

Newsletter



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Ossie's Families,

We're baaaaaaaack!!! What an excellent first week of this academic year! Congratulations to all of our new Ossie's through the school, especially to Year 5 for making a superb first impression in their approach to learning and life with us. We have shared our 'September Start 2026' film on YouTube and 'High Expectations' information with all students, parents and carers this week. As ever, we start as we mean to continue. Also, a great big **THANK YOU** to all of you parents and carers for preparing your Ossie/s for returning to school in such a fine manner; punctual, smart and well equipped. We really appreciate this. In this spirit, it is important to share the following information with you to reinforce the strong partnership between home and school; together we will achieve so much:

Our Core Business: As a school, our core business is to provide high quality teaching and learning. Whilst this seems an obvious thing to say, it is a reminder that we are an academic facility first and foremost; whilst we wholeheartedly support and sign-post other functions, such as in welfare and healthcare (including mental healthcare), please remember that we are a school. We will always endeavour to support our Ossie's and their families where appropriate and possible, however there are limits to what should be expected of us. Please remember, our main function, energy and direction is concentrated on providing high quality teaching and learning.

Correspondence with School Staff: Our staff at St. Osmund's are incredibly hard-working towards providing a terrific school experience for our Ossie's, your children. Our staff, especially our teachers, are very available for communication with parents and carers. To help in managing expectations, we wish to be clear with parents and carers that teachers are expected to respond to correspondence from parents and carers within 48 hours when working; we have numerous teachers that work part-time, therefore emails might not be responded to within 48 hours of being originally sent. We will always work to reply to any parent or carer that contacts us. If you need to email an urgent matter to us, please email call the main office (01305) 262 897 or us office@stosmunds.wessex.ac

Home-School Link Books: Every student receives a new Home-School Link Book for the academic year; these are an excellent resource for developing good learning and organisational habits. Please take an interest in your child's Home-School Link Book; read the opening pages as they are filled with great information that assist learning activities with us. Please also check your child's Home-School Link Book regularly, we suggest every weekend, and sign it. There is a positive trend between students that use their Link Book regularly (for writing home learning tasks in), parents that check and sign it routinely, and good academic progress in school.

'Frossie's' – WE NEED YOUR HELP! St. Osmund's is proud to provide extra-curricular social events, such as School Discos, the Christmas Fayre and Ossie's Fest, that give extra life and opportunities for our students (and families) to feel they belong in our community. Frossie's (Friends of Ossie's) is our PTA. In recent years Frossie's has paid for things such every child having Christmas Lunch, and coach travel to support school trips. From their efforts over recent years, I am delighted to share that we are now in the process of purchasing a 'new to us minibus'; this will continue to allow us to do many things, such as smaller-scale trips, sports fixtures and assisting students to travel to/from venues (such as church) on special occasions. We really hope that a good number of parents or carers are willing to support and work with us! If you feel that you can help, please email frossies@stosmunds.wessex.ac or the Frossie's AGM (Annual General Meeting) is Tuesday 6th October from 5 – 6pm; everyone is welcome.

Supporting Us on Facebook: We remind all of our community that the use of our Facebook platform is to share the workings and approach within our school. Our social media provides a window into our world, for parents, carers and our community to see and share our progress, achievements, celebrations and genuine love for what we do.

We do not publicly criticise anyone; we hope for the same respect in return from our community when sharing our hard work. Our Facebook page is not a platform for public criticism or questioning our approach; we are available by telephone, email and in person to listen privately to any concerns.

Children Using Social Media: As we work to keep our students safe online whilst at school, we continually seek your support in keeping our Ossie's safe online when not in school, especially with regards to mobile phones. St. Osmund's supports the Smartphone Free Childhood guidance. We strongly recommend that if parents/carers wish for their child to have a mobile phone, that it is not a 'smartphone'. We suggest a 'brick phone' that can only make calls and send text messages; no internet access. Instead of having a phone altogether, more parents/carers are turning to tracking devices that they can place in their child's school bag. There is no need for any student to have a smartphone at St. Osmund's. The link below shows a helpful video on this approach. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFsiYAsgx7U>

One of the many difficulties that come from children and young people having smartphones is their exposure to social media and the connections between their peers; this is often done without parent/carer knowledge or supervision. We (the school) must be very clear that we will not become involved in issues involving antisocial and/or toxic social media which occur outside of school. This is for parents/carers to supervise and manage.

