

Dear DMS families,

I love this time of year when the mornings are getting lighter, earlier and the evenings are beginning to last a bit longer and we finally have some long-awaited sunshine. It certainly helps me feel more awake when I get up in daylight to walk my dog before school!

It has been fantastic to see all the students enjoying break times and lunchtimes running around outside and enjoying themselves, quiet play areas are certainly quieter as students are venturing back outside. It has also been that half term when our PE lessons can start again outside on the field and the school feels more alive and active.

I know a lot of our children are also beginning to talk more about going out alone after school with friends. As a parent I appreciate how daunting this can feel and how you question how do you decide when the time is right. There is certainly no easy answer but the NSPCC have a resource with some really practical advice and tips to help with this decision [Home alone or out alone guide | NSPCC Learning](#)

Ms Layfield

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Important dates for your diary

7th March	PTFA Bingo – 6pm, eyes down at 6:30pm
12th & 13th March	Y5 Parents' Consultation Evenings
24th to 28th March	KS3 Careers Week
28th March	SEND Coffee morning for parents/carers - 9:10am

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Parents of year 5 and 6 – Breakfast Club Information

We have been successful in becoming a breakfast club early adopter school. We are being funded by the Government to provide access to a **free breakfast club** from Wednesday 23rd April 2025 (8:30 – 9am) for year 5 and 6 pupils. Please refer to the letter sent out by Miss Clements earlier in the week. We would like you to fill out a questionnaire to help us find out your views about your child or children attending the free breakfast club.

[Please click here for survey.](#) Alternatively scan the code on a phone or tablet to access the form.



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Parent Question of the Week

I have just found out which upper school my child is going to, what happens next?

Next September may feel like a long way away but over the next term we will be working hard with Upper Schools to ensure that your child's transition is as smooth as possible. Your child will already have been asked to select some friends they may like to be in the same tutor base with. Although we cannot guarantee this, we will share this information. We have also begun to develop this years Enhanced Transition plan for those students that may need some extra support around this, and we will share more information in the coming week.

Pupil Question of the Week

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When can we use the field at break and lunch?

Now that the sun has begun to shine, we realise that you are all wanting to be able to get back out to play on the field. We will continue to monitor this as even though the it looks ok the ground is still quite wet, and we want to make sure that we can protect it so that it is healthy for the sport that takes palace over the next term and a half and for our summer sports day!

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Reading News

Yesterday, we celebrated World Book Day and what a fantastic day it was! We had Book Swaps, lunchtime quizzes, dressing up, competitions, special book related lessons, a murder mystery story – and more! Please do take a look at our school Facebook page to see some of the ways that the pupils (and staff!) embraced the day and remember our Scholastic Book Fair is open after school on Monday 10th March for any final purchases. We invited pupils to come to school dressed as an adjective and awarded year group prizes for unique and creative ideas.

Well done to all of our winners!

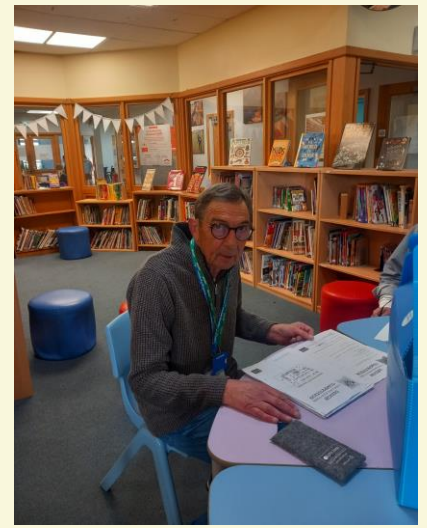
The last date to hand in Reading Ambassador applications is Tuesday 11th March. We can't wait to read all of the ideas that our pupils have to promote reading at DMS.



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World Book Day

Our two Dorset Reading Partners were delighted to be our judges this year for our World Book Day competitions, although they did say that they had their work cut out as the standard of entries was so high. After an afternoon of judging 150 entries, they decided on Xander (5MS) and Catherine (6LM) as the winners of the 'Read Your Way' photograph competition, and Aaron and Freya from 7RW as the winners of the Design a National Book Token competition.



All entries for the book token competition will be in the school competition.

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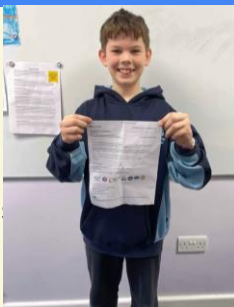
Celebrations...

What an amazing afternoon at Parkstone Grammar! The girls from the Netball team represented DMS in a valiant light! We preserved and demonstrated strong team spirit. The results were not as we would've like however they should be extremely proud!



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Our amazing pupils...



A huge congratulations to Jack in Y7!! He entered a short stories competition with the local food links against many pupils within the area and won the key prize! We are so proud!!

A big well done to Leo, also in Y7, for creating some amazing code in his IT lessons! He's created a game which he's sent to himself on his phone and now plays! It's is very addictive! Here he is showing his two certificates from Mrs Hyde for all of his efforts! Well done!



As our ROAR this week we have been looking at how can be **AMBITIOUS** in sport, with a continued school presence at a number of sporting events.

To allow all out students to be **AMBITIOUS** in sport, next week school is hosting a table cricket tournament with schools' form across the country, with a focus on adaptive sport to ensure students, with a range of abilities, are able to participate as Team DMS.

What's happening in our community?

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It is Family Bingo night tonight!! Doors open at 6:00pm, eyes down at 6:30 in the School Hall. £5.00 per book (6 games). There will be refreshments available, cash and card accepted!!

Please do support our PTFA's amazing events, as they provide incredible support to the school by funding supplies, activities and more for our pupils. You can follow them on Facebook for more news and events, and to contact them in case you have some time and would like to join them. They are a fantastic group of parents who work so hard for DMS.



12 And finally...

Dorset County Council are really keen to engage more with families of children with SEND living in Dorset. They have been running Let's Talk SEND online seminars this year and the next one is coming up on 13th March at 11.30am The theme this time include meeting needs in mainstream school and myth busting around special schools and there is plenty of time for Q&A sign up on the link below and don't forget your questions! <https://orlo.uk/Y14W7>

Please also remember that our coffee morning is on the 28th March for our parents and carers of students with SEND which I also look forward to meeting with faces new and old to hear you thoughts and experiences and continue working together.

Ms Layfield