

# Newsletter



St Osmund's  
CE Middle School  
Hope · Community · Respect · Love

Friday 22nd May 2026

Dear Ossie's Families,

Our focus this week is on journeying as a community. At Ossie's we often talk about the importance of our community feeling a sense of belonging within the school. Having worked at the school for over a decade now, I certainly feel like a true 'Ossie' and would hope that each of our students feels that too. We have reflected in worship this week on the feeling of belonging as we journey as a community and have been lucky enough to see some of our very own Ossie's feature in a video from the Diocese of Salisbury about what belonging means to them. I'm sure this will be available for a wider audience very soon.

Alongside this we have looked forward, towards Pentecost, the birth of the Christian Church after Jesus ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. This birth of a community that turned out to be something incredible reminds me a little of the special community that we have here at St Osmund's.

Having surpassed themselves last week with their focus and hard work during SATs week, Year 6 have continued to excel themselves during Writing Week this week. Having the opportunity to 'just write' and to spend a sustained amount of time working on and publishing pieces has produced the most incredible outcomes. We are so proud of each and every one of them. They thoroughly deserve a restful and relaxing half term break.

As we look toward the next, and final, half term of the year, we have so much to look forward to: Enrichment Week, Leaver's Events and Transfer Day. Year 8 get to reflect on their time with us straight after half term with their Retreat Days. These are a unique and special part of our offer as a Church of England Middle School and a key part of the transition process.

Today we have seen our students come to school in their own clothes from home in return for bringing a donation for Ossie's Fest. It is lovely to see them in their own outfits, especially on this last day before the half term break. I, for one, love the chance to come to school in my jeans! Ossie's Fest will take place on the first Friday back. This is a real community event and we look forward to seeing so many of you. Get your tickets in advance if possible to save money! If you are able to help behind the scenes with setting up, running stalls or taking down, it's not too late.

Contact [Frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac](mailto:Frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac)

The sun is shining and the half term break is upon us. The good weather looks to continue into next week and I can't wait to hear what our Ossie's have been up to when they return on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Claire Minhinnick (Assistant head Teacher)



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Monday 25th May— Friday 29th May—HALF TERM**

Monday 1st June— Back to school

Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th June—Year 8 Retreat Day—details to follow

**Friday 5th June—Ossie's Fest**

Tuesday 16th & Thursday 18th June—Year 7 Coastal Trip—letter to follow

Monday 29th June—Friday 3rd July—Enrichment Week

Tuesday 7th July—Transition Day

Wednesday 8th July— Ossies Games—more details to follow

Thursday 16th July—Year 8 Leavers' Picnic—more details to follow

## ENRICHMENT WEEK

Watch this space for Enrichment Week updates! We will be adding to this section over the next few weeks to remind you of any action you may need to take.

### Things To Do:

- Check you child's medical and dietary requirements are correct on Arbor. You can find these on the main menu under 'profile', dietary requirements / medical conditions.
- Upload a copy of your child's passport and GHIC card (Paris trip) as per the letter sent to you on Monday 9th March.
- Following the information evenings, the Rockley and Mendip presentations have been added to the school website.

**Please note that there will be no wraparound care during Enrichment Week.**

# OSSIE'S OPPORTUNITIES

	LUNCH	AFTER SCHOOL
M O N D A Y	<p>Zoneball – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>Zoneball – KS3 – WDA – Sports Centre</p>	<p>Wonderland Rehearsals – All Years – SSH – Small Hall</p> <p>Art Club – KS3 – SST – Art Room</p> <p>Dodgeball – KS3 – WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>Rounders – KS2 – ERE, JHA – Field</p> <p>Softball – KS3 – DKI - Field</p>
T U E S D A Y	<p>OCAG – KS3 – HMU – Rm 20</p> <p>OCAG – KS2 – SCA – Rm 11</p> <p>Art Club – Year 6 – SST – Art Room</p> <p>Street Soccer – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>Street Soccer – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre</p>	<p>Rock &amp; Pop Club – All Years – SSH – Music Room</p> <p>Athletics – All Years – DKI, ERE, WDA, JHA - Field</p>
W E D S	<p>Basketball – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>Basketball – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>Creative Writing – KS2 – Room 11</p>	<p>Pickleball – All Years – Sign up required</p> <p>Tennis – KS3 - ERE – Top Courts</p> <p>Creative Writing Club – INVITE ONLY - Library</p>
T H U R S D A Y	<p>Computer Club – KS2 – LPI – ICT Room</p> <p>KS3 OCAG Energy Savers – HMU – Rm 20</p> <p>Street Soccer – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>GIRLS Street Soccer – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre</p>	<p>2.45 - 3.15pm - Concert Band—KS3—SSH—Music— INVITE ONLY</p> <p>Gardening Club – All Years – Outside room 3 - (sign up with Miss Pike first before attending)</p> <p>Rounders – KS3 – DRO – Field</p> <p>Cricket – KS3 –GBI – Field</p> <p>Tennis – KS2 – WDA – Top Courts</p> <p>Volleyball – KS3 – AMI – Sports Hall</p> <p>Coding Club – GOT, LFO, ICT Room</p> <p>Chess Club – INVITE ONLY – CMI - Library</p> <p>Wonderland Rehearsals – All Years – SSH – Small Hall</p>
F R I D A Y	<p>Zone ball – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre</p> <p>Badminton – KS3 – WDA – Sports Centre</p>	<p>Badminton – Year 8 – CURRENTLY FULL</p>

