

Dear DMS Families,

I want to dedicate my piece this week to the incredibly hard-working volunteers who make up our PTFA.

Put simply, DMS would not be able to undertake improvements or provide some of the equipment pupils have benefitted from without the funds raised by the PTFA. Among the most recent items that we have been able to purchase purely due to the fund raising of the PTFA are:

- ✓ Safety equipment for pupils to use when undertaking practical experiments in science.
- ✓ New aprons for pupils to use in Technology.
- ✓ A new dishwasher for the catering department.
- ✓ New cutlery, bowls and mixers for the catering department.
- ✓ New basketballs for pupils to use at lunchtime (this is a very popular sport amongst our pupils).
- ✓ Storage boxes for the PD Base and lost property.
- ✓ New blinds for the rather large windows in the Drama Hall as part of its re-decoration.
- ✓ Two 'buddy-benches' for pupils to use at break and lunchtime as part of our anti-bullying strategy.
- ✓ Two new pro design paper cutters for the art department.
- ✓ Additional books on football for the library to promote the engagement of reading.
- ✓ Wheeled trolleys to enable us to rotate around our 'book corner' literature range in KS2.
- ✓ Dictionaries and thesauruses for use in KS2 classrooms.

This is only possible with everyone supporting the PTFA operate so please do look out for future events and once again a huge thank you to all volunteers – library, technology, trips etc. who support the school week in and week out.

Mr Webb

Important dates for your diary

28th March – PTFA Disco

31st March – Year 5 Celebration Assembly 14.00-15.00

1st April – Year 6 Celebration Assembly 14.00-15.00

Parent Question of the Week

Can we receive information about what are children are going to learn instead of finding out what they have learnt when we receive a report?

This question has been posed a few times and it is something we are going to prepare for the new academic year. Our aim is to provide for you by year group a brief summary of the key topics that you child will be studying in order that you can support them as much as you wish in preparation for their future learning and assessment.

Pupil Question of the Week

When will the field be open at lunchtime?

I am hoping to be able to re-open the field after the Easter break subject to the weather remaining sunny and limited rainfall. Please remember that due to the KS2/KS3 lunch split, lessons will be taking place on the field at times and therefore it will not always be open to everyone.

Reading News

This week we have held our customary end of term parties for Book World and the Page Turners – our KS2 and KS3 after school book clubs. The Page Turners have had a busy term, taking part in the Wessex Amazing Book Awards Day at Shaftesbury School. They gave a fantastic presentation for their nominated book, “The Kingfisher Code”, voted for their favourite book on the short list and enjoyed an amazing buffet while local author, Gillian Cross gave a talk and announced the winner. It’s been a great reading experience and next term they will be taking part in a brand new reading award – The Wessex MAT Genre Slam with KS3 pupils from Thomas Hardy and the Purbeck School. Members of the club also competed in the National Reading Championships – an online quiz for schools across the country. The 75 questions were live streamed and from a heat of 24 teams, our Year 8 team finished 6th and the Year 7 team joint 9th.

Book World have been enjoying some Harry Potter themed sessions this term, finding out which house they would be sorted into, creating Top Trumps Cards, duelling with spells and playing charades and Pictionary with a Harry Potter twist. Their group was also selected by a publisher to preview, “The Last Dragon on Mars”, by Scott Reintgen. Most of them really enjoyed the book and they’ve written some fantastic reviews. However, the undoubted highlight of the term was the session where they made origami hedgehogs from old books and we will be starting the Summer term with some more papercraft.

Celebrations...

Year 7 Basketball team took part in the Year 7 area tournament held At St Osmund's. After some closely fought fixtures (including a narrow one basket defeat to the eventual champions), the DMS team finished a respectable 4th place. Well done to all the boys who took part and showed great skill, teamwork and DMS ROARS throughout!



Lost Property

On Thursday 3rd April between 3.20pm and 4pm all lost property will be displayed on the playground for parents and pupils to come and collect any lost items. Due to the large amount we have, at the end of every term lost property will be emptied so this will be the final opportunity to collect your missing things. If you are in need of extra uniform, you will be able to help yourself to any unnamed items.



Medical Records Reminder

This is a reminder that we are updating our medical records. Please click on the link we have emailed you to complete the form for your child/children, alternatively you can scan the QR code on a phone or tablet to access the form. If we do not receive a response by 4/4/2025 we will assume your child does not have a medical condition that we need to be aware of.

Medical Records Update



ROARS

On Tuesday, year 7 and 8 participated in a spelling bee house competition. Miss Ashley gave the pupils some challenging words to spell! Well done to Malala House for taking the win.



Awesome Aztecs Among Us!

Year 6 are studying the Aztec Civilization in history at the moment and are able to research a variety of artefacts, which we have been lent by our partners at Cranborne Middle School. By handling, sketching, discussing and then writing about these beautiful artefacts, the children are able to improve further their skills of historical enquiry and interpretation.

Thank you Mrs Martin and Mrs Woodruff for facilitating these great lessons.



And finally...

Our new website has been operational for the last six weeks now. If you are not on Facebook, you can still see all our posts on the website by scrolling down on our HOME page to the latest news section. Our Facebook feed is linked directly to it and therefore our news is updated all the time giving you a real insight into the school!

Mr Webb