For additional reassurance, you may already be aware that the use of mobile phones is closely monitored in school; we have a blanket expectation that all mobile devices belonging to students are expected to be switched off before entering any school building and are placed in (and remain) in their lockers throughout the school day. This approach protects our students from potential distractions to learning and from antisocial behaviour that can easily be created and fuelled by nasty social media. If your child has a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or easy access to the internet (games consoles such as Playstation or XBOX), we actively encourage you to check your child's usage on social media and text communications between them, their peers and anyone else. Please check this regularly through each week and have full access to your child's device. If your child is worried about being added to any social media groups, please encourage them to remove themselves and to block numbers or people that persist in adding them back into groups. Remember that as parent and bill-payer, you hold the power over your child's access to their device/s. Through proactive parenting and support in school, together we can educate safer and more social online behaviour between children.

Thank you, once again, for the massive amount of support that you have already given us in preparing your Ossie/s for their return to school this week; it's great to be back! I am sure there will be a lot of tired children on Friday afternoon as we settle into the school routine again. Remember we will be following WEEK B on the timetable from Monday and, unlike this week, we'll have five full days to make the most of. I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful weekend, however you decide to enjoy it. And good luck to anyone involved or associated with Dorset County Show!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gareth Biddle
Head of School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 8th September—School Photographs for Years 5 & 7

Friday 2nd October—Year 5 Retreat Day (more details to follow)

Tuesday 6th October—Year 5 Welcome Service (more details to follow)

Wednesday 7th October—Tutor/Parent Consultation Evening (more details to follow)

Thursday 8th October—Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Thursday 15th October—5pm—Open Evening for Prospective Parents

Wednesday 14th October—Ski Trip Parents Information Evening—5pm

Tuesday 20th October—Last day of school

HALF TERM—21st October—30th October

31st October—Deadline for applying for Upper School (Year 8 Parents)

Monday 2nd November—BACK TO SCHOOL

Wednesday 11th November—Flu Vaccinations

OSSIE'S OPPORTUNITIES

On the next page, you will find a list of Ossie's opportunities. We are pleased that we are able to offer a range of exciting lunch time and after-school opportunities for our students and encourage all our students to attend at least one club. Please discuss, with your child, the clubs that they would like to attend and the arrangements for going home. The office cannot facilitate students phoning home during the day to make arrangements. Students must check the list each week to make sure that their club is running (occasionally they will need to be cancelled to accommodate staff training or sports fixtures). Every effort is made to keep clubs running to schedule. The list of opportunities will appear in the weekly newsletter, the school website and a copy is displayed in every classroom.

KS2 = Years 5 & 6

KS3 = Years 7 & 8



OSSIE'S OPPORTUNITIES

If your child would like to attend a club, they do not need to sign up in advance, they can just attend on the day (with the exception of gardening club, chess club & concert band).

