

Damers News



Blast Off!

Foundation have had an intergalactic time learning all about space this half term. After turning up to a mess in our classrooms we were immediately thrown into the role of space detectives.



To finish off such a fun topic we will be celebrating with a moon party! We wonder if any of our space friends will turn up?



Dear Parents/Carers,

It feels as though the 'quiet' start to the year that we promised you hasn't quite gone according to plan as we reach the end of what has been an action-packed first half term of the year! Dinosaur fever has certainly hit Damers and I know that the children have really enjoyed their focus on the Jurassic Coast and all of the enrichment that has surrounded this theme so far. We are all very excited about the news that 'Dippy' is now in town and are looking forward to visiting him with our now expert eyes after the holiday.

As this is a training day today I thought I would give you a brief insight into what the staff in all of the schools within our partnership are doing. The teaching assistants from all DASP schools are all working together at THS today alongside guest speakers with a focus on behaviour, all staff who work in the Foundation stage in our schools are working alongside pre-school colleagues from 23 settings and are focusing on boys' progress in the early years with a national expert in this field and our own teachers are in school looking at our dance provision, ICT