

Dear DMS Families,

We seem to say this every week, but it really has been another packed week of opportunities for students across the school. I can never believe how much we can squeeze into one week. Each of these gives our students a way to learn about the world they live in in different, engaging ways.

Hello Yellow returned to school last week to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. This is always great day with children finding all sorts of unusual ways to add yellow to their uniforms and for me to be able to wear my favourite trainers! There are more photos below and on our FB page.

On Tuesday evening, we welcomed 170 people through our doors to our annual Open Evening. It was an absolute pleasure to see so many prospective pupils tour around our amazing school. We didn't get as many pictures as we would have liked as we were too busy chatting! A huge thank you to all the staff, pupils and members of the PTFA who made this event such a success.

Wednesday marked the 960th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings and our Year 7's with Mr Greetham were able to join the live stream with the British Museum to mark this event.

Mr Shortman sent a letter home this week, with information about our Christmas Reflection Concert, which will take place on Thursday 10th December at the Dorford Centre. He is trying to put together a Staff/Parent Choir and there will be rehearsals taking place in the school (dates on the letter). If you would like to join, please complete the form on the following link by Friday 13th November: [Form to join the staff/parent choir](#). I know the children will be delighted to see us joining them in making some joyful Christmas music!

And finally, another end to a busy week at DMS, this Thursday saw our Year 6's go to the Winchester Science museum. This is always a really enjoyable trip filled with fun and lots of Learning.



Ms Layfield

Important dates for your diary

16th October

19th October

13th November

17th November

18th November

25th/26th November

10th December

PTFA Family Quiz Night – School Hall - evening

MHST Workshop for parents: supporting your child with anxiety - 9am to 10:30am

PTFA Boogie Bingo – School Hall – after school

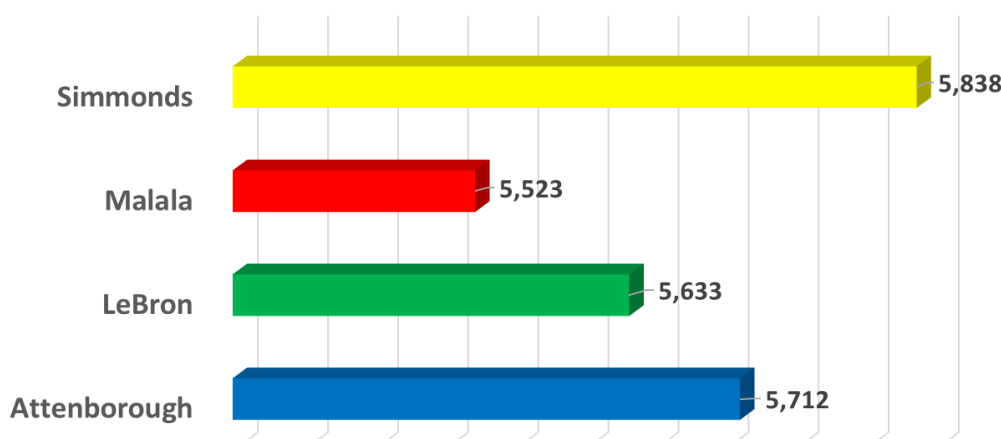
Open Morning for new pupils – 9:15 to 10:15am – School Hall

Flu vaccination offer – whole school – information to be sent directly to the parents

Y6 Parent Consultation Evening – 4 to 6pm – More information to follow

Open Morning for new pupils – 9:15 to 10:15am – School Hall

Houses Leaderboard



When do we break up and come back after half term holidays?

It is a very short week for students next week with their last day being Tuesday 20th October, finishing the day at the usual time of 3.30pm. We all return to school on the Monday 2nd November.

It has felt like this half term has gone really quickly and we hope that manage to enjoy some family time when we are off.

Pupil Question of the Week

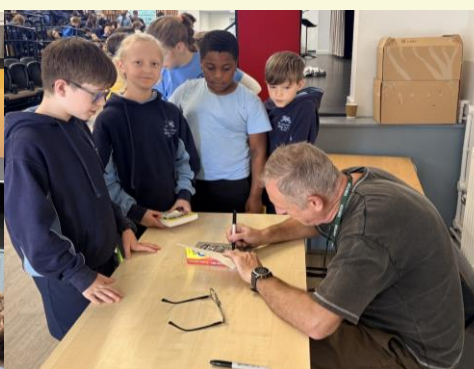
Why do I have to sign in at reception if I come in a bit late?