## WRAPAROUND CARE

**Please note there will be no wraparound care provided during Enrichment Week, Monday 29th June—Friday 3rd July (inclusive).**

## WE WILL ROCK YOU BOYS WORKSHOP—FREE

WOW Youth Musical Theatre is inviting boys in Years 8–12 to join us for a free musical theatre workshop inspired by our upcoming production of We Will Rock You.

This session aims to encourage more boys to get involved in singing, acting and performing in a fun, supportive environment.

Sunday 31 May

2:00pm–3:30pm

WOW Studio, Weymouth. FREE to attend

No previous experience or preparation needed.

There may also be an opportunity for selected participants to be invited to join WOW's November production of We Will Rock You.

Book your free place now:

<https://www.wowyouththeatre.org.uk/.../we-will-rock-you.../>

## OCAG DONATIONS

OCAG are looking for donations of cardboard and scrap fabric to make bookmarks for Ossie's Fest. If you can help, please send donations to the school office for Miss Carney.

## 2027 SKI TRIP—PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

There are 5 spaces left for the 2027 Ski Trip. This trip is open to anyone who will be in Year 8 from September. If you would like more information, please email [trips@stosmunds.wessex.ac](mailto:trips@stosmunds.wessex.ac)

## Changes to Free School Meals

From September 2026, the government has expanded Free School Meals (FSM), so that children in households that claim Universal Credit (UC) will all be eligible (as well as people still in receipt of some other benefits). Previously, your annual household income (excluding benefits) had to be under £7,400 for you to be eligible for FSM. This is a major change that will help a lot of families. All students who are eligible for FSM, will receive a wholesome hot lunch provided by Local Food Links.

We will be writing to you all after half-term with more information about FSM, and details of how to apply once Dorset Council have confirmed the process. We expect applications to be open in June.

In the meantime, however, we want to make sure that our families get all the support they are entitled to.

We urge you to check if you are eligible for Universal Credit. You might be surprised. This [article](#) suggests that a single parent earning under £39,500, or a couple with a combined income below £56,400 could be eligible for UC depending on their circumstances. Higher earners could also be eligible depending on the number of children they have, housing, disability and other factors, so it is certainly worth checking. You can find out more about UC, and how to claim, [here](#). Please take a look as soon as possible so that you are ready when FSM applications open. If you think you might be eligible for Universal Credit, but need help claiming, you can contact Citizens Advice for help by calling 0800 144 8 444.

## Parent Survey—your chance to win a £50 Amazon Voucher

As part Dorset Councils Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, they are asking parents and carers about their childcare needs. This work helps them to better understand the current and future demand for childcare across the local area, enabling us to support families more effectively.

The parents survey has a **prize draw of 5 x £50 Amazon vouchers** - please access the link and QR code below, to take part.

Survey link: [Childcare Survey for Dorset Parents and Carers - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

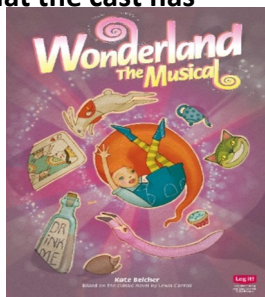


**Closing date:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026

# WONDERLAND THE MUSICAL

Please see below for the rehearsal schedule for the first 2 weeks after half term. Scripts will be given out to Y6 and Y7 pupils with speaking parts at the first rehearsal!

It would be lovely to see as many of the cast as possible for Ossies Fest - we will be performing 2 or 3 songs from the production to whet your appetite and show you some of the music that the cast has learnt so far!



Monday 1st June	Full Cast
Thursday 4th June	Alice 3 – <i>“All Alone in Wonderland”</i> All Cooks – <i>“Pepper for the Soup”</i>
Friday 5th June	OSSIES FEST! The cast will be performing 2 songs from <i>“Wonderland”</i> between 5pm and 6pm.
Monday 8th June	Full Cast
Thursday 11th June	Alice 8 – <i>“Won’t you join the Dance?”</i> Mock Turtle – <i>“Lobster Quadrille”</i> White Rabbit and Alice 2 – <i>“Oh my Ears and Whiskers!”</i>

## FROSSIES

Frossie’s, our Parent Teacher Association, continue to make a remarkable difference to our School life at St Osmund’s, supporting opportunities that enrich every child’s experience. This year alone, they have generously donated £1,500 towards Enrichment Week, helping to provide exciting activities and memorable learning experiences.

Their ongoing fundraising efforts are also contributing towards a new school mini bus, which will open up even more opportunities for trips and wider learning.

Last year, they ensured every child was given the opportunity to enjoy a special Christmas lunch, an act of kindness that meant a great deal to our whole school community.

Frossie’s relies on the support of parents and carers, and we would love to see more people get involved, whether by helping at events or joining the committee. Together, we can continue to build something truly special for our children.

To get involved, please email [frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac](mailto:frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac)

# REQUEST FOR SUPPORT WITH OSSIE'S FEST



Ossie's Fest is back for 2026, and we need your help to make it bigger and better than ever! This is our main fundraising event as we continue on our mission to purchase a new minibus for the school.



We are still seeking sponsorship for this event:  
Main sponsors - £250, you will be featured in all our promotional material and can bring banners and flyers to the event.

Stall sponsors - £100 to sponsor a stall and your business will be featured as the stall sponsor and highlighted on our posters.

With thanks to Ben at The Car Shop Dorchester  
for agreeing to be our first sponsor!



We are also seeking raffle prizes and plant donations for our plant stall, plus additional volunteers to help us man stalls -we will be running two sessions so you will still have plenty of time to enjoy the event.



June 5<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 9pm. St Osmund's School Field.  
If you can help support us, please get in touch with your friendly PTA  
team:

[frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac](mailto:frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac)

Thank you!

# OSSIE'S FEST



# OSSIE'S FEST 2026



Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 5pm to 9pm

Ossie's Fest and Raffle Tickets for sale now on Arbor!



Live band -  
Flaming Cactus  
Student bands  
Open mic

OACG:  
clothes stall and  
bake sale



Bar  
Hot food  
Crisps & drinks  
Candy Floss  
Raffle  
Tombola  
Plant stall  
Football game  
Henna & glitter  
tattoos

Adult £3, Child £2 (50p increase per ticket on the gate)

With thanks to our sponsors:



Lorry kindly supplied by Hunts Food group





# OCAG at OSSIEFEST

**CLOTHING & BRIC-A-BRAC STALL!**

**FRIDAY 5TH JUNE at OSSIEFEST 5PM - 9PM**

**ALL ITEMS  
UNDER  
£5!**

**Please donate:**  
clothing and accessories  
of all sizes – kids and adults

- + Clothes & trousers, dresses, shoes
- + T-shirts, tops, jeans, hoodies
- + Hats, scarves, bags, jewellery
- + Toys, games, books, CDs, DVDs
- + Board games, household items
- + Ornaments, bric-a-brac



**OSSIE'S**  
Climate Action Group

**SHOP NOT SWAP!**

- ✓ CLOTHES MUST BE:
- ✓ IN GOOD  
CONDITION



**DONATE TO  
MISS WAY  
IN ROOM 3 ANYTIME!**

There's only one Earth

### Table Tennis coaching for Juniors



Beginners thro' to Advanced – age 6+

#### Where

Thomas Hardy School Sports Hall, Dorchester

#### When

Saturday 11.30 to 13.00

Tuesdays 16.40 to 17.40(during school terms)

#### Dates

Saturday - May 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – further dates tbc

Tuesdays - May 5<sup>th</sup>,12<sup>th</sup>,19<sup>th</sup> – further dates tbc

#### Coaches

Tony Jackson and Steve Jackson

Table Tennis England Qualified Coaches

#### For further details contact Tony

Mobile: Text 07444 431 434

Email: [tonyj\\_jackson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyj_jackson@yahoo.co.uk)

#### Fee

Tuesday Sessions – Introductory offer no fee

Saturdays £5 for a 90 minute session

DORCHESTER DYNAMOS

DORCHESTER DYNAMOS

UNDER 11S

**LOOKING FOR  
ADDITIONAL PLAYERS**



TO JOIN OUR TEAM

PLEASE CONTACT TOM  
ON 07745623467 IF YOUR  
CURRENT YR 5 PUPIL IS  
INTERESTED IN JOINING



Fun and  
supportive

Equal play time  
for all players

ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE



TRAINING

SATURDAY AM






MATCHES

SUNDAYS

LEARN A BRASS INSTRUMENT

# LEARN A BRASS INSTRUMENT!






 Ages 8+ |  Free Tuition |  Instruments Provided

Ever fancied playing the **cornet**, **horn**, **tuba**, **percussion** or one of the many other brass instruments?

