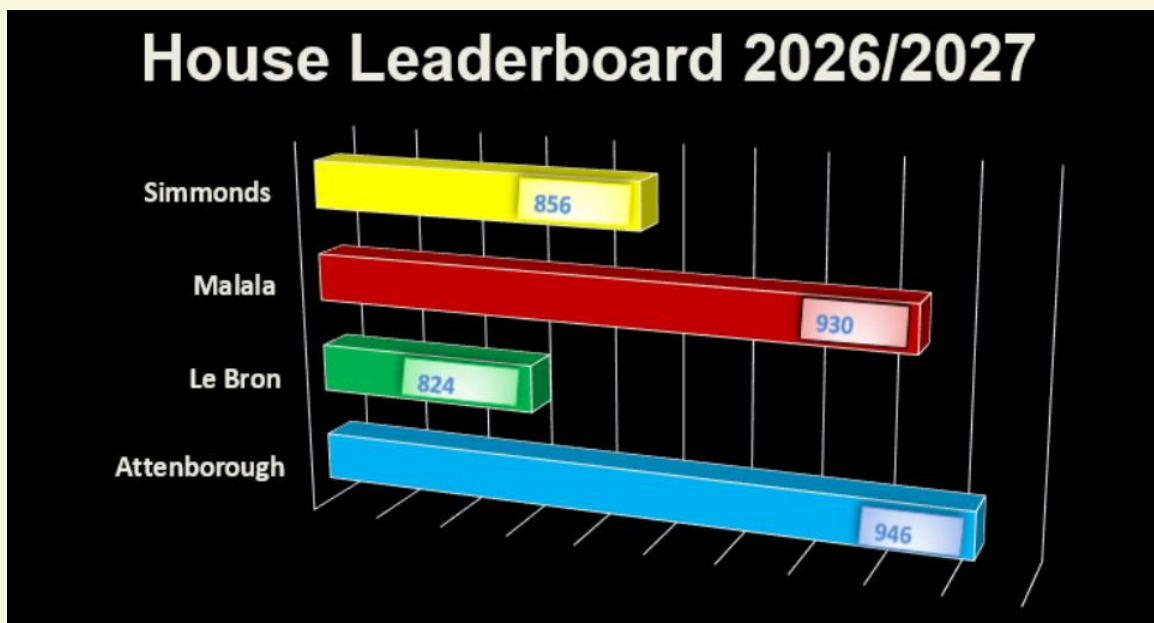
Our lovely Isabelle M in Year 7, entered the Junior 11 and under, cookery competition at the Dorset County Show last weekend. She participated in 4 classes and gained the most points which earned her the winning shield!! Very well done Isabelle!!



On Tuesday, Mrs King gave out her first Headteachers' award stickers for the academic year! These were given to Billy and George in Year 7, for sharing some fantastic art work they completed in lessons. We are so impressed with your talent Billy and George!



We are pleased to let you know that Roo in Year 8 passed his kickboxing public grading on Sunday and is now a brown belt!! He loves all sports and always gives it his all, especially in kickboxing, with determination, dedication and never giving up. He is showing others that it is possible to achieve anything if you put your mind to it, even when things seem hard or difficult. Roo is now training for his home tournament in October! Well done Roo!! His family and us at DMS are extremely proud of him!!



What else is happening in our community?

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School Council launch

All year groups have heard how they apply to nominate themselves to stand on Student council!

Next week pupils will give a one minute speech to their year group and there will be a vote for who will represent their year group! The two pupils with the most votes will be chosen! Good luck all who apply and put themselves forward! Be brave and courageous!



Open Mornings and Open Evening at DMS

Soon will be that time of the year, when we open the doors of DMS to the community and the families/pupils who will be coming to Year 5 in the next academic year (2027-2028). Please spread the word!

The dates and times are the following:

OPEN MORNINGS – 9:15 TO 10:15AM

1st October 2026

17th November 2026

10th December 2026

OPEN EVENING – 4:30 TO 6:00PM

13th October 2026

To book a place, please follow this link:

<https://trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/121385>

OPEN MORNINGS FROM 9.15-10.15AM

- 1st October 2026
- 17th November 2026
- 10th December 2026

OPEN EVENING 13TH OCTOBER 2026
4.30PM-6PM

01305 265651
<https://www.dms.wessex.ac>
Address: Queen's Avenue,
Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2HS

COME AND SEE ALL OF THE
EXCITING CHANGES AT DMS.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO
WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR
CHILD AS YOU VISIT OUR
SCHOOL.

To book a place to come and visit our school, please follow the link here
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/121385>
or the QR Code

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And finally...

We are looking forward to welcoming as many pupils to our afterschool clubs next week. There are spaces still available in some clubs. To check, please login in via the Parent Portal on the Arbor App. If a space is available you will be able to select a slot, if it is blank we are afraid all the spaces are taken.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mr Murray