

Dear DMS families,

When I first joined the school on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 one of the areas I recognised needed a great deal of attention was the condition of the building and the facilities we are able to offer pupils to enhance their learning environment.

Work has continued over the course of this half term to improve our school building and by Easter, the second phase of our plans should be complete. This includes new LED lighting in the Science/Technology corridor which was very poorly lit, complemented by new flooring and the walls/ceiling being painted throughout the whole area. The Textiles room is being completely reconfigured, repainted and a new floor laid. The Resistant Materials workshop has had new LED lighting fitted as has the school hall. The school hall will also be benefitting from a complete repainting of its walls, varnishing of the wood panelling and an upgraded flooring.

Further work continues in the gym with the purchase of £6000 worth of new basketball hoops and nets which are better configured and adjustable. This means our younger basketball stars of the future have a far better chance of training with equipment which works for them. I am fully aware how popular this sport is at DMS and I know there are many pupils who are excited at the arrival of this equipment!

Outside of school, you may have noticed a huge amount of work being undertaken to remove foliage which for many years has become overgrown. I want to return the grounds to the well-presented way they looked back in the 2000s (we know this having found pictures from that era). We want to be able to use the front of the school far more effectively and provide pupils with additional lessons outside once the warmer weather arrives to enhance the curriculum that we provide. There are some great spaces for pupils to engage with their reading!

Additionally, the patio area which runs alongside the technology rooms and is currently very uneven, will also have a new surface laid following the updating of our drainage system which is desperately required to reduce flooding when it rains!

Phase three will be to update flooring and lighting across the remainder of the school and I will keep you updated as to the progress of this.

The condition of our school building is a good indicator as to how much we care about the experience pupils receive at DMS and I hope everyone continues to benefit from what we are doing now and into the future.

**Mr Webb**

## 2

## Important dates for your diary

17th to 21st February	Half term break
6th March	World Book Day
12th & 13th March	Y5 Parents Evening – bookings to go live on Monday 24th Feb - 6pm
24th to 28th March	KS3 Careers Week
28th March	SEND Coffee morning for parents/carers - 9:10am

## 3

## Update of Medical Records

We are updating our medical records, please click on the link below, to complete the form for your child/children: [Medical Records Update](#)

Alternatively you can scan the QR code on a phone or tablet to access the form.

If English is not your first language, you can use the drop down menu at the top of the form for more language options.

Medical Records Update



# 4

## Parent Question of the Week

### What are your plans for further improving the curriculum at DMS?

All the Curriculum Leaders are continuing to strengthen the quality of their subject by focussing on the breadth and depth of what is taught and the way that content is assessed. We will also start to think more deeply about links across the curriculum, when certain topics which are taught can support the learning in other subjects and how we can ensure that pupils remember more effectively key knowledge that has been taught.

# 5

## Pupil Question of the Week

### Will you be improving further the facilities in the library?

Yes, we will be continuing to invest in new books along with computers and a new screen which will advertise and highlight great reads and important notices. We are very fortunate to have a highly professional and hard-working librarian at DMS and it was lovely to hear pupils speak the other day so highly about how they enjoyed and benefitted from the promotion of reading that DMS continues to prioritise!

# 6

## World Book Day 2025!

World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 6th March** and is a global celebration of books and reading. At DMS, we have many exciting events planned and we can't wait to celebrate authors, illustrators, books and share the joy of reading with our pupils.

Half term is the perfect opportunity to sort out entries for our World Book Day competitions ('Read Your Way' photograph competition and design a book token), find a book for our Book Swap, and maybe start to think about what adjective to dress as on World Book Day.

Please see the letter sent home this week for further information about all our World Book Day events and activities.



We are very excited to share the news that DMS' very own Elsie has been selected to play as the future lioness goalkeeping centre! She faced strong competition and was successful. We cannot wait to see her representing ENGLAND when she's older! We are all right behind you Elsie and congratulations!



Wow! Rebecca has had a letter from the Houses of Parliament! (and she was only there last week with Student Council!). She sent a letter and a message to the Prime minister sharing why it's so important to look after our world and got a reply! Well done Rebecca for taking a stand for what you are passionate about!

## Children's Mental Health Week – Dress to Express

We had a lot of “expressions” last week on our ‘Dress to Express’ day. It was lovely to see the whole school community participate in order to support such an amazing charity project such as Stampede by the Sea. We raised the amazing amount of **£317.37!!** Our thanks again to Miss Easton and Miss Ashley for all the work they have done.



## Y8s English Work

Miss Homer reported that yesterday, 8RS got to interview Mrs Maloney (who looks remarkably like Miss Beswarick!) from Roald Dahl's 'Lamb To The Slaughter' as part of their current mystery topic.

They had to decide if she was a victim or a villain in the case of the death of Mr Patrick Maloney.

And the decision? Let's put it this way ... you don't want to get on the wrong side of 8RS!

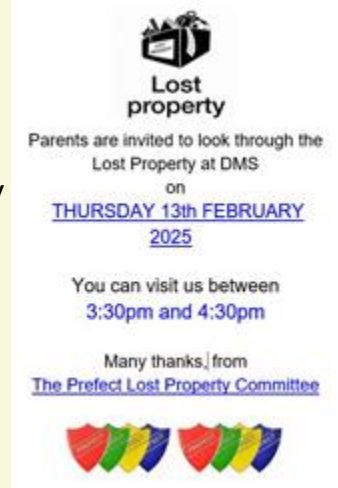


Our pupils are ROARSOME! We are constantly revising what we do, and one of the things we are currently focusing on is rewards. An update should be coming home through your inbox soon, but we have been updating the way we are recognising achievement in the school. As a result, pupils will now start to receive more stripes at the end of each term, and with a wider range of ways to achieve them, you can be assured that your child will be coming home with a big proud smile on their face.

## What's happening in our community?

### Lost Property:

Our Prefects will be displaying Lost Property on **Thursday 13th February, between 3:30 and 4:30pm in the Reception area**. As mentioned before, we keep accumulating a huge amount of items in lost property. We currently have coats, PE hoodies, school jumpers, water bottles, pencil cases plus many other items. All named items have been returned to the children, the remaining items are all unnamed, so if your child has 'lost' something please come along and take this opportunity to have a look through, there is no booking system, just turn up. After this opportunity we will be offering parents/children to 'Take What You Need For Free' so we can reduce the Lost Property we currently hold. Thank you very much for your support with this.



### Wraparound Care - Before and After school:

We would like to remind our families that we run a paid before and after school wraparound childcare in school. You are able to book and pay online via the school gateway. The school office closes at 4:00pm, and we don't have staff available to look after the safety of the children who stay behind in the school grounds (who are not attending a club or Wraparound care), and that are waiting for siblings who are attending clubs, sports fixtures or waiting to be collected by parents who are running a bit late. Thank you very much for your understanding, this is due to us having the Safeguarding of our children in mind.



## And finally...

I know many pupils will be looking forward to welcoming back Miss Clements after half term. I am delighted to say that she has been given the all clear and is very excited to be returning!

Finally, whatever you are doing over the half term, have a great break and I look forward to seeing you all again for the second half of the Spring Term.

**Mr Webb**