



March 2 2023

## Year 1 Tidy Up

Year 1 took part in a welly walk litter pick across Poundbury as part of Keep Britain Tidy's The Great British Spring Clean. Classes picked up litter outside the garden centre car park/play area, Great Field and behind the shop. Items found included a book, cigarette butts, plastic bottles, cans, chocolate wrappers and single use plastic vapes.

Dear Parents and Carers

As always, we seem to have ended another term with a sudden burst of energy in the final week. I hope that you have all enjoyed the opportunity to join us for a 'Stay and ...' experience this week, celebrating your child's current learning and a chance to see their classroom in action during the school day.

I have just watched the dress rehearsal of Year 3's performance of 'Hercules' and my goodness our Year 3 families are in for a theatrical treat over the next few days! What a burst of colour, courage, determination, energy, joy, music, laughter and dance. I cannot thank everyone involved enough for ensuring that these vital performance opportunities happen for our children. We have had a team of incredibly talented parents and grandparents making props and scenery, families patiently rehearsing with their children at home, school staff giving every last drop of end of term energy to support the performers in school and 95 truly professional and incredibly brave stars. Thank you to all.

I know that you will have received a flurry of emails from the office over the last few days, sharing information about family activities that can be accessed during the Easter break. If you're feeling slightly overwhelmed or maybe concerned about costs, please join us in our annual Damers 'Blossom Watch' over the Easter break - It's that time of year again where there can be nothing simpler than the curiosity that emerges from a simple, free walk in nature and a chance to discover how many varieties of blossom can be spotted on a short walk and to feel the wellbeing that comes from doing this together on a sunny day. As always we would love to hear about your finds and discoveries - [harmony@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:harmony@damers.dorset.sch.uk)

The whole Damers team thank you for your continuous support this term, particularly during disrupted weeks and difficult times when you have shown us what it means to be part of a true community.

I wish you and your families a very happy and restful, sunshine-filled Easter break.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

A huge thank you to parents who came and the Dorchester Town Council for loaning the litter pickers and bin hoops.



# Reading ROCKS!

## A Spud-tacular Event

What a fantastic turnout for our amazing World Book Day celebrations. We were so pleased to welcome you all through our doors to view the decorated potatoes and the cakes, books and uniform sale from the PTA was an outstanding success. There was a huge range of characters and designs and brilliant ideas from everyone. What an amazing way to celebrate books in our school.



## Incredible India



This week the children in Year 4 got to show off all of their hard work that they have done on their India topic. They prepared a beautiful display piece with a variety of writing inspired by a book set in India called 'When the Mountains Roared, by Jess Butterworth.



# Visitor from Space

This half term Foundation classes have been so lucky to have had two visitors! Samurai Kickboxers 'kicked off' our adventures with an amazing taster session. We played some super fun games where we showed our good listening and balancing skills.

Our second visitor was Stephan Plant all the way from the UK Space Agency. It was so exciting, Steve wore a replica space suit that Tim Peake wore during his launch to the ISS, he had a miniature space rocket and he showed us footage of the recent UK satellite launch from Cornwall!



# Super Spotters

There is exciting news from the pond, the frogspawn has hatched and we now have lots of wriggling tadpoles! Can you spot the tadpole in the photo? There are also three Great Pond snails and six flatworms . . . can you spot them all?



We're looking forward to watching our tadpoles grow over the spring and transform into froglets and then adult frogs.

## Tadpole Facts

Amazingly enough, tadpoles can control the rate they transform into frogs, according to their environment. For instance, they may turn into frogs more quickly to escape a pond teeming with predators like fish. On the other hand, if there's plenty of algae to munch through and limited predators – or if the weather is too cold – tadpoles can delay and remain in the water for up to a year. Aren't tadpoles clever!

If you have spotted any frogspawn, tadpoles or other exciting spring activity you can let us know by emailing [superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk) with any of your finds.



# Stars in Year 2

Year 2 have looked at the picture 'Starry Night' by Van Gogh, we have focussed on recreating the spiral patterns of the moon and the stars and using various shades of blues to recreate the effect Van Gogh created. We have used different media to create different effects. We originally used coloured pencils, then experimented with oil pastels and watercolours. We enjoyed seeing how the oil pastels created a barrier between the water and the paper.



## MATHS MANIA!

As we look around us, we often see the colour yellow. At this time of year, daffodils are everywhere. As well as looking at the beauty of the daffodil, why not do some maths as well?

- Find out how many petals a daffodil has. Are they all the same?
- Estimate then count how many daffodils in a group.
- See how many different varieties of daffodil you can find.
- Do some measuring.
- Are they symmetrical?
- Or go on a daffodil walk and plot your route using directional language - right,



## Hello and Goodbye

Katy Stermi will be leaving Grayling Foundation at Easter. Alongside working for us, Katy has been working hard in her spare time, to gain her teaching qualification. Now fully certified she is reaching for the teaching stars elsewhere. Well done and good luck Katy!

Natasha Holdsworth will be joining Meadow 1 after Easter and will be job sharing with Mrs Hardisty on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Holdsworth to the Year 1 teaching team.





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We raised £400.30 for  
Weldmar Hospice in memory  
of Mr Oram - thank you for  
your kind donations

## News From the PTA

### Spring Clean!

Mrs Godfrey's lego club is expanding and we are on the lookout for some extra lego to support her team of busy builders. Any lego donations will be warmly welcomed, especially blocks and baseboards. Please leave with the office where they can be passed on.

The PTA is also in need of a new clothing rail and clear storage boxes, so we can display all your generously donated pre-loved uniform at second hand sales over the summer term and beyond.

Please get in touch at [damerspta@gmail.com](mailto:damerspta@gmail.com) if you are able to donate these items and we will happily collect them from you.

If you are in need of any pre-loved uniform, please follow the QR code to our facebook page and send us a message.

### Damers Lucky Numbers

Don't forget to sign up to the next lucky numbers draw by emailing [damersluckynumbers@gmail.com](mailto:damersluckynumbers@gmail.com). The prize pot is growing each month!



# Blossom Watch

*Blossom by blossom the spring begins ...*

*Thank you for sharing your spectacular spring  
flower spotting snaps!*





## Power Down Day

Damers Eco Crew have been reducing the school's energy consumption since October 2022. They have set a target of reducing the energy used by 10% each month and are meeting their target so far. They have been using software by Energy Sparks to keep an eye on how much is being used and how much it is costing the school - <https://energysparks.uk/>

The children held a Power Down Day across the school asking everyone to turn off computers, iPads and chromebook chargers, projectors, lights to see how much could be saved. The money saved will go into a pot and each class will get the chance to apply for some or all of the money for items like toys, PE equipment, money towards a school trip, a workshop in school. Whichever bid is the best (chosen by the Eco Crew) will get the money as long as they have powered down correctly.

But it's not just that day only, if everyone continues to turn things off and save energy, we can use the saved money for more bids throughout the year. ***Keep powering down, keep getting rewards.***

## Proposed Cycle Route Survey

Damers Eco Crew, would like to find out if parents at Damers First School would like a safe cycle route from Dorchester Town to Poundbury/Damers First School.

Please answer the questions by [clicking on the link](#) which will help us with our campaign. The results of the questionnaire will be shared with Dorset Climate Action Network, Dorset Council, Dorchester Town Council, Sustrans and The Duchy.



The questionnaire deadline has been extended to Sunday 16th April.

## Jigsaw and RE

Our Jigsaw unit next term is "Healthy Me!". Children will be learning about keeping our bodies and minds strong and healthy. We will be celebrating Healthy Week next term too. More information on the way!

Next term in RE:

- ◆ Year 1 will be finding out about the Jewish celebration of Shabbat
- ◆ Year 2 will be looking at the Mosque and finding out about what happens there
- ◆ Year 3 will be exploring Hinduism and asking "How can Brahman be everywhere?"
- ◆ Year 4 will be studying Islam and finding out about why prayer is so important to Muslims



Tues 28th Mar	Year 1 'Stay and ...'
	Year 3 'Hercules' Performances
Wed 29th Mar	Year 3 'Hercules' Performances
Thurs 30th Mar	Year 4 Royal Opera House Trip
<b>Fri 31st Mar</b>	Year 2 'Stay and ...'
	<b>End of term</b>
<b>Mon 17th Apr</b>	<b>Back to school</b>

*Dates for  
your diary*

## Hercules!

The value we are thinking about in April is:



Year 3 have worked hard throughout this half term on their Hercules performance. We have been learning about scripts and how to perform them using the stage directions. We've made props and parts of our costumes and have been singing songs over and over and over until they're perfect!

A massive thank you to all of our families who have supported us by making props, painting backdrops, finding and making costumes. But more than that, helping the children to learn their lines and the songs. It's a spectacular performance!

