



## Make sure your child is protected against measles

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can lead to serious illness and complications, which is why it's important to get your child vaccinated.

The MMR vaccine is safe and offers the best protection for children. If you are unsure whether your child has had their MMR vaccines, check their personal child health record (red book) and speak to your GP practice to book a free appointment to catch up.

For advice on measles, including symptoms and what to do if you think you or your child has it, visit [publichealthdorset.org.uk/news/advice-on-measles](http://publichealthdorset.org.uk/news/advice-on-measles).

Dear Parents and Carers

Despite the January gloomy and wet weather, we have still been getting outside! Our Year 1 welly walks have been enjoyed across the year group, encouraging children to talk about seasons and their surroundings. We are so lucky to have the schools grounds which have so much to offer including our wonderful pond, now so full of wildlife. We have been lucky to win a bid for £10,000 for an outdoor sensory garden which will be sited next to the raised beds. In our NSPCC number day, children loved solving number challenges throughout the grounds. We know that opportunities to learn outside are invaluable for mental health and to add another way of learning for all children.

We will be focusing on our online safety work this week with Safer Internet Day. This is especially important not just in school but when children are home for the week and possibly enjoying games online. We work all year round to teach children how to avoid dangers online and knowing to always talk to parents, carers and school staff if they are worried or not sure. There is a wealth of information and tips on our website to help online safety and please do get in touch if you need any help with this.

The "Stay and ...sessions " have been so helpful and interesting this term and have included a look at Maths, spelling, writing, singing, dance and reading. Please do stay to your class's session if you can - we love having parents in and sharing how your child learns! Please do stop me for a chat at these sessions if you have time.

Wishing you a wonderful half term and see you back on Monday 19th February.

Louise Greenham

Head of School



## Well done welly walkers!

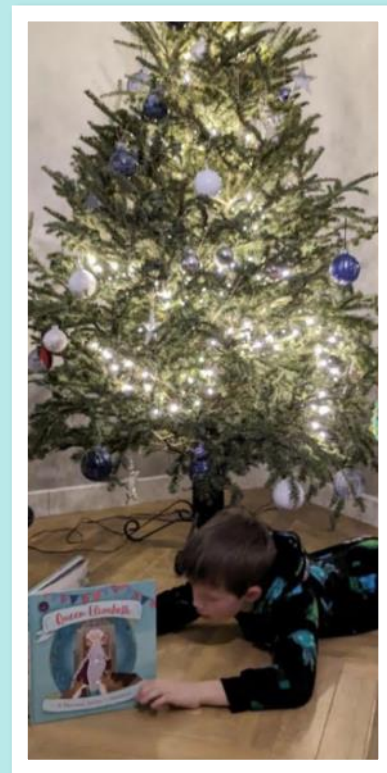
Reading  
**ROCKS!**

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

## Christmas Reading Competition

Congratulations to our brilliant winners of our 'Christmas Reading Competition'. They celebrated reading across the holiday and enjoyed sharing books with their families. They each won a £10 book voucher. Look out for more World Book Day themed competitions coming soon...



## News From the PTA

Thank you all so much for supporting our pop-up 'Love Your Uniform' shop- with your help we raised a total of £372! The shop was so popular there will be another running in the summer term just before the holidays- could you visit us before heading out to buy new?

If you have any donations (we are especially in need of larger sizes) please hand them to the main reception.

# eco news

## U-Fill Refill Gluestick films

[Here are the Learn Play Nexus films](#) Damers Eco Crew appear in showing everyone how to refill a glue stick and how the new U-Fill Collection Bag Works. The children also speak about the importance of Reuse, Refill, Rethink [in this video](#).



Other schools across the Wessex MAT have seen and heard how much we have reduced our gluestick waste saving the school money. They are now switching over to these gluesticks.



## Big Plastic Count 2024, 11th - 17th March

The Whole School will be taking part in the National Big Plastic Count. There was a Big Plastic Count in 2022 where they found out that recycling is now enough and that we need to reduce or find alternatives for the plastic we use and what is being produced. Fruit and vegetables wrapped in plastic were the highest amount of plastic counted.