	LUNCH	AFTER SCHOOL 3.15pm - 4.15pm
M O N D A Y	Zoneball – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre Zoneball – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre	Wonderland Rehearsals – All Years – SSH – Music Room KS2 Football – DK1 / SDA / JFO—Field Netball – KS3 – ERE & JHA – Top Courts Basketball—KS2—WDA—Sports Hall
T U E S D A Y	Street Soccer – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre Street Soccer – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre	Wonderland Rehearsals – All Years – SSH – Music Room Football – KS3 – DK1 – Field Netball – KS2 – ERE & WDA – Top Courts
W E D S	Basketball – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre Basketball – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre	Pickleball – All Years – Sign up required at the PE office
T H U R S	GIRLS Street Soccer – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre GIRLS Street Soccer – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre	2.45 - 3.15pm - Concert Band—KS3—SSH—Music—INVITE ONLY Basketball – KS3 – DRO / WDA – Sports Hall Rock & Pop Club – All Years – SSH – Music Room Gardening Club – All Years – Outside room 3 - (sign up with Miss Pike first before attending) Rugby – KS3 – DK1 & GBI – Field Chess Club – INVITE ONLY – CMI - Library
F R I	Dodgeball – KS2 – WDA – Sports Centre Dodgeball – KS3 - WDA – Sports Centre	Badminton – Year 8 – Sports Centre Girls Rugby – KS3 – DK1 - Field

SCHOOL PRIORITIES 2026-27

Of all the school's priorities and actions for this academic year, the following are our 4 Big Things for 2026-27. Let's all work on these as together we can achieve so much.



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



95% whole school attendance



Students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding move closer to those of the wider cohort (outcomes)

SEND students make comparable progress with their peers in core subjects across the school



Continue to develop a shared understanding of spirituality



LATE ARRIVALS



Parents/Carers, if you are transporting your child to school, please aim to have your child on site by 08:30 so that your Ossie has time to be in their tutor room and **ready for the start of the** school day at 08:40. Students arriving into their tutor room after the 08:40 bell will be registered as late to school.

REMINDER— ALLERGIES & NUT FREE SCHOOL

We'd like to remind all parents that our school is a nut free school. We kindly ask all parents and carers to support us by ensuring that packed lunches and snacks brought into school do not contain nuts.

Please ensure that any allergies or dietary requirements are kept up to date on Arbor, and that Local Food Links are advised of any dietary requirements via the local food links form available on our website <https://www.stosmunds.wessex.ac/parents/school-lunches>

By working together, we can create a safe and inclusive space where every child can learn without unnecessary risk. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

NEW ARBOR PARENT APP

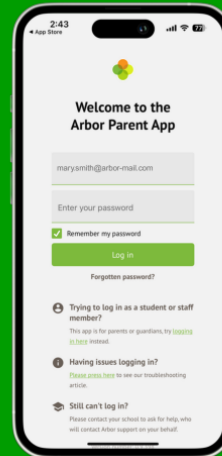
Early next week, families will receive details of how to log in to our Arbor Parent App.

This will allow you to view your child's timetable, attendance, behaviour, reports, homework and even make payments.



We're using the Arbor Parent App!

See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

REHEARSAL PLAN FOR WONDERLAND—AUTUMN 1

Rehearsal plan for “Wonderland” – Autumn 1

Please find below the plan for this half term's rehearsals – we are really looking forward to seeing the cast back together next week!

Please do check it carefully – we are rehearsing things out of sequence in some weeks! Do email me on Imacnair@stosmunds.wessex.ac if you are unsure.

With the exception of Tuesday 8th September, we are not rehearsing with the Y6 and Y7 chorus on Tuesdays – the hope is that this gives the opportunity for these Ossies to attend another club on a Tuesday after school, should they wish.

After half term, Monday rehearsals for Wonderland will be suspended, and will turn into preparations for the Carol Service at the end of term, so our full cast will be required each Monday for these practices – we are very much hoping that all the cast will want to participate as part of the choir for this important school event. Tuesday afternoons will continue to be small group rehearsals for individual characters/ scenes.

