

Welcome to the...

DMS

6th December 2024



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Dear DMS families,

A Happy December! I can't believe that we are here already. It's been a week of 'advent conversations' as a little bit of excitement builds as we countdown to Christmas - and yes some of those conversations may have had a competitive chocolate theme.

Having said that, the school and pupils have continued to work hard around all the learning that has been taking place. With this in mind, 14,565 achievement points have been earned so far in just this half term; that is over 50,000 achievement points this year. For comparison, 39,000 achievement points were handed out in total last year, showing the improvement in recognition of pupil's work. This is something we are proud of and will be something we will continue to build on and celebrate.

One way we will be looking to build on this is by celebrating the success of pupils in our Head of Year Celebration Assemblies. We have been doing these weekly, but we will be summarising the Term in the coming weeks and handing out more rewards than usual. There will be lots of proud children, we are sure!

Next week, will also be the first week we set some challenges for our Houses. Pupils will need to work together and earn points for their team. Who will prevail this time, Attenborough, Malala, Simmonds or LeBron? Stay tuned to find out!

**Mr Murray**

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### Important dates for your diary

9th December	Gabrieli Roar concert - Exeter (Choir group)
11th December	Pupils' Christmas dinner - please book up to the week before
11th December	Carol singing at Tescos (from 3:45pm) - Choir group)
11th December	Year 6 - end of term assembly at THS - 1.15-3.15pm
12th December	Open Morning for new Y5 Parents (September 2025) 9-11am
12th December	Years 5 and 6 - songs around the Christmas tree - Playground from 2.30pm
13th December	PTFA Disco - KS2 5-6pm and KS3 6.30-7.30pm
16th December	Year 5 - end of term assembly at THS - 1.15-3.15pm
18th December	Carol Service - Dorford centre - 7pm
19th December	Choir visit to YMCA - Carol singing

**19th December (last day of term), children invited to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their DMS jumper/cardigan if they wish to, no donations required!**

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### Introducing this week...

#### Miss Sarah Clark, PD Base Teaching Assistant

Miss Clark started working at DMS in April 2024 as part of the PD base team. She has lived in Dorchester all her life and currently lives at home with her partner, 2 daughters (10 & 8 years old) and her 18 month Rottweiler Nova. She attended Thomas Hardy School where Mrs Gowers was her GCSE food tech teacher! Miss Clark enjoys spending time with family, reading books, long dog walks and baking cakes! Summer is her favourite season and she spends most of summer at the beach with the paddle board.



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## Parent Question of the Week

**“Is it too late if my child would like to get involved in any of the events over the next few weeks?”**

In all likelihood it will depend on the event, and where and when it is organised. The chances are, that if by now the deadline has passed, it will be unlikely that further arrangements can be made due to the organisation that needs to happen. However, if you are unsure, please don't hesitate to contact us and either speak to the person running the event or check in at reception, where we're sure someone will be able to help you with your enquiries.

## Pupil Question of the Week

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**“Are we doing anything special for Christmas?”**

There is always something going on for Christmas and we will be celebrating many things like so many other schools do. We will be maintaining a focus on learning over the next few weeks, although in the last week, a few lessons might take on a Christmas theme if it is appropriate. There are, however, so many other things that you can get involved in: be it Carol Services, dancing at our PTFA Christmas Disco, Choir singing or signing up to the Pupils' Christmas Dinner.

And finally, don't forget it is Christmas Jumper day on the last day of term!

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## Reading News - Mrs Jeffery & Mrs James

Dorchester Library invited Book World – our KS2 book club – for a visit after school this week. For the first part of the trip, we were shown all the amazing resources that can be accessed online. After the recent re-organisation of the regional libraries, an incredible range of comics and magazines are now available using the Borrowbox app. There are still lots of free audio books to try and we were shown a special feature which lets you set the listening time every night so that you won't miss the story if you fall asleep! The Encyclopaedia Britannica is a brilliant source of information for homework projects and you can change the font size and the amount of detail in each article. There is a special link on the library website which lets you join for free and use these resources.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/join-the-library>

After our online tour, the children were each given a challenge of locating a different kind of book in the children's section and they finished off by helping with the Library Christmas decorations. We had a fantastic time and are very grateful to the volunteers who helped us walk safely across town to the library.

At the start of the year we introduced a new House System. The vision of our house system is to support our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding of the world we live in by giving more opportunities to celebrate each other by creating communities within communities. A reminder of the Houses and the characteristics of each house can be found to the right.

