

Welcome to the...

DMS

13th December 2024



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OPEN

Dear DMS families,

This is the time when we celebrate our pupils' achievements over the whole term, gathering together to acknowledge hard work and dedication both in and out of the classroom. On Wednesday Year 6 held their Celebration Assembly in the Thomas Hardy Theatre. On Monday it will be Year 5 who celebrate their achievements. Last week, Key Stage 2 got together to celebrate the fantastic children who took part in the Primary Maths Challenge along with the latest recipients of the coveted ROARS certificates. It was wonderful to welcome Miss Sharpe into the assembly and to have the opportunity to thank her for enabling the children to take part in this challenge. Huge congratulations to everyone who received a certificate yesterday, you are all ROARSome! All of the children who took part in the challenge received a certificate and a tube of (hexagonal) Smarties.

Years 7 & 8 gathered together yesterday to share their celebrations with 20 pupils receiving certificates having completed their Bikeability Training. We are very proud of all of our pupils and enjoy hearing about their successes as mathematicians, linguists, sportspersons and musicians!



Mrs Hammonds

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Important dates for your diary

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| 13th December | PTFA Disco - KS2 5-6pm and KS3 6.30-7.30pm |
| 16th December | Year 5 - end of term assembly at THS - 2:00 to 3:00pm |
| 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! |
| 20th December | Inset day - school closed |
| 6th January | Inset day - training for staff - school closed to pupils |
| 7th January | First day of Spring Term - all pupils back to school |

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Introducing this week...

Ms Claire Bullick, PD Base Teaching Assistant

Our lovely Ms Bullick joined DMS in March 2020. She already knew the school as she was a pupil here, many years ago, when it was the 'Green' School (DGSG) and it was a good surprise for her to be back. She moved back to Dorset from busy Bristol, and she has enjoyed swimming in the sea, walking in the beautiful countryside, and getting to know Dorchester again. She also likes to spend time with friends and family, feed the hedgehogs in the garden, walk and read or make things if she can't go outside. She just recently started running again, and is really enjoy starting Tuesdays with the DMS Running Club. Ms Bullick is always really busy!!



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Parent Question of the Week

“When will after school clubs start again?”

Our autumn term clubs have now ended, as of Friday 13th December, and we are already planning and preparing for our spring term clubs. Information will be sent out to you next week with the opportunity to sign your child up to a range of clubs. There are some new options available some of which happen during lunch break, as we know that our pupils like to be busy!

Please read the club descriptions to make sure it is the best fit for your child. When completing the booking forms you will be asked to add information around collection and walking if the club ends after school. This helps us to safeguard the children, especially on dark evenings. Should you need to make any changes to collection arrangements then a note in the homes/school diary for that day will be enough to reassure the club leader..

Pupil Question of the Week

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“When do we break up for the Christmas holidays?”

The last of day of term is Thursday 19th December which is fast approaching! We will all be in normal lessons during the day, as we know that some pupils find changes to the timetable and less structured time difficult to manage. We want everyone to head into the holidays feeling calm and relaxed.

Everyone in school is invited to wear christmas jumpers on the last day as a way of marking the end of term and celebrating the season.



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Reading News - Mrs James

Congratulations to Emily in Year 8 who has been shortlisted (one of ten in her age group) for the Benjamin Zephaniah Young Writers Award and invited to attend an event at Birmingham City University. Emily wrote her poem on National Poetry Day in her English lesson. Well done Emily!!

Don't forget our DMS Christmas Reading Bingo! Last year this was hugely popular and really promoted Reading for Pleasure in our school so please do encourage your child to take part! It's open to all year groups and there are prizes which will be awarded after the closing date in January.

Instructions are simple and are on the Christmas Reading Bingo sheets, which have already been distributed (and emailed home). You will also find copies in the library.

Over the next few days, look out on the DMS Facebook page for a very special book give away which links to our Christmas themed reading bingo.

Happy reading and Happy Christmas!

Escapeline is a charity committed to the prevention of the criminal and sexual exploitation of young people by gangs across Southwest England. For years, thousands of children have been exploited through the practice of County Lines, in which highly organised urban gangs take over provincial drugs markets. County Line gangs are increasing their operations to recruit local youngsters from small towns, including Dorchester, rather than the big cities and Southwest England has been particularly targeted.

Escapeline will deliver an information talk aimed at parents and carers specifically, and the community generally, from **6:30-7:30** on **Wednesday 05 March 2025** in the theatre of the Thomas Hardy School. The talk is free to attend and booking is not necessary. For more information email: kmatthews@thomas-hardye.net

Celebrations

On Thursday some of our Year 7 students competed in a football match against the Atlantic school. In this game the boys played some wonderful football, creating many goal-scoring opportunities. The game finished 3-2 to DMS. All members of the team were outstanding and demonstrate the exact characteristics we strive for at Dorchester Middle School. Another brilliant display from our amazing Year 7s. Well done all!



On Wednesday our children had their Christmas lunch!! They had so much fun, particularly our PD Base students who invited some of their friends to join them at the Base. We also had the extra help of Mrs Pullman, Mrs Stewart-Pope and Mrs Araya from the Admin team.



PTFA News

It is **Disco night tonight!!** Have you bought your tickets? KS2 from 5:00 to 6:00pm and KS3 from 6.30 to 7.30pm. Today was also the deadline to return your Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Christmas Draw tickets' stubs and monies to participate in the draw.

Remember that 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.

Our Year 8 parents and carers are kindly invited to attend the exhibition: The Fragility of Freedom, of work from our Y8 pupils, to be held on Friday 10th January from 11 am to 12:15pm.

You would have received an email with the information, but Please feel free to contact Mrs Araya: aaraya@dmsschool.co.uk, if you have queries or would like to confirm your attendance.

What's happening in our community?

REMINDER - 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 by Monday 16th December 2024, with a few sentences on the back explaining where they found their inspiration. The prizes are £75, £50 and £25 for the winner, runner up and third place. There will be school, local and national prizes and KS2 and KS3 categories.

Our super DMS Choir has been really busy this week and definitely spreading the Christmas cheer with the Gabrielli ROAR Concert in Exeter on Tuesday, Carol Singing in Tescos on Wednesday and Thursday we had songs around the Christmas tree with our Years 5 and 6 pupils. They are all amazing!!! Thank you to Mrs King for making all these events possible!!



And finally...

"It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas..." I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of our Christmas music this week as our choir has entered shoppers outside Tesco on Wednesday and we had a special event around the christmas tree on the playground yesterday. Don't worry if you have missed us as our concert is next Wednesday evening in the Dorford Centre, and Mrs King and the choir will be at the YMCA the next day.

Have a happy Christmas when we get there and see you back on Tuesday January 7th!

Best wishes,

Mrs Hammonds