

Welcome to the...

DMS

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8th November 2024



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OPEN

Dear DMS families,

I hope you had an enjoyable half term break, spending time with your families and friends. I spent the week with two spaniels (I borrowed one) and went out walking most days. I have decided that my dogs have the best life!

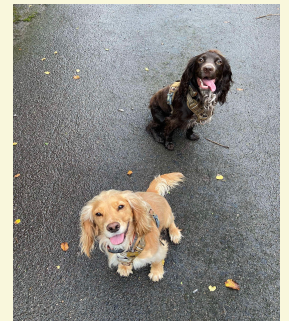
This is promising to be a busy half term starting with mock SATs for Year 6, sports fixtures, concerts and performances around the community and further afield, PTFA events, Year 6 parent consultation evenings and whole school reports. Next Monday will see us marking Remembrance Day by gathering together for an assembly as an entire school community.

The below is my attempt to say the above in Malayalam, which is one of the various languages the children in our school community speak. I hope I got that right!

6-ാം വർഷത്തേക്കുള്ള മോക്ക് SAT-കൾ, കായിക മത്സരങ്ങൾ, കച്ചേരികൾ, കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റിക്ക് ചുറ്റുമുള്ള പ്രകടനങ്ങൾ, PTFA ഇവന്റുകൾ, ആറാം വർഷ പാരന്റ് കൺസൾട്ടേഷൻ സായാഹ്നങ്ങൾ, മുഴുവൻ സ്കൂൾ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ എന്നിവയിൽ ആരംഭിക്കുന്ന തിരക്കേറിയ അർദ്ധ കാലയളവ് ആണ്. അടുത്ത തിങ്കളാഴ്ച മുഴുവൻ സ്കൂൾ കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റിയായി ഒരു അസംബ്ലിക്കായി ഒത്തുകൂടി സ്മരണ ദിനം ആഘോഷിക്കുന്നത് കാണാം.

In assembly this week we have been learning about our British Values by checking we can all 'Give Me Five!', but more about that later!

Our extra-curricular clubs have started back this week and it's so good to see so many pupils taking advantage of the fantastic range of opportunities that are available.



Mrs Hammonds

2 Important dates for your diary

- 15th November PTFA Family Bingo
- 15th November Children in Need - swap a piece of your uniform for something spotty.
- 19th November Open Morning for new Y5 Parents (September 2025) 9-11am
- 28th November Flu jab offered to pupils - letter to follow
- 11th December Pupils' Christmas dinner - please book up to the week before
- 12th December Open Morning for new Y5 Parents (September 2025) 9-11am
- 13th December PTFA Christmas Disco

3 Introducing this week...

Miss Maisie Squibb – Data Officer

Our lovely and super clever Miss Squibb has been working at DMS since September 2024, covering for Miss Shutt's maternity leave, after completing her PhD in Children's Musculoskeletal foot health.

Miss Squibb lives with her other half on a dairy farm with their 2 spaniels and 100 dairy cows! When she's not at work she is feeding the calves or helping out in the parlour. She is also a massive windsurfer so can often be found in Portland Harbour.



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Parent Question of the Week

“Why are my children asking me to ‘Give Me Five’?”

Mrs King and the school council representatives introduced all of the pupils in the school to a great way to remember our British Values - democracy, rule of law, tolerance, mutual respect and liberty. The pupils have been challenged to remember these by using their hands to ‘Give Me Five’. We are checking in the playground, corridors and in lessons to see if they can remember these values. Ask your child at home to ‘Give Me Five’ and check how many they can tell you.

Challenge them to explain what each one means too!

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Pupil Question of the Week

“When will my parents get to come and meet my teachers?”

We have changed the way our parent consultations will run this year following feedback from parents and families. In the past few years (since Covid) we have been holding our parent teacher meetings online but we are now moving back to face to face, in person meetings.

In the last week of last half term our Year 5 parents were invited into school to meet the Year 5 team at our ‘Settling In’ evening. It was lovely to have your parents in school with us!