Next week, we will be providing Maths challenges for everyone to compete in. Each correct answer will earn points for their team. Houses, will need to work together, communicate effectively and show their House characteristics if they are to finish on top. We will also be sharing the next phase of our house system by encouraging pupils to design their House shields.

**SIMMONDS**

Perseverance; Conscientiousness; Empathy; Equality; Ambition; Hard Work

**LEBRON**

Ambition; Excellence; Generosity; Responsibility; Sensitivity; Creativity

**ATTENBOROUGH**

Tenacity; Bravery; Humility; Curiosity; Knowledge; Communication; Compassion

**MALALA**

Bravery; Determination; Pride; Kindness; Fairness; Confidence; Protection

## Celebrations

On Monday 2nd December, our Year 7/8 girls team were triumphant against Studio School in an excellent display of football. They came away from the match 6-1 winners under the stewardship of Mr Dennis. Thank you girls for all your hard work and to Mr Dennis for his coaching. Well done!!!



Another victory for DMS on Tuesday 3rd December, when some of our Year 8 pupils competed in a Football fixture against the Studio School also. They won the game 3-2!! Another brilliant performance for the boys!!



With Christmas almost upon us, our school elves have been busy decorating the wonderful tree donated by **Fedora Flowers** (Miss Easton and Mrs Whiting floral business). Thank you to both of them for the tree, to our PD Base pupils for their time to decorate and to Roy from the site team for making the school ready for the end of year celebrations!!



## PTFA News

Next Friday 13th December is **Disco night!!** with our **PTFA End of Term Disco**: KS2 from 5:00 to 6:00pm and KS3 from 6.30 to 7.30pm. Don't forget to book your tickets via the school app.

Also Friday December 13th, is the deadline to return your Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Christmas Draw tickets' stubs and monies to participate in the draw. We still have some spare tickets in the school office if you want to collect a few extra, each ticket costs £1. Every penny from the DMS ticket sales of the Rotary draw will be returned to the DMS PTFA together with a bonus from the Rotary Club sales, which has been 15% for the last 2 years. So for every ticket you buy/sell you can be assured that the money is directly benefiting DMS.

## ROARS

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Firstly, a huge congratulations to all of our teams that have represented the very best of DMS this week. Here are our ROARS Achievement Point totals so far this year:

**READY** - 18,187

**ORIGINAL** - 4,567

**AMBITIOUS** - 21,280

**RESPECTFUL** - 5,600

**SAFE** - 1,095

As previously mentioned, these totals reflect the hard work of all our pupils and is reflected in what many of our pupils say about our wonderful school. Keep it up everyone!

## What's happening in our community?

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### CALLING ALL OUR YOUNG ARTISTS!!

We have been asked to promote the **Rotary Young Artist 2024-2025 competition** again this year, and the theme is: "Wonderful Water. The art work needs to be handed in during the last week of term with a few sentences on the back explaining where they found their inspiration. There are some great money prizes and KS2 and KS3 categories. Mrs Gowers has shared this information with the class tutors and they have been informed that if the children require any paper or board, they are welcome to see her after school or KS2, during lunchtime. Last year our Y8 pupil Sophia won the prize in Dorchester district competition, followed by the South West Regional and came 3rd in the whole country!!!

#### Rotary Young Artist 2024-25

#### **THEME - 'Wonderful Water'**

The 'Wonderful Water' Theme can be interpreted broadly and does not need to conform to the dictionary definition. Young people have the widest opportunity to share their creative talents in showing us what this Theme means to them.

#### **'Wonderful Water'**

##### **Aims and Objectives**

The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- be **creative**
- develop skills in using traditional, contemporary or digital media
- demonstrate interpretation of the topic
- express personal ideas through a selected medium

### Gifts of love appeal...

As you may already know, our school is supporting the lovely initiative from Age UK, which was originally presented to us by Miss Ashley a few years ago. Age UK provides Christmas gifts for those in Local care homes. Each tutor group will have two gift bags to fill and then these will be collected directly from school by Age UK on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. If you would like to contribute, it doesn't need to be an expensive gift, it is the thought that counts. **Some gift ideas are:** adult colouring books, colouring pencils and sharpeners, knee blanket, 2025 calendar, umbrella, shopping bag. **Please avoid:** candles, fresh food, live plants, boiled sweets.

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## And finally...

With so much going on at this time of the year, I hope each and everyone of us manage to make the most of the opportunities in and around school as we look forward to celebrating the best of DMS over the next few weeks.

Best wishes,

**Mr Murray**