

Newsletter



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

Friday 10th July 2026

Dear Ossie's Families,

We've had another busy week for our penultimate week here at St Osmund's, full of hope and new experiences.

Our week started with a visit to Thomas Hardy School for some of our KS3 Performing Arts students. We had the pleasure of seeing the dress rehearsal of 'Into the Woods', their big show for this year. We were blown away by the level of talent and our students came away very inspired and excited about getting involved once they go up to Thomas Hardy's. The students were an impeccable audience and made us very proud.

Tuesday brought an important day in the school calendar as we welcomed Year 4 students for transfer day. A great day was had by all and our current students moving from Year 6 into 7 also had a chance to meet their new tutor in the afternoon. Meanwhile, our Year 8s began their next steps by visiting Thomas Hardy School for the day. They got to know their new tutor and tutor group and to experience lessons in their new school.

Ahead of an exciting weekend of sport for the nation, Wednesday was our annual Ossie's Games. Now a firm fixture in the school calendar, the students enjoyed a variety of games and sports in the morning, before participating in and supporting the more traditional athletic events in the afternoon. We managed well in the heat and the day was a huge success. Watching the variety of activities on offer and the level of support that our students gave each other was seriously impressive! Thank you to all of you who came to support our Ossie's in the afternoon.

Following a 'normal' day of lessons and learning yesterday, today we held our first 'Power Down' day. Organised by OCAG, we have all worked away from computers and printers and avoided using power as much as we can. While it has proven challenging, it has inspired some real creativity in the way we teach and learn and produced some great work! It's hard to believe that there was once a time when we didn't have the luxury of interactive whiteboards and PowerPoint presentations! Our day ended with an energy free collective worship led by OCAG.

OCAG would like you to support us by continuing this after school hours. Here are a few examples that OCAG have come up with to help with your evening: Open curtains and blinds to let natural light in instead of lamps and lighting; play board games instead of screen time; prepare a cold meal (the weather is hot!); go outside and be with nature. We would love to hear about your efforts-please email any photos or stories to hmugridge@stosmunds.wessex.ac.

As we enter the final week of the school year, I would like to remind you that we still have many library books outstanding. Please keep looking or use the Arbor shop to fund a replacement so that our students have as many books to enjoy next year as they have previously.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend, and hopefully the sport too!

Yours Sincerely,

Claire Minhinnick (Assistant Head Teacher)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday 16th July—Year 8 Leaver's Service—9:30am—St George's Church, Fordington

Thursday 16th July—Year 8 Leavers' Picnic

Friday 17th July—Last day of term—NORMAL FINISH TIME

Tuesday 1st September—INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd September— BACK TO SCHOOL—**YEAR 5 ONLY**

Thursday 3rd September—All Years Return

OSSIE'S OPPORTUNITIES

THERE ARE NO CLUBS DURING THE LAST WEEK OF TERM.

OUT OF HOURS WILL CONTINUE TO RUN AS USUAL.

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

Ossies Needs You!

The problem: every year our Ossies school library loses a large number of books that are borrowed but never returned. Unfortunately, we lose more books than we have the budget to replace, which sadly means fewer books for the children to choose from.

What you can do to help: students with overdue school library loans will be bringing home letters this week and next with details of the book/s they have borrowed. Please check if your child has a letter, and support them in finding the books and returning them to the library before the end of term.

Thank you,

Mrs. Mallinson

Librarian

LOST PROPERTY

Come and take a look!

Our lost property collection is growing quickly. We have a large number of un-named jumpers, coats, shoes, lunchboxes and other items waiting to be reunited with their owners!

We encourage all parents and careers to take a few moments to look through the lost property. Items are available to check after school every day.

Please ensure all children's belongings are clearly labelled to help us return items more easily in the future.



STUDENT COMPUTER PASSWORDS

Please remind children to make a note of their passwords for the computers / emails for next year. If they cannot remember it then please ask them to come and find Mr Lister before the end of term and he will re-print it for them. This makes the start of September much easier during lessons where the computers are used. Thank you.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Families across Dorset are being encouraged to check now whether their children will be eligible for free school meals from the September 2026 school term. This follows changes by central government.

From this autumn, all children whose parent/carer receives any level of Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of how much their household earns. This removes the current £7,400 annual income cap and means more children will be able to have free school meals.

Free school meals can save families up to around [£495 on school lunches](#) per child per year, while also ensuring children receive a healthy, filling meal during the school day.

