

Dear DMS families,

Welcome to this week's edition of the DMS Dozen. As we draw closer to the end of another half term (can you believe we are almost halfway through the school year!?) it is always a great time to reflect on the progress the children have been making.

One such metric is that around achievement. This term we have been continuing the upward trend around rewards with increasing number of children earning their ROARS certificates during their year assemblies and as previously mentioned before Christmas our recognition of achievement through the awarding of Achievement points is at an all time high. In fact, at the end of the Autumn Term, we had awarded just over 58,000 achievement points! In context, that is almost 20,000 more achievement points than the whole of last year - and that was only in the first term - just think where we could be now.

It goes without saying, that these awards are not possible without the hard work the children put into their work and being wonderful citizens. We are so proud of them.

Next week, we will be updating you and the children around rewards, so please stay tuned to next week's edition.

If going forwards, you have any questions around our rewards, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



**Mr Murray**

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**Important dates for your diary**

8th February	Parkrun (5km) - Great field - Poundbury
13th February	Parent Voice Meeting - 5-6pm
17th to 21st February	Half term break
6th March	World Book Day
24th to 28th March	KS3 Careers Week
28th March	SEND Coffee morning for parents/carers - 9:10am

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**Half term Activities**

We are lucky in the Dorchester area (with proximity to Weymouth and villages nearby), to have on offer various activities during half term for our children.

We are constantly sharing the information which is sent to us in various ways.

You can also find this information in our FB page.



**Family Day**

At Dorset Museum  
Monday 17th of February  
Crafts between 11am - 2pm

Come along to find out about different family support available in your local area whilst enjoying some free activities included with the admission to the museum

Sensory Room

CCO Dorchester Community and Parent Partnership

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## Parent Question of the Week

**There is a lot of illness around at this time of the year. What happens if my child's attendance starts to fall?**

Attendance is monitored every day, but if you know that your child will be off for illness or a medical reason, please phone into school. If over a period of time attendance starts to fall and patterns around absence start appearing, your child's homebase tutor will contact you to offer any support. From there our Attendance Officer and pastoral team will look to support and help improve attendance. The team are keen to work with anyone who needs help, so please get in touch if you are worried.

## Pupil Question of the Week

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**Has there been a change to achievement points, and if so how have they changes?**

More information will be going out about achievement points next week, but from this term you can earn Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, ROARSOME and Headteacher awards for the number of achievement points earned. We will share with you the number of achievement points you need to earn for each award next week - so you can try and reach the next award or two after half term. You will receive your award in an assembly at the end of each term.

Sounds ROARSOME!

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## Connected Minds

In line with this week's work around children's mental health, we have been given the following information to share with you from Connected minds.

Connected Minds is an 8-week early intervention programme in a group setting that empowers young people to look after their own mental health by exploring their reasons for not wanting to attend school and to develop a toolkit to address these issues going forward.

They provide free and local support to help young people aged 10-13 year-olds (Years 6-8) experiencing mild to moderate anxiety, emotional problems and low attendance at school.

You can find more information on their website: [dorsetmind.uk](http://dorsetmind.uk)

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One month (well, one month minus one day!) to World Book Day 2025!

This year, **World Book Day** will take place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** and is a global celebration of books and reading. At Dorchester Middle School, we have many exciting events planned and we can't wait to celebrate authors, illustrators, books and share the joy of reading. We will be sharing more information about World Book Day next week.

There are a few more days to enter our second DMS book giveaway; details are on our school Facebook page. Finally, with half term around the corner, Dorchester Library are offering children who are 12 and over a couple of sessions on their Wii. It's free to join in - just book on the link: [Half term fun on the Wii Tickets. Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)



Mrs James

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## Celebrations

**Yr 7 Basketball Match -DMS v St Osmund`s - Result WON 8-4!!** In a game that saw high spirits, cut and thrust but the true sportsmanship that we know and love, our Yr 7`s claimed bragging rights. All DMS pupils represented their school impeccably, they acted as gentleman and played passionately. In a world where competition sometimes breeds animosity our pupils epitomised all that is good about inter-school rivalry. These matches, between Dorchester Middle Schools bring together pupils from different educational institutions and create a unique platform for young minds to showcase their talents, learn from each other, and build valuable connections. Sport was the victor! **Mr Roberts**



**Y7 Netball Match - wet and cold but fun!!** A massive congratulations to our Year 7 ladies for an amazing performance in the Area Netball Tournament, they have qualified for the upcoming County competition. They came second place overall and according to the girls, their performance made Miss Crocker dance a lot on the sideline. Gracie H and Isla B were highlighted as standout players, they were described to be "the next level". A huge thanks must go to Tracy Moore for all the help she's given the girls - both Year 7 and Year 8 are now representing the school at County level.



**Y5 Netball Match vs Sunninghill** Well done to Y5 netball team, who played Sunninghill on a cold Wednesday afternoon, the score was 3-0. They played really well but they didn't win this time. Well done to Evie, Maya, Poppy, Daisy, Alice, Jasmine. Georgia and Nigh were missing from the photo



The school is very proud of all our pupils representing the school so brilliantly!!

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## Introducing this week...

### Miss Steph Boyton - Receptionist/Admin Support

Miss Boyton lives in Dorchester with her partner, daughter and 1 crazy cat. She joined us as our Receptionist in September last year and she is the first face you see when you come into the school, from Mondays to Wednesdays. Miss Boyton enjoys camping, paddle boarding and anything that means being outside. She also loves taking her daughter to new places and trying new foods.



**SAFE:** During our 'Mental Health' week in school, we have been looking at ways that we can keep ourselves safe by making the most of the amazing world around us. We have been giving guidance around how to check in with our emotions and how to deal with what life can throw at us. One thing that is for sure, is that we can all feel a little bit better if we look after each other. The epitome of this and what it means to be a DMS pupil was seen last week, when an older pupil was seen helping a younger pupil, who was new, to class after they got a little lost. This and many other random acts of kindness are part of what makes ROARS roar!

## What's happening in our community?

This week we have had wonderful activities to support the Children's Mental Health Week. It all started on Sunday with the Junior Parkrun from the Greatfield in Poundbury. Today it was Dress to Express and tomorrow the 5km Parkrun, please do join us at the Greatfield!!



We had Wendy joining us for assemblies, she has a fantastic testimony around mental health. She shared the stigma that is attached to the term 'mental health' and educated our pupils around being kind to yourself, looking after your whole body- including your brain! and why it's important to speak out when you have any concerns. Year 7 pupils hung on her every word as she shared her powerful journey. Next was Years 5 and 6 turn to listen. On Monday Year 8 were visited by a speaker from Kooth, a mental health online wellbeing community. This is all part of our plan to raise awareness around mental health across our school this week.



### DMS Parent Voice meeting - 13th February from 5pm-6pm

Our parents and carers are cordially invited to our next parent voice evening on Thursday 13th February from 5pm-6pm. Please complete the form attached if you would like to attend and to share any topics you would like to discuss. <https://forms.office.com/e/La0K6bkunZ>. Many thanks, **Mrs King**

## And finally...

Next week, for our KS3 pupils there is a new rotation in their tech subject, so please check your inbox for any updates from schoolcomms. If your child is moving to a PE rotation, they will need to remember to come into school in their PE kit.

With that, the last thing to say is for everyone to have a lovely weekend and a wonderful start to next week. Until next time...

**Mr Murray**