

Dear DMS families,

I hope you enjoyed the long weekend over the bank holiday. My husband and I popped into Groves Garden Centre in Bridport on Monday and found our DMS elephant which is part of the 'Stampede by the Sea' project. Have any of you looked for the elephants dotted around the area? The exhibition continues until the 27th May.

Our house competitions have continued with a sporting theme this week. The competitions were organised by Mr Palmer and involved tennis, football and basketball. Read on to find out the results so far!

It's great to see so many pupils taking advantage of our breakfast club. We look forward to seeing all of Year 6 next week for their special SATs breakfast, provided by the PTFA.

The school has seemed very quiet at break and lunch time without the full complement of Year 8. We look forward to hearing all about their adventurous trip when they return next week!

**Mrs Hammonds**  
**Assistant Headteacher**



## 2

### Important dates for your diary

9th May	Basketball club is cancelled
12th-15th May	SATs week
16th May	School Disco
19th May	BAE Systems Roadshow Y7
19th-23rd May	Writing Booster Week Y6
20th/22nd May	River Trip Y8
21st May	Lulworth Field Trip Y7
20th/21st May	BSO Children's Concert in Poole Y5 & 6
23rd May	Jane Austin Writing Workshop Y5
13th June	DMS Community Challenge – Sponsored Run

### Performing Arts Club – Aladdin

Our rehearsals are going well, with everything coming together. Please remember that the rehearsals on the 12th and 19th of May will run a little longer with a 5pm finish on both nights.

**4**

## Parent Question of the Week

### When will the next Parent Voice meeting take place?

That is a great question – thank you! Your next opportunity to share your views with us as part of our work in building our school community will take place on Thursday 26th June. We also have termly staff voice meetings with a workload and wellbeing focus. Our pupils meet with Mrs King regularly through her work with the School Council.

We value hearing from the different groups within the DMS community as we all have such an important part to play in making this school be the best environment for our pupils to learn and thrive.

## Pupil Question of the Week

**5**

### When will the Year 5 girls' toilets be improved?

We have a plan to further improve our estate (buildings and grounds) which has been split into different phases. The toilets are already part of the plan, and we hope to see them refurbished in the next 12 months. Maintaining a school is bit like painting the Forth Rail bridge – the work is never over, it needs careful planning and management.

**6**

## Reading News

At our school, we absolutely love books—so you can imagine how excited we were to receive a delivery of brand-new dictionaries and thesauruses for Key Stage 2! There's something really special about opening fresh, new pages filled with words just waiting to be explored.

This amazing gift was made possible by our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association). Thanks to their generosity, every class in Key Stage 2 now has access to these up-to-date fantastic resources.

Whether we're checking our spelling or looking for more exciting vocabulary to use in our writing, our new dictionaries and thesauruses will certainly help us become more confident and creative learners.

From everyone in Key Stage 2, a huge thank you to the PTFA for supporting our learning in such a meaningful way. We really appreciate everything you do for DMS!

## 7

## CLUBS and EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our summer term clubs have started again with around 30 clubs on offer across the week. We cover every interest from sport to art and puzzles to performing arts. Clubs run before school, over lunch and after school to make sure that everyone can attend something even if they are reliant on bus transport. If you missed the opportunity to book, please get in touch as there may still be places available in some clubs. My email is [dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac)

## 8

### Inter-house Competitions

This week each year group has participated in our Inter-house sports competition. The results of the Year 5 competition haven't been shared at the time of writing this so we will have to wait until next week (or check Facebook later) to find out who the overall winners will be. Here are the results as they stand:



House Competition Sports Week				
	Malala (Red)	Attenborough (Blue)	Simmonds (Yellow)	Lebron (Green)
Year 6	55	31	49	30
Year 7	53	42	43	48
Year 8	85	74	86	81
Total	193	147	178	159
Position	1st	4th	2nd	3rd

### Careers Visit – Kingston Maurward College

Last week I had the pleasure of taking two groups of pupils from years 7 & 8 to a careers fair at Kingston Maurward College. There were exhibits there from local colleges, universities, employers and agencies.

Myself and the other members of DMS staff who attended were very proud of our pupils. They attended every stall, chatting and asking questions about the various careers and training opportunities represented. They collected freebies along the way! One of the exhibitors pointed out two of our pupils as being the most impressive out of all those who had attended from many different schools. She said she had watched how they interacted with the adults and were incredibly polite and respectful. Well done Aiden and Tyler!

I would love to hear any parents who run businesses locally. Would you be willing to talk in an assembly for 10 minutes about your work and training? You can contact me at [dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac](mailto:dhammonds@dms.wessex.ac)

## 9



Congratulations to the Year 6 pupils who received their ROARS certificates last week and to the Year 7 pupils who received theirs this week. Keep up the great work!



## Year 8 Residential Trip

This week, some of our Year 8 pupils have been on a residential trip to Exmoor. Thanks to all the staff on the trip for keeping us updated with photos- It looks like you've all had a great time. Check out our Facebook page, Dorchester Middle School- DMS for more photos.



## And finally...

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 6 pupils well when they take their SATs next week. The pupils and staff have worked hard to make sure everyone is ready. Now have a relaxing weekend and come back next week ready and raring to go!

***Mrs Hammonds***