

Dear DMS families,

I hope that you and your families all had an enjoyable and restful holiday. We are all now back into the swing of things at school and the break seems a distant memory!

It has been an incredibly busy start to the term, and I am thrilled to say that the free breakfast club for KS2 pupils has been a busy one. If you would like to book your child into this club, please do so via the Gateway app.

There have already been a number of trips out since our return. Mrs Gowers took some budding artists down to Weymouth beach for a 'Dorset by the Sea' workshop with Dorset County Museum and Mrs Hammonds went with two groups of pupils from KS3 to Kingston Maurward for a careers fair.

We are now incredibly close to our year six pupils taking their national curriculum assessments (SATs) and I am sure that they are all working hard so that they can achieve their best possible outcomes. Good luck to all our pupils, we are very proud of you!

Miss Clements
Assistant Headteacher

Important dates for your diary

- 7th –9th May – Year 8 Residential Trip
- 9th May – Basketball club is cancelled
- 12th- 15th May – SATs week
- 16th May – School Disco
- 19th -23rd May – Year 6 Writing Booster Week
- 20th & 22nd May – Year 8 River Trip
- 21st May – Year 7 Lulworth Field Trip
- 21st May – Poole Orchestra Concert
- 13th June – DMS Community Challenge – Sponsored Run

Summer Fete

We are excited to announce that once again this year's summer fete will feature our Show Tent. This is an opportunity for you to show off your creative talent, whatever your age, all based on a seaside theme. We have categories for Key Stage 2 and 3 as well as friends and families. Whether you are inspired by sandy beaches, sea creatures or colourful ice creams, this is your chance to bring a splash of coastal creativity to the summer fete.

Full details of all the competitions and details on how to enter will follow soon. We can't wait to see what you create, so dust off your paintbrushes, gather your materials and let your imagination set sail!

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Parent Question of the Week

How do I book my KS2 child in for the free breakfast club?

The bookings are now open until the end of the summer term. You can book your child in via the Gateway app up until 2pm the day before. There is no cost, we just need to know who is coming in case of special dietary requirements/allergies.

During SATs, all year 6s will be welcome for their special '**SATs breakfast**'. There is no need to book your child in for this, they will just need to come to the hall between 8:30 and 8:45am to collect their snacks.

Pupil Question of the Week

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Now that the weather is nicer, can we go on the field at lunchtime?

If you are in KS2, then you can use the field every day, but KS3 can only use it on a Monday. This is due to our split lunch and PE lessons on the field.

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Reading News

At Dorchester Middle School, we believe in the power of reading to open minds, spark creativity, and build confidence. That is why we're proud to introduce our **DMS Reading Ambassadors**—a team of passionate pupils who are helping to spread the joy of reading throughout our school. Selected for their enthusiasm for books and dedication to promoting literacy, Reading

Ambassadors serve as role models and reading champions across our school.

We're very excited to work alongside them this year as they continue to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our school's reading culture.



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CELEBRATIONS

It's been an incredible week for sporting success in our school!

1. Well done to two of our year 8 pupils, Theo and McKenzie who won their league this season with Dorchester YFC under 13s.
2. Well done to Lily (Y7) and Bella (Y6) for winning their Football County Cup Final.
3. A big congratulations to Leo, who has been dancing in two completions over the past week in Blackpool. Leo and his partner became European Juvenile American Smooth Champions and Blackpool Junior Dance Festival Juvenile American Smooth Champions.



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50 pupils from Years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge - a national competition run by the UK Maths Trust for secondary schools. They were selected to represent the school because of the high standard of their work, and for their focus, creativity and determination shown in Maths lessons. They had a number of difficult problems to solve from a range of topics and contexts, which were designed to really make them think! The papers have been sent away to be marked and we will have the results just before half term. A huge well done to all who took part - your achievement points for being ambitious and original are on the way!

Well done to all our ROARS certificate recipients!



Led by artist Ilsa Black, a group of our talented year 8 art students spent the day learning about the sea and the world beneath the waves at Weymouth beach. The pupils immersed themselves in mindfulness sketching exercises then created seascapes in their sketch books using a range of media including charcoal and ink. The art enrichment was the first of two days working together with the Dorset County Museum.

The art work is part of preparations for the upcoming 'Dorset by the Sea' exhibition taking place this summer at the museum. A fantastic day in glorious sunshine was enjoyed by all. Who wouldn't enjoy art lessons on the beach?



And finally...

On a personal note, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has welcomed me back to school after being off – I'm even in my PE kit a couple of days a week this term! Have a lovely bank holiday weekend,
Miss Clements