To prepare for the change, parents or carers will need to apply or reapply from 1 June 2026, even if their child already receives free school meals this school year.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT SMARTCARDS

Parents and Carers - Please check your child's school transport smartcard

If your child's smartcard is due to expire at the end of the academic year or in July, please check whether this is correct.

- If the expiry date looks incorrect, contact Dorset Travel so we can investigate and ensure your child is included on the new smartcard list where appropriate.
- If your child's smartcard still has a valid expiry date, please keep it safe and do not destroy it.
- Please note: some smartcards will end as expected where a child is leaving their current school (e.g. Year 11 or school leavers) You do not need to contact us if the expiry date is correct in these

LOCAL FOOD LINKS

School Meal Price Update – September 2026

We are writing to give advance notice of a small increase to school meal prices from **September 2026** for the new academic year.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we always strive to keep costs to parents as low as possible. However, the continued rise in food, fuel, and staffing costs means this adjustment is necessary to ensure we can maintain the high quality of meals we provide for your children.

The price of a two-course school meal will be **£2.90**, and we hope you will still consider this to be good value for money. Please note that a few schools may charge slightly more, this is a school-based decision.

Some pupils may come under the new eligibility criteria for Free School Meals – to check whether this applies to your child, visit <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals>

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Summer Reading Challenge parent carer news

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge

Children sign up through their local library and receive a sticker booklet. They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice during the summer and can join in with library events, collecting special stickers along the way.

Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a medal when they have collected 6 stickers, and a certificate is sent to school in the Autumn term.

Read to the Beat starts Saturday 4 July



The Summer Reading Challenge website will be having a Read to the Beat makeover - take a look at the [webpages](#) from early July. It will be full of book recommendations, games, quizzes and fun things for children to explore.



Culture Quest

Over the summer holidays, The Arts Development Company will be running Culture Quest. Through a Culture Passport, children will be encouraged to explore Dorset's rich creative offer trying new activities, and discovering new interests.

Children can pick up their passports from their local library from 24 July.



2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge - Read to the Beat, celebrates the joy of reading through music, rhythm and performance. Through vibrant illustrations, fun rewards and free library activities inspired by music and sound, Read to the Beat invites children to discover how stories and music connect, while enjoying their local library and sharing the experience with family and friends.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free holiday activity for children, and a key moment for the National Year of Reading. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence.

Library events

Libraries will have free events planned throughout the summer holidays for children to join in with. Keep checking our [What's On](#) webpages as more events are listed all the time.

Look out for some special events delivered by Dorset Music Service in Dorset libraries.



The Summer Reading Challenge is developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries.

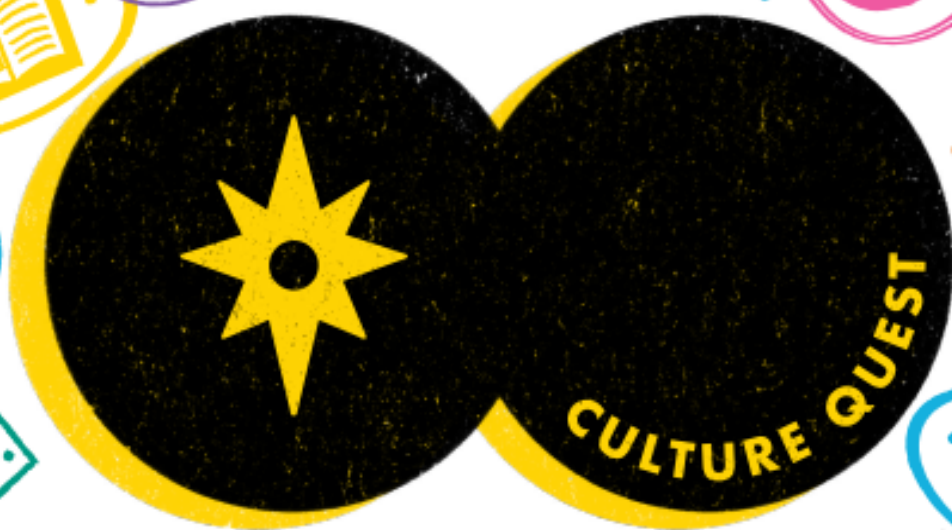
Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

GO
ALL
IN.

Our Library Service mission is to **Inspire,**
Connect and **Enable** our communities



BE A CULTURE QUEST EXPLORER THIS SUMMER



✧ **HELLO EXPLORER!** ✧

Take a Culture Quest around Dorset this Summer!