WONDERLAND - AUTUMN 1

Monday 7 th September	Read through Scenes 1 – 4	Full cast
Tuesday 8 th September	Read through Scenes 5 – 8	Full cast
Monday 14 th September	Scene 1	Mum, Dad, Alice 1, White Rabbit
	Dinner Party (dance)	All Playing Cards
Tuesday 15 th September	Scene 7	Alice 7, Mock Turtle, Queen
	Dinner Party (dance)	All Playing Cards
Monday 21 st September	Scene 2	Alice 2, White Rabbit, Key, Table
	Caucus Race (dance)	Alice 3, All Animals
Tuesday 22 nd September	NO REHEARSAL Staff training session	
Monday 28 th September	Scene 3	Alice 3, Animals
	Pepper for the Soup (song and	Alice 4, All Cooks
Tuesday 29 th September	Pepper for the Soup (song and dance)	Alice 4, All Cooks
	All Scenes rehearsed so far: Scene 1, 2, 3 and 7	Mum, Dad, Alice 1, White Rabbit Alice 2, White Rabbit, Key, Table Alice 3, All Animals Alice 7, Mock Turtle, Queen
Monday 5 th October	All songs and dances	Full Cast
Tuesday 6 th October	Scene 8	All Alices, White Rabbit, All Playing Cards, King, Queen, Mad Hatter, Dormouse, Head Cook, Mum, Dad
Monday 12 th October	Scene 4	Alice 4, Cooks, Cheshire Cat, Caterpillar, Duchess
	Mad Hatter's Tea Party (dance)	Alice 5, Mad Hatter, Dormouse, March Hare, All Y6 and Y7 Chorus
Tuesday 13 th October	Scene 5	Alice 5, Cheshire Cat, Mad Hatter, March Hare, Dormouse
	Falling (movement)	Alice 1, White Rabbit
Monday 19 th October	Mad Hatter's Tea Party (dance)	Alice 5, Mad Hatter, Dormouse, March Hare, All Y6 and Y7 Chorus
	All Alone in Wonderland	Alice 3
Tuesday 20 th October	Oh, my ears and whiskers!	Alice 2, White Rabbit

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

On Tuesday, the children in Years 5 and 7, and those children who have previously not had their photographs taken, will be photographed during the day, by Tempest.

Students will be asked to remove their school jumpers for the photograph. If your child has a new jumper, that hasn't been washed yet, it can leave bits of blue fluff on their school shirt. For those students, photographs will be taken in their school jumper. All children in Year 5 will need to come to school in their full uniform on Tuesday, even if it is a PE day. Please send them with a pair of trainers in their bag.

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.

Click here to [apply for free school meals from September 2026](#)

MESSAGE FROM LOCAL FOOD LINKS

Orders can still be placed for our September Autumn 1 Menu, from now until – Friday 6th November.

All meal orders must be placed 7 days in advance at: <https://my.localfoodlinks.org.uk/> [2025 Autumn Menu](#)

Once you have ordered, please go to the “order page” to check your orders are showing as expected. Sign up to meal reminders: Mail Chimp [Click here](#) We have count downs on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LocalFoodLinks>

To contact us; support@localfoodlinks.org.uk

Many thanks, Team LFL



Open Days



We are welcoming parents of all Year 4 students, from any school, to come and visit our setting during our upcoming open days. You'll be able to chat to teachers, meet current students and discover how our Christian values of hope, community, respect and love run through our school. The school was judged as Good by OfSTED in all inspection areas (September 2022) and received a strong SIAMS report (January 2026). You are welcome to one or both events:

OPEN MORNINGS

The best way to learn about St Osmund's School is to witness a day in action. See our engaged, motivated pupils and staff working together to create an inspiring and nurturing environment, where pupils achieve their very best.

Thursday 8th October—Tours at 9am or 11am

Wednesday 18th November—Tours at 9am or 11am

Tuesday 8th December—Tours at 9am or 11am

Wednesday 13th January—Tours at 9am or 11am

Book your ticket now on Ticket Source: www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-osmunds-school

OPEN EVENING

Join us on Thursday 15th October, 5pm – 6.30pm, for an informative talk with Mr Biddle, the Head of School, and a tour of the school. You will have an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Book your ticket now on Ticket Source: www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-osmunds-school

OSSIE'S ECO-CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Bring the whole family to our exciting Christmas Fayre on Friday 4th December, for another chance to see our school. The fayre is organised by our OCAG (Ossie's Climate Action Group) students and has an eco-theme. There will be stalls, food and exciting games. See our Facebook page for more details.