It is really important that we know who is in school throughout the day. If you arrive in to school a bit later than tutor time, then we may not know you are in. If there is then an emergency which means we need to evacuate the building, we may then not know that you are missing should you not make the line up. We always contact your parents/carers to let them know if you haven't arrived at school. So, signing in stops people worrying and keeps you safe!

Reading News

Dorchester Literary Festival 2026

Our Year 6 and Year 8 pupils had a fantastic time at the Dorchester Literary Festival schools programme at The Thomas Hardy School. Year 8 met author Ele Fountain on Monday 12th October, followed by Year 6 meeting Stewart Foster on Tuesday 13th October. Pupils enjoyed hearing the authors talk about their books and experiences as writers, and had the opportunity to ask lots of thoughtful questions about their stories and what inspires them to write. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate a love of reading and inspire our budding young writers. A big thank you to the festival organisers and Jennie Stevens (librarian Thomas Hardy's) for these engaging events!



🎃📖 Spooktober Reading Bingo! 🧛‍♀️

Our Year 5 and Year 6 children are invited to join in with our frightfully fun reading activities this half term! Encourage your child to take part, complete as many challenges as they can, and return their signed and dated bingo sheet (attached) by Thursday 5th November for a chance to win a spooktacular prize!

🕷️ Collect a bingo sheet from your Homebase tutor or the school library. Happy spooky reading! 🍁📖

7

**Very well done to last week's winners of ROARS Certificates.
You are role models for our school!!**



Year 5



Year 6



Year 7



Year 8

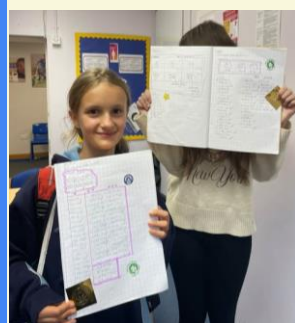
8

Celebrating our amazing pupils...

A big well done to Taiwo for creating and designing the clothes piece tonight. What a fantastic design and skill!



Two Headteacher stickers given to Anna and Ria for some really impressive algebraic equations!! They nailed it! So well deserved! (even if one was less keen on a photo) Well done girls!!



Toby and Florence were sent Mrs King's way for a Headteacher sticker for their AMAZING descriptive writing! Mrs Ray was very impressed with such high quality work! Well done to both!



9

More amazing pupils to celebrate...

On Thursday our Year 8s participated in a Rugby match against St Osmunds, resulting in: STO 30-DMS 10. Our senior pupils played in an incredibly competitive game!! It was a game of grit, determination and commitment by both teams. 'St Osmunds scored more points, but DMS were not beaten'-this could not have been more accurate. The rivalry and competition was of the highest quality-two teams uniting to express their best rugby skills. DMS pupils came together-like barbarians-they danced and dazzled in attack and defended manfully. DMS try scorers: Joseph M and Captain Will to both teams and the superb officiating from St Osmunds.



Thanks to Jody Legg and Mike Sprules for supporting the team!!

A big well done to Lenny for achieving this medal for being one of the last in his group for holding a plank for 15 minutes!! Yes, 15 minutes!!! That's definitely worth a medal! Great job Lenny!!



What a fabulous day! Year 5 had THE best time at Stonehenge yesterday. It was a joy to see how the children reacted when they saw the stones for the first time - they were suitably impressed.

A huge thank you to our Head of Humanities, Mr Greetham, for organising such an epic day. His knowledge of Stonehenge was incredible, to the point where the tourists were stopping to hear what he was telling the children!

A huge thank you also goes to the hardworking staff who made this happen and to all of our brilliant parent volunteers who gave up their time to accompany us. We can't do trips like this without them. We love bringing the learning to life at DMS! Lots more photos on Facebook!!



What else is happening in our community?

Hello Yellow Day

Last Friday we had a sea of Yellow in our school's corridors!! Pupils and staff joined the fun and we raised **£201.30** for Mosaic which is fantastic. Thank you everyone!!



History fun

The Battle of Hastings was re-enacted in all Year 7 classes last week in preparation for the Bayeux Tapestry live feed from the British Museum which happened this Wednesday. They children were very excited to see it!



And finally...

Don't forget that we have a fantastic fun night tonight with our Family Quiz!! Everyone welcome!!

Doors open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start, £3 p/person. You can at the door with card or cash. It is Always a lovely evening with a raffle, bar and refreshments for the whole family. See you there!!

Ms Layfield

DMS PTFA Presents

FAMILY FUN QUIZ NIGHT

Join us for an evening of fun with a family quiz, raffle, bar and refreshments - sweet and savoury!

Friday 16 Oct 6pm for 6.30pm start

£3 per person

Pay on the door, cash and card payments accepted