- ✧ Pick up your Culture Quest Passport from your local Library ✧
- ✧ Visit some of Dorset's exciting arts and culture venues, ✧
take part in fun activities or do something creative at home.
- ✧ Collect 5 stamps to complete your Culture Quest! ✧
- ✧ When you've finished, take your passport back to ✧
the library to receive your Culture Quest Certificate
and sign up to the prize draw.

SCAN HERE:



to find out more and get involved.
www.culturequest.co.uk

PARENTING SKILLS & STRATEGIES



Parenting Skills and Strategies

The opportunity for parents/carers to meet 1:1 with 2 members of our team to gain practical and friendly support, information and advice regarding children and young people aged 0-19.

Please book a 30-minute slot

22nd May daytime phone calls only 10-12pm

16th June 10.00am-12.00pm, face-to-face in Dorchester Library or phone call

16th June 6.00pm-8.30pm, phone call only

7th July face-to-face in Dorchester Library or phone call

14th July 6.00-8.30pm phone call only

To book a slot, please email:

dorchesterfamilyhub@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Please scan the QR code or search Dorchester Locality on Facebook for local events.





Dorset
Council

Are you the
parent or
carer of a 2-
11 year old?

Parenting isn't easy

If you are finding yourself stuck then join us at **Dorchester Family Hub** for our eight week **Being a Parent** course.

Delivered **by parents for parents** this course will give you practical tools to make parenting more manageable

9th September - 11th November
10am- 12pm



EMPOWERING
PARENTS
EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES

Scan here
to sign up



Seasonal activity trail

FREE

Butterflies and Moths Trail



**Saturday 11 July to
Sunday 6 September**

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

Pick up a free pocket map
and guide, then follow the
Thorncombe Loop to discover
some of the butterflies and
moths that live among the
plants and trees. Look for the
beautifully hand-painted discs
scattered around the reserve.

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



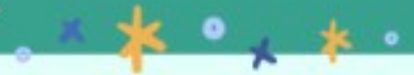
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/hardysbirthplace





Dorchester Streets Alive!

Re-claiming Our Urban Spaces



Community Cycle Ride

Sunday 12 July, 12-3pm

Start at The Great Field, Poundbury

12pm Meet at The Great Field

1pm Youngster ride around The Great Field

1pm Older children and adult ride around
and through Dorchester

2pm Bring a picnic to have on the field

3pm Finish!



See more from Dorchester Transport Action Group at www.dorchestertransport.org.uk



DYCC



YOUTH CAFE

YOUR SPACE - YOUR FRIENDS - YOUR CLUB

**FREE
sessions**

**All young people will
need to register and
sign in on arrival.**

**They are not required
to stay for the entire
event but will need to
sign out when they
leave.**

- Gather with friends.
- Tuck shop and snacks available for a small cost.
- Crafts and games available every week.
- All sessions will be supervised by our skilled youth work team.
- Every Wednesday throughout the Summer Holiday!
- 5pm - 8pm

www.dycc.org.uk : info@dycc.org.uk : 01305 266000

10 - 18 YEAR OLDS WELCOME

PIPS CAFE THE GREAT FIELD, POUNDBURY

Poundbury
Community
Trust

DORCHESTER RAIDERS



KEEN FOOTBALLERS WANTED UNDER 11s



FRIDAY TRAINING
5:00–6:00pm

SUNDAY MATCHES

Dorchester Stadium



Friendly Team



Great Coaching



Fantastic Development

GET INVOLVED!



maupshall@gmail.com



07918 743479

Family Fun Show



Animal Experiences

Food & Drink

Craft Stalls

Music

Face Painting

Classic Vehicles

Fun Dog Show

Competitions

& Much more!



12th July 2026
10am-6pm

ADMIT ONE

FREE
ENTRY!

Baking, art & children's
competitions!