We will encourage you with your child to count the plastic you throw away using a tally sheet at home. A special link will be sent to you via the school office and on your class blog so you can register your data. We will also be able to see the progress across each class in the school and how much plastic is being thrown away. We will be able to work out classes' carbon footprint and the whole school. [The figures will be shared with the Government by Greenpeace UK and Everyday Plastic.](#) [This quick film](#) will tell you more about how the Big Plastic Count Works

## Terracycle (an email is going out to parents about this)

We will no longer be collecting Confectionary wrappers or toothpaste tubes and brushes. Terracycle has decided to stop the programme. They have advised people to look at the wrappers for recycling information.



Please have a look at the link on our website below to find out what we can recycle. All the money raised goes back into our environmental projects. Items include crisp packets, biscuit, cake wrappers, printing toners and cartridges, coffee pods, water filters, stationary equipment like pens and highlighters that do not work anymore.

[Check Here](#). RSPB published Mr Moore's article about our nature learning from the summer term 2023 in Year 1 in their newsletter that has gone to all the nature reserves, schools, and teachers, staff that have signed up to it. Have a look at the article [here](#).

# Mrs Hardisty Shares ...

In November Lou walked 24 miles in 10 hours along the Jurassic Coast Path with some very grueling cliffs. An amazing 55,600 steps, the only child to complete it and raised £800 for charity !!

She cheered all of the adults on and didn't look back once.

Here is Lou receiving her Damers Golden Butterfly medal and Butterfly Class Award. Well done Lou, we're all so proud of you!



# Super Spotters

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and love is in the air down at the pond. The pond is teeming with frogspawn and dozens of frogs. If you get a chance to walk by the pond on Gallows Down Lane, take a moment to stand quietly and see if you can hear them vocalising, it sounds like a deep grumbling sound which is produced by the males through their vocal sacs. There are other signs of spring to enjoy with snowdrops emerging by the bird hide.



The Nature Club groups have taken part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch. We've had some amazing spots and magical moments seeing a

wide range of birds; woodpigeons, blackbirds, pied wagtails, carrion crow, house sparrows, starlings, gulls, magpies, chaffinch, dunnocks collared dove, a wren and a sparrow hawk! The top spot certainly goes to William in G4 who spotted the sparrow hawk who had just caught a small bird. We found his eating spot in the shrubs by the double garage where you can see little piles of feathers. Bad news for the sparrows but an exciting discovery for us.



# Superheroes!

Foundation have had so much fun becoming superheroes! After listening to the story of Super Milly and the Super School Day, the children thought of their own superpowers like being invisible and super strong! Just like Milly, they also learnt that being super kind, brave and caring are the best powers of all!



## MATHS MANIA!

This half term we celebrate "Valentines Day" and see a very special shape all around us.

Why not think about shapes this month and go on a "shape Scavenger Hunt". Here are some ideas:

- Find a red sign in the shape of an octagon.
- Find a playing card with a diamond on it.
- Find a circle button on a shirt.
- Find something in the shape of a heart.
- Find a cube that is used to play a game.
- Find a sphere that bounces.
- Find a cylinder in your kitchen.
- Name a chocolate that is a triangular prism



## Jigsaw and RE

Jigsaw theme this half term is Relationships

Children will think and talk about all relationships in their lives, their families, their friends, relationships in school and others in the world.

In Religious Education all children will be thinking about different aspects of the Easter story

Year 1 will be investigating Palm Sunday and asking why Jesus was welcomed like a celebrity by the crowds

Year 2 will be finding out about the Resurrection and asking if it's true that Jesus came back to life

Year 3 will ask what is good about Good Friday and try to understand why that is what it is called.

Year 4 will think about how forgiveness is at the centre of the Easter story.

## Year 1 News

Oly Rush from Charity Project Planet Earth came to speak to Year 1 about Plastic Pollution and how we can help protect our oceans.

Oly spoke about his swimming challenges that raise money for his charity. He is in The Guinness Book of World Records 2024 as the first person to Swim around the Caribbean Island of Grand Cayman non stop. He swam the 60 mile distance in 36hrs 59mins. He has also swam the Jurassic Coast from Exmouth, Devon to Highcliffe Dorset and swam around the Isle of Wight.



Oly organises regular Litterpicks every month around Dorset but mostly at Ringstead Bay that you can take part in with an adult. All the equipment needed is provided that includes litter pickers, gloves, and bags. It is free to take part. Please go along and support Oly's work. More information can be found here on his website <https://projectplanet.earth/>

## Year 2 News

Year 2 have loved our theme this term - Why should we protect the polar regions? We've created polar landscapes, found out all about the adaptations animals and people have made to living in these freezing habitats, made our own sugar cube igloos and experimented with 'polar bear blubber' and ice cubes in science! We were also privileged to talk to a marine geologist on Zoom all about his trips to Antarctica and his research on melting ice caps.