Come and join the **DURNOVARIA SILVER BAND TRAINING BAND**

— a fun, friendly place to start your musical journey.

## WHAT YOU GET

-  Free music tuition
-  Instruments provided
-  Progress from Training Band into the Main Band
-  Welcoming, supportive atmosphere
-  Make new friends & learn new skills

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS & LEARN NEW SKILLS!**



**FRIDAYS 18:00**



**DURNOVARIA BAND HALL,  
KINGS ROAD, DORCHESTER,  
DT1 1NH**



**INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH:**  
[dsbcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:dsbcommittee@gmail.com)



**COME ALONG, GIVE IT A GO, AND DISCOVER THE JOY OF MAKING MUSIC!**

PIDDLE FEST



# Piddle fest

KIDS GO  
FREE\*

1.00PM-  
9.30PM

SATURDAY  
30 MAY

NINA GARCIA  
SAM & RICHIE  
THE GRASS RATS  
RATRACE

TICKETS £16.50

[PIDDLEFEST.CO.UK](http://PIDDLEFEST.CO.UK)

PIDDLETRENTHIDE

IN AID OF PIDDLE VALLEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY FUNDS & AIR AMBULANCE

\*UNDER 14S GO FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A PAYING ADULT

FAMILY FUN DAY

# FAMILY FUN DAY!

IS COMING TO

# THE TRUMPET MAJOR!

Saturday 29th August 2026

UK Entertainer

## KRAZY KEV

Entertainer & Magician

LIVE from 14:00 - 17:00



## THE TRUMPET MAJOR

★ 29TH AUGUST 2026 ★

★ FREE ENTRY! ★

## VOLUNTEER PARENTING GROUP LEADER



Join your Family Hub and  
**TRAIN TO BECOME**

A volunteer parenting group leader

Lived  
Experience

Shared Strength

Lasting Impact

- The years between two and eleven can be an intense emotional roller coaster for **any parent or carer**.
- Could your parenting journey **support other parents and carers?**
- We're looking for **volunteers to lead Empowering Parents Empowering Communities a course by parents, for parents.**
- **You bring your experience.**
- We'll give you the **training to thrive as a leader.**

Mums, dads and carers can apply

To find out more, please scan the QR code, fill in the short enquiry form and we will contact you for an informal chat



DORSET YOUTH DANCE

DORSET

**activate**  
performing arts

# Youth Dance

Move, Create & Have Fun with DYD

Calling all 7–12 year olds who love to dance and perform!  
Join us for a FREE taster workshop full of movement, creativity and fun. We'll explore games, storytelling and creative activities in a friendly, energetic environment. No experience needed — just bring your love of dance!

Email [dyd@activateperformingarts.org.uk](mailto:dyd@activateperformingarts.org.uk) to book onto a session...

## Upcoming dates:

Sun 7th June: 10am - 11am

Sun 14th June: 10am - 11am

Sun 21st June: 10am - 11am

Sun 28th June: 10am - 11am

Sun 5th July: 10am - 11am

**Venue: YMCA Dorchester, DT1 2RZ**



Seasonal activity trail

FREE

# Thorncombe's Leaf Trail

Friday 22 May to  
Sunday 28 June

**Come and enjoy our free family-friendly nature trail across our beautiful reserve.**

Slow down and look closely to discover which leaves belong to which trees, noticing the rich variety of shapes and textures.

Follow the Thorncombe Loop to discover the hand-painted discs scattered around the reserve. Pick up a free pocket map to help guide you.

Our off-road mobility scooters can be used on this trail. Please book in advance on **01305 251228**.



[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/hardysbirthplace](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/hardysbirthplace)



# DOMVS CHILDREN'S WRITING CHALLENGE

Dear Parents,

## Re: Story House: The DOMVS Children's Writing Competition

Our pupils have been invited to participate in **Story House: The DOMVS Children's Writing Competition**, an annual competition to recognise local writing talent.

