

Dear DMS Families,

It is lovely to be able to write my first DMS Dozen of the year and to be able to introduce myself to all families and carers of students with SEND. As SENDCO I always enjoying meeting and getting to know our new students and beginning to understand how, as a school, we can support and adapt to enable them to thrive alongside their peers. I will be sending out the dates for my Coffee and Catch Up Meetings that I hold every term to meet with you as their parents so we can continue to ensure that the school delivers the best opportunities for students with SEND. I look forward to meeting with new parents and catching up with those I already know.

This week has seen the return to clubs in school. As a parent myself I am also amazed at the number and range of clubs that are on offer to our students, there really is something for everyone and every interest.

Next week Mrs Jefferies will be holding the Primary Reading Championship back into school. This is a real opportunity for our avid readers to show off their knowledge of all things books. Students will be quizzed on their book knowledge and winners get to progress to a celebratory grand final!

Next week also sees individual school photos for Years Five and Seven so students need to remember to bring their best smiles on Thursday 24th September.

Ms Layfield

Important dates for your diary

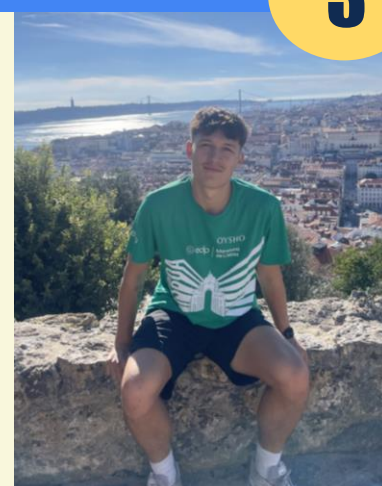
24th September	Y5 and Y7 individual photographs in school
28th September	Y5 settling in evening for parents/carers - from 3:45pm
1st October	Open Morning for Y4 families – School Hall – 9:15 to 10:15am
13th October	Open Evening for Year 4 families – School Hall – 4:30 to 6:00pm
9th October	Y5 Stonehenge 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...

Mr Sadler joined us at the end of last academic year as he was finishing his teacher training year, which he completed at the University of Winchester. This year at DMS, he is teaching Science, Art, PSCHEE and PE, as well as co-tutoring a Year 5 class.

Mr Sadler loves all sports, especially football, tennis, cricket and athletics. He plays football for Okeford United. He loves teaching PE and sharing his passion for sport and exercise but he also enjoys teaching in the classroom, especially Year 6 Science!!

Mr Sadler really enjoys running and training for running events. Last year, he ran the Lisbon Marathon in Portugal with some friends. He is from Dorchester and went to First and Middle schools here. He loves the Middle school system and community feel that comes with it - especially at DMS.



When can I meet my children's new tutors?

Parents' Consultation Evenings will be held throughout the year. If you are a Year 5 parent/carer, then you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's tutor at the settling in evening on the 28th September from 3.45 to 6pm. A letter with more details and information on how to book on ARBOR has gone home this week to all Year 5 families.

This is always a lovely opportunity for our parents and carers to meet with tutor and hear how the first few weeks have been and all the fabulous things the children have already achieved.

Pupil Question of the Week

Why have we had to do so many tests in Year 5?

This is a great question and a really important one!!

To help us to really understand how you learn and where you may struggle or there are gaps, we ask you to all do the same test. This, then helps us to think about what we teach but also helps Miss Layfield as SENDCO, to work with subject leaders to think about the additional support and interventions we can offer to help you find learning easier.

Reading News Dorchester Literary Festival 2026

Our Year 6 and Year 8 families have been sent a letter about some exciting author visits taking place as part of this year's Dorchester Literary Festival schools programme.

Year 8 will be meeting Ele Fountain at The Thomas Hardy School on Monday 12th October.

Year 6 will be meeting Stewart Foster at The Thomas Hardy School on Tuesday 13th October.

Our pupils will have the wonderful opportunity to meet the authors, hear about their books and experiences, and discover more about the world of writing and literature.

There is no cost to attend these events. However, if pupils would like to **purchase a book** to have signed by the author, books must be purchased by **12pm on Friday 25 September** via the school shop on ARBOR.

Please see the letter sent home for further information.



ROARS CERTIFICATES

These are the proud winners of last week's ROARS Certificates. The first ones of the current academic year. Well done to all of them!!!

Year 5

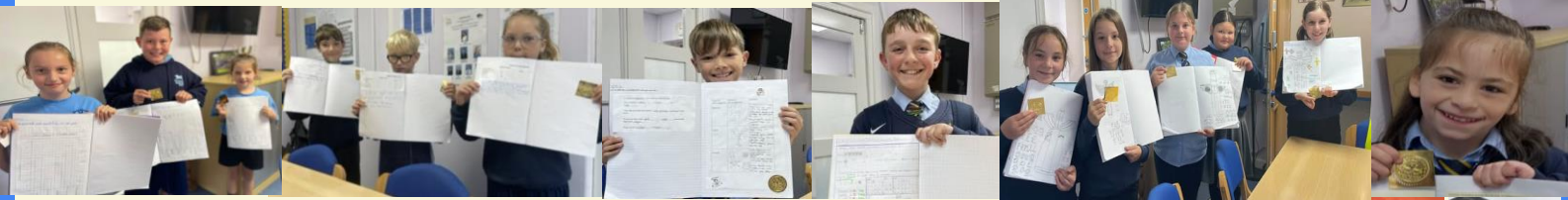
Year 6

Year 7

Year 8

Celebrating our amazing pupils...

We have a huge amount of pupils to celebrate this week, from Mrs King's golden Headteacher's award stickers, to the winners of ROARS certificates, to the accomplishments in different areas of our super driven and talented pupils. Have a look at all these gold stickers!!