Happyyard, Kingston Russell, DT2 9ED

 www.bridevalleyalpacas.com



DORCHESTER KITE FESTIVAL

LET'S
GO
FLY



Poundbury Event
Poundbury Garden Centre

DORCHESTER KITE FESTIVAL

Rescheduled
to

SAT 25 JULY 2026
THE GREAT FIELD, POUNDBURY
11 AM - 4:30 PM

Giant Kites
Activities
Market
Crafts

FREE
ENTRY

WITH
THANKS TO
OUR
AMAZING
SPONSORS



**DORCHESTER
TIMBER**
INDEPENDENTLY THE BEST SINCE 1987

Poundbury
Community
Trust

Battens
SOLIDTONE

AVOCA
SOLITONE

SANTOS + CO

Symonds & Sampson Estate Agents • Grassby Funeral Service
Poundbury Garden Centre • House of Dorchester Chocolates
Morse Clinic • Robert Frith Opticians • Olive Jones Interiors • Places for People

DORSET TENNIS ACADEMY



SUMMER HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMPS



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

WEEK 1:- TUESDAY 21ST – WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY

WEEK 2:- MONDAY 27TH – THURSDAY 30TH JULY

WEEK 3:- MONDAY 3RD – THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST

WEEK 4:- WEDNESDAY 12TH – THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST

9.30am – 12.30pm

At St. Osmund's Sports Centre, Barnes Way, Dorchester

What's on offer

- Great coaching from LTA qualified and accredited instructors
 - 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
Per day	£17.00
Per week (weeks 1 & 4)	£32.00
Per week (weeks 2 & 3)	£64.00

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 or 07788 973259

* Please note that the use of the sports hall in the event of wet weather is subject to availability, so it is possible, though unlikely that we may have to cancel and refund if the weather is too wet to allow play outdoors on a given day.

SCHOOLS OUT!

Bookings for the Schools Out! Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme are now open. Please sign up and book early, as spaces fill quickly.

Register online: [Holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme - Dorset Council](#)

To book activities visit: [School's Out! Holiday Activity and Food Programme \(HAF\) - Holidays, Activities and Food](#)

Holiday activities within Schools Out! are also open to fee-paying families, and the majority are accessible to children of all abilities.



The poster features a dark blue header with the 'BEST START IN LIFE' logo (three colored squares: purple, pink, orange) and the Dorset Council logo (a green and blue stylized landscape). The main title 'Schools out!' is in large, bold, pink letters. To the right, a grid of activity categories is shown in colored boxes: Music (blue), Adventure (purple), Arts (dark blue), Sports (pink), Workshops (orange), and Nature (dark blue). A purple banner with white text reads: 'Get ready for a summer of trying new things, making friends and having fun experiences!'. A yellow speech bubble with black text says: 'Get involved - sign up now'. The bottom half of the poster is split into two images: on the left, a male coach in an orange vest and black shorts is on a green artificial turf field, interacting with two young boys in orange and green football kits who are playing with a soccer ball; on the right, a close-up of a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a purple apron, is focused on drawing with a pencil on a piece of paper.

BEST START IN LIFE Dorset Council

Schools out!

Music Adventure
Arts Sports
Workshops Nature

Get ready for a summer of trying new things, making friends and having fun experiences!

Get involved - sign up now

Sign up now
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/haf-programme

SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

NO COST

**

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

Schools out!



HOLY TRINITY

PRIMARY SCHOOL

27TH JULY - 21ST AUGUST



5-14 YEARS

10AM-2PM



**DELICIOUS LUNCHES
AND SNACKS**



**FUN SPORTS LIKE
FOOTBALL,
DODGEBALL, AND
MORE!**



SUMMER CRAFTS



**Dorset
Council**



BOOK ONLINE AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y7TM7U7F](https://tinyurl.com/y7tm7u7f)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE. IF ON BENEFIT RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS USE
DISCOUNT CODE GIVEN (FROM CHILD'S SCHOOL) TO BOOK FOR FREE



OAKFEST

— SAVE THE DATE —

OakFest 2.0

30.08.2026



- ✓ Cricket match
- ✓ Children's entertainment
- ✓ Live music
- ✓ Food & bar open



**Dorchester
Cricket Club**



Raising money for **SCBU** through



**Dorset
County
Hospital
Charity**



**The
Little Oaks
— Fund —**

ACTING UP

Thomas Hardye School are re-launching the after-school Drama clubs in September for years 7 & 8.



EVERY WEDNESDAY

**ACTING UP IS A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN
BECOME PART OF A LARGE, FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY!**

JUNIORS

YEAR 7 & 8 IN PA3

4:30 – 5:30

SENIORS

YEAR 9 & 10 IN PA1

3:30 – 4:30

DEVISED

**WE GET TO DEVELOP OUR OWN FUN, AMAZING
SHOWS PERFORMED IN PA1 IN DECEMBER**

SCRIPTED

**WE TAKE NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE
CONNECTIONS SCRIPTS THAT WE PERFORM IN
PA1 IN MAY**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

T: 01305 262897 www.stosmunds.wessex.ac

 /stosmundsschool

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