Parents of pupils in Year 6 are being invited to meet with your subject teachers at the end of this month. Letters will be sent out at the beginning of next week with a link to ‘SchoolCloud’, which will enable your parents to book appointments to see individual teachers. The year is being split in half with parents of pupils with the surname A-K attending on the first night and L-Z on the second.

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Reading News from Mrs James & Mrs Jeffery

Our KS3 book club is taking part in the Wessex Amazing Book award with seven other local schools and we been busy reading books published in 2023 and 2024 and discussing them every Tuesday after school. Just before half term, it was time to vote for the school’s nomination. The result was a tie between “Impossible Creatures” by Katherine Rundell and “Codename Kingfisher” by Liz Kessler, but the second round of voting put “Codename Kingfisher” in front and it’s our official DMS nomination for the long list. On Tuesday we looked through the books nominated by other schools on the long list and chose the three titles which we would like to read. The short list will be decided next week and we’ll get reading again in preparation for Awards Day in February.

The members of our KS2 book club are currently busy creating their own comic strips to produce entries for the National Literacy Trust’s Graphic Novels and Comics Competition. We have explored the techniques used in graphic novels and comics and the children are now using some of them in their own work. Their stories range from dragon wars, to Japanese adventures with some bad school days and romance as well. Dorchester Library has also invited us to come and visit after school in December.

ROARS

Our ROARS values are still going strong here at DMS. Pupils have started back and picked up some certificates again this week. We have been giving out a variety of awards for pupils showing the British Values and our school values which we are so proud of. Respect is one of both of these sets of values. Keep up the good work!

Celebrations

Children in need is coming soon! 15th November - Get it in your diary!

Whether it's spotty hairbands, spotty nails, spotty socks or spotty Pudsey ears, we would love our pupils to come in on Friday 15th November simply wearing something spotty to celebrate Children in Need!

Exchange your school jumper for a spotty one! Or your school socks for some spotty socks! Be creative with an item of clothing different to 'spot up' your school uniform Make your uniform just that little bit more spotty this year! 😊

We will be asking for a voluntary £1 donation to raise money for 'Children in Need' - an incredible charity that helps young people who are in challenging situations.

For more information about this charity please click the link below:

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/children.../support-us/>



PTFA News

The time has come and next week is the awaited PTFA Bingo Night on **Friday 15th November!!** Doors open at **6pm eyes down at 6:30pm** £5 per book, you can only buy 1 book on the app and then you can purchase more on the night (cash only).

You would have received a letter before half term regarding the raffle tickets for the Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Christmas Draw. There is a collection box in the school office to return stubs and money. The draw will be held by the Rotary Club on Friday 20th December.

Please don't forget that the next PTFA event is the Christmas Disco on **Friday December 13th.**

We will be holding our annual Remembrance Service on Monday morning. The pupils will spend some time with their tutors learning about the act of Remembrance and why it is important to us as a nation. The whole school will then assemble on the playground to listen to readings and music.

We are delighted to have a member of the Wessex Military Band and a Royal Legion Standard Bearer joining us for the service.



What's happening in our community?



- Our pupils have been busy this week recreating the Battle of Hastings. Who said you can't have fun and learn History at the same time!!



- Our Year 7s are off to a flying start with the gymnastics lessons which started this week!!
- Please look out for the 2 recent vacancies we have posted on the Jobs section of Dorset Council and the vacancies section of our school website. We are looking to recruit a PE Teacher, fixed term to start in January 2025 and a Receptionist to start as soon as possible and join our amazing admin team school. If you know of anybody who might be interested in applying and you would like to share this information please do so.

And finally...

We would like to congratulate Mr Webb on the safe arrival of his baby. I'm sure you will join us all in sending our love and best wishes to them at this time.

Don't forget to swap a piece of uniform for something spotty next Friday 15th November, to raise money for Children in Need!

Have a lovely weekend!!

Mrs Hammonds