Our Year 6 pupil, Dexter, set his mind to it and climbed to the top of Hardy's monument last weekend. He really enjoyed it and even got a certificate for this adventure. Well done Dexter!!

Well done to Harry and Freddy for inputting information into their data bots in IT! Each one lit up with their names that had been coded in. Great job boys! Super impressive work!!



More amazing pupils to celebrate!!

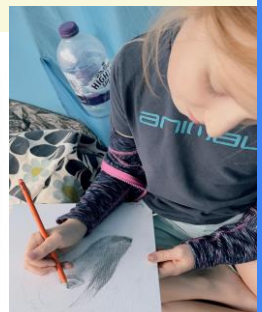
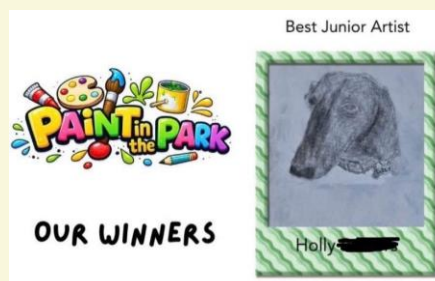
During the summer holidays, Ruben in Year 6, climbed to the summit of Mount Snowdon, which is an impressive 1085 metres!! Ruben managed to climb Catbells too, which is also in the Lake District, this rugged hill is 451 metres high. Well done Ruben, we are super proud of you!!

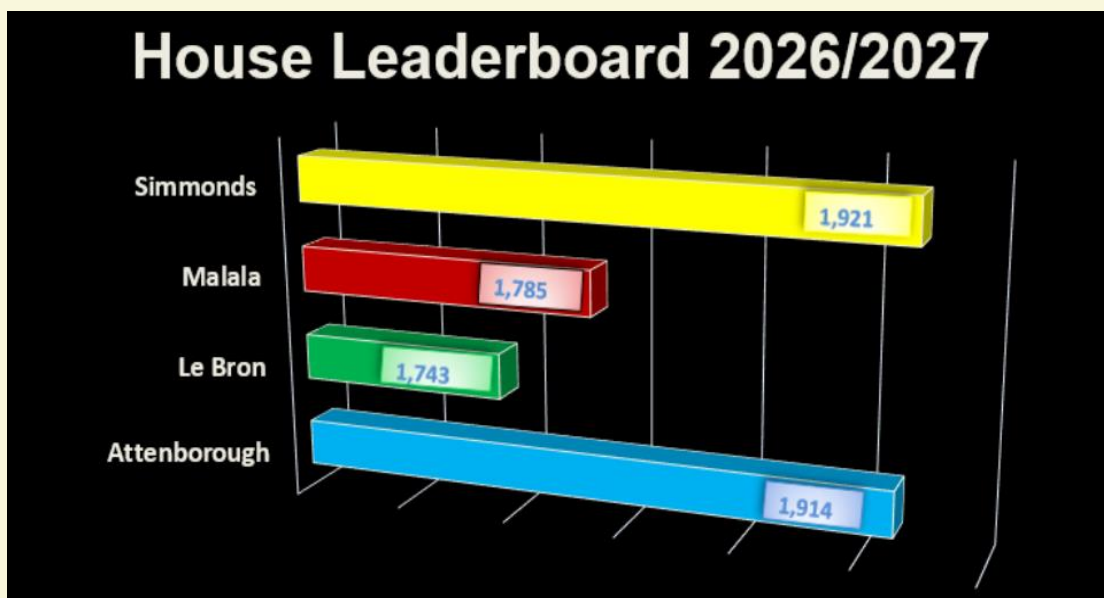


Our amazing Leo in Year 8 has done it again! Him and his dance partner Chloe, have recently walked away with 6 medals and 1 trophy!! We are extremely proud of Leo and dance partner, at just 12 years old, they were competing against dancers older than themselves and showed such confidence, determination and commitment throughout the competition. Well done Leo!!



The lovely Holly in Year 5 won Best Junior Artist as part of the Paint in the Park competition held a couple of weeks ago. Here is a photo of her producing the drawing which is of her cousin's dog Lily (the task being to draw a pet portrait). This is a brilliant drawing, and we are very proud of you Holly!!!





What else is happening in our community?

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New ICT Suite

Our BRAND NEW ICT suite is up and Running!! Mrs Hyde has been waiting for the works to finish to finally teach our pupils in the new room!!



Open Mornings and Open Evening at DMS

Don't forget to spread the word about the upcoming dates and times of our upcoming Open Mornings and Evenings: **OPEN MORNINGS – 9:15 TO 10:15AM - 1st October 2026, 17th November 2026 and 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>

KS2 book club

Our book club took part in a crime and mystery hunt last night to reveal the name of Mulberry Hall – the setting of *Murder on a Midsummer Night* by Lucy Strange. Members of the club have been invited to read and review this newly published book. We checked out the cast of characters at the beginning of the book, made our predictions and they were very eager to get reading. @barringtonstoke @readingagency



Fruity Fridays

Well 'Fruity Fridays' was again a hit today! Almost all of our pupils had a piece of fruit at break time and came back for more at the end of the day! Bananas, pears, apples and satsumas were a real hit! Any leftover fruit will always be given away after school on Fridays.

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And finally...

This week, thanks to the hard work of Ms Sharman and Mrs Whiter and our Eco warrior pupils, our school received the Eco-Schools distinction 2026 2027: Green Flag Award!! This is certified in recognition of excellence in improving sustainability and environmental learning in our setting. We even got a plaque to commemorate it which will be placed at the school entrance. We are beyond grateful and proud of this achievement.

Ms Layfield