As in previous years, the competition will be judged by **Lord Julian Fellowes**, local actor, novelist, film director, and screenwriter. The shortlist of winners, and their parents/guardians, will be invited to an **awards ceremony** at Dorchester in **January 2026** (exact date TBC), hosted by Polly Greenway from DOMVS, Lord Fellowes and his wife, Lady Emma Fellowes. At the event, there will be photo opportunities with Lord & Lady Fellowes.

The winner, runner-up and a highly commended entrant will each be awarded a certificate and book token, with the overall winner also receiving a trophy.

### Guidelines:

- For authenticity, stories should be written by hand (in English), but digital submissions will be accepted from children who find writing difficult
- **The deadline is (please choose your deadline to meet the DOMVS deadline of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2026)**
- **Stories should be submitted (delete as appropriate) to the school or via email to ([storyhouse@domvs.co.uk](mailto:storyhouse@domvs.co.uk))**
- All stories should start with the following sentence provided by Lord Fellowes, '***The sound was like nothing I had ever heard before***', and will be judged on originality, imagination, spelling and grammar
- There will be three categories, and the child's year group will be based on their 2026/2027 school year:
  - Category 1 – Years 2 & 3 (up to 300 words)
  - Category 2 – Years 4 & 5 (approx. 400 words)
  - Category 3 – Years 6 & 7 (approx. 500 words)
- All entries must be clearly marked with the author's name, age, year group and school
- No more than one submission per pupil will be accepted
- Any accompanying illustrations must be by the author of the story (illustrations are not a necessity)
- Judges' decisions and prize allocation are final, and any form of plagiarism will result in disqualification
- Parents/guardians of the overall competition winner will not unreasonably withhold approval for the winner's photograph to be used in any press release and/or publicity material relating to the competition

This is an exciting opportunity for young minds to explore their imagination, sharpen their writing skills, and be recognised amongst the area's brightest talent.

Kind regards,



LET'S  
GO  
FLY

## DORCHESTER KITE FESTIVAL

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-4.30pm  
The Great Field, Poundbury

### Design a Kite Competition!

Help launch Dorchester's first ever Kite Festival by designing a kite to represent our town. Take inspiration from the landscape, places, and people to create 'A Celebration of Dorchester'. Use your creativity and imagination to decorate the template on the reverse of this sheet.

Designs will be judged by the Mayor of Dorchester. The winning design will be made into a real kite by an artist and flown by the Mayor to start and end the festival!

Please don't forget to fill in your contact details so we can get in touch with the lucky winner.

**Parent/guardian please complete so we can find our winner! BLOCK CAPITALS**

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel/Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick to allow us permission to use your design for future marketing:

**Enter by Midday Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

To enter, send your entry form and design to us by

Email: [conniehollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:conniehollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk)

Post/drop-off: Dorchester Town Council, 19 North Square, Dorchester, DT1 1JF



Please see following page for the kite template

**My Celebration of Dorchester!**





# CASTERBRIDGE CANTER

**CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR  
DORCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL PTFA**

**Wednesday 8th July at 7pm  
10K & 5K trail race**

10K and 5K chip timed trail races around some absolutely stunning farmland. A pure trail run with no roads, maybe some hills, and 90% crosses private land with special permission just for this event! It promises to be a challenging and enjoyable evening with bar, BBQ and lots of cake.

Find us on Facebook for more information

**ENTRIES NOW OPEN AT**

**[www.casterbridgecanter.co.uk](http://www.casterbridgecanter.co.uk)**

# DORSET TENNIS ACADEMY



## MAY HALF-TERM HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS



*Mini Tennis for children 4-8 years old*  
*Tennis for children 9-14 years old*

**WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**At St. Osmund's Sports Centre, Barnes Way, Dorchester, DT1 2DZ**

### ***What's on offer***

- Great coaching from an LTA qualified and accredited instructor
  - Fun games, competitions and prizes
  - Rackets provided if you don't have one
  - Indoor facilities in case of wet weather

### ***What to wear/bring***

- Sports kit, trainers/tennis shoes, a coat if wet
  - Snacks and drinks



SESSION(S)	PRICE
Day	£17.00
Both days	£33.00

To book a place, please visit the Dorset Tennis Academy website using the following link or google 'Dorset Tennis Academy Holiday Camps':-

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/DorsetTennisAcademy/Coaching/Camps>

For more information, please contact Neil Darragh, DTA Manager/Head Coach on [ndarraghtennis@gmail.com](mailto:ndarraghtennis@gmail.com) or 07788 973259

T: 01305 262897 [www.stosmunds.wessex.ac](http://www.stosmunds.wessex.ac)

/stosmundsschool

Email addresses for staff can be found on our website under 'About us/School Staff'