There is no parking on site. Please park considerably on the surrounding roads.

Barnes Way, Dorchester, DT1 2DZ T: 01305 262897

www.stosmunds.wessex.ac

[f /stosmundsschool](https://www.facebook.com/stosmundsschool)



ADVENTURE AT PORTLAND BILL



JOIN US FOR AN

ADVENTURE AT PORTLAND BILL!

COASTEERING & ROCK CLIMBING
WITH ADVENTURE 4 ALL

An exciting outdoor
day of challenge,
confidence and fun
for young people!

**OPEN TO ALL
YOUNG PEOPLE!**

TRIP DETAILS



DATE:

Sunday 13th September



DROP-OFF:

9.15am at Portland Bill –
Main Crown Estate Car Park,
DT5 2JT



COLLECTION:

4.30pm at Portland Bill –
Main Crown Estate Car Park,
DT5 2JT



COST:

FREE!



Parents/carers will need to arrange
transport to and from Portland Bill.

Please be aware that there is a charge for
parking at Portland Bill car park, which
parents/carers will need to pay.



**TRY
SOMETHING
NEW!**

WHAT TO BRING



Swimwear – ideally worn
underneath clothes



A towel



Trainers or securely fitting
water shoes – compulsory
for coasteering (must not
be slip-on shoes)



Comfortable clothing for
rock climbing – tracksuit
trousers or leggings
recommended



Warm, dry clothes to
change into afterwards



A drink and snacks



Sunscreen, if appropriate
for the weather



Any medication they
may require



Old shorts to wear
over the wetsuit,
if they have some

There are no changing facilities at Portland
Bill, although public toilets are available. We
recommend arriving with swimwear already
on underneath clothing.



PARTICIPANT FORM & CONSENT

Adventure 4 All requires every young
person to have a completed Participant
Information Form before taking part.

Once your child has had a place confirmed
on the trip, we will send a form home
with them. This will need to be completed
and returned to us before the trip.



WEATHER DEPENDENT

These outdoor activities are
dependent on suitable weather
and conditions. Adventure 4 All
advises that on rare occasions an
activity may need to be changed,
postponed or cancelled if conditions
make it unsafe to proceed.



SAFE, SUPERVISED & SUPPORTED

DYCC staff will be in attendance
throughout the day to support the
young people.

During coasteering and rock climbing,
the group will be led and supervised
by Adventure 4 All's experienced
instructors.

**A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO TRY SOMETHING NEW, CHALLENGE YOURSELF,
BUILD CONFIDENCE AND HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DAY TOGETHER!**



**QUESTIONS?
GET IN TOUCH!**



Sarah Davies – Youth Worker in Charge, DYCC



sarah.davies@dycc.org.uk

DYCC YOUTH CLUB



YOUTH CLUB

DYCC PROVIDES A SAFE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN MEET WITH FRIENDS, TAKE PART IN FUN ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOP NEW SKILLS. TUCK SHOP IS AVAILABLE EVERY NIGHT.

 @dycc_dorchester



Sign up now!

www.thedycc.org

MONDAY 6PM - 8PM	YEAR 7	£2.50 ENTRY
TUESDAY 6PM - 8PM	YEAR 8	£2.50 ENTRY
WEDNESDAY 6PM - 8PM	POUNDBURY @ PIPS CAFE	£2.50 ENTRY
THURSDAY 6PM - 8PM	YEAR 5/6	£2.50 ENTRY
FRIDAY 6:30PM - 8:30PM	YEAR 9+	£2.50 ENTRY



DORCHESTER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, KINGS ROAD,
DORCHESTER DT1 1NJ

DOMVS CHILDREN'S WRITING COMPETITION

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 2027** (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 16th Oct 2026)**
- **Stories should be submitted (delete as appropriate) to the school or via email to 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,

T: 01305 262897 www.stosmunds.wessex.ac

 [/stosmundsschool](https://www.facebook.com/stosmundsschool)

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