We have learned all about climate change and the impact this is having on the polar regions and other habitats across the world and produced some fantastic writing all about this, based on our book 'The Journey Home'.



## Year 3 News

What a brilliant half term we've had in Year 3. In our science learning we've been exploring forces and magnetism, starting with contact and non-contact forces. We then moved on to think about gravity and the opposite force of upthrust which can be caused by solids, liquids or gases preventing everything from being pulled towards the centre of the earth.



Our favourite learning in this topic has to be exploring magnets. We've thought about which materials are magnetic and which aren't and explored the question why aren't all metals magnetic? There are some great experiments to be done at home if you'd like to continue your learning.

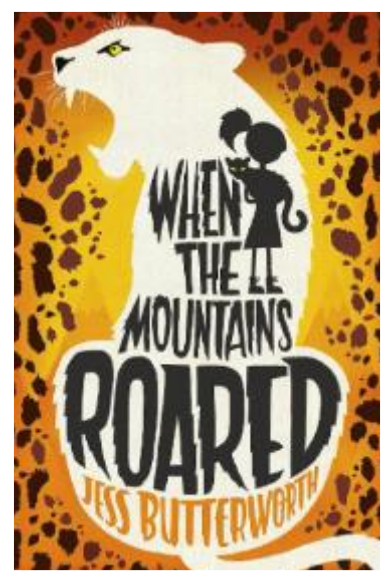
Song of the term.  
Save our Planet - [link](#)  
I wish I knew how it  
would feel to be free - [link](#)

## Year 4 News

With a blink of an eye, this half term has whizzed by!

We've been incredibly busy learning about states of matter in science thinking about gas, liquid and solids. Do all materials have a melting point? What temperature does a chocolate button change state?

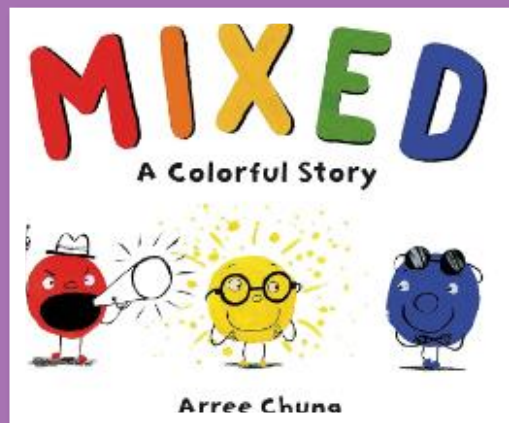
In literacy, we've worked incredibly hard in writing challenges and enjoying our book 'When the Mountains Roared' following the adventure of Ruby from Australia to India!



# Base News

The Base have been reading stories all about colour this half term! We have really enjoyed talking about the different colours and how they match to our emotions, writing stories about magic paintbrushes and mixing colours to make new and interesting colours.

Check out our blog to see some of our stories.



## Farewell Mrs Grimmett

Mrs Grimmett will be leaving us at half term to start a exciting new job.

She has been part of our 'Damers Family' for 9 years and during that time has been the friendly face that greets families and visitors every day.

She has seen and helped hundreds of children over the years, and sorted all the queries parents and staff have had, even before they knew they had them!

Those who know her well, will know she is our Roller Skating, Crisp Eating Queen and will leave a huge gap in our 'Damers Family'

We all wish you love and luck in your new role and will miss you loads.





*Dates for  
your Diary*

<b>Feb 9th</b>	INSET Day
<b>Feb 12th</b>	Half term holiday
<b>Feb 28th</b>	Parents' evening
<b>Mar 7th</b>	World Book Day
<b>Mar 11th</b>	Year 4 DASP concert
<b>Mar 12th,15th,19th</b>	Year 2 Shire Hall trips
<b>Mar 26th and 27th</b>	Year 3 Production performances
<b>Mar 28</b>	End of term
<b>Apr 15</b>	Start of term

## Attendance

Attendance - thank you for your support with our aim to get all children into school every day and give them the best chance with their learning. In general, school attendance is 95.6%.

Here is the year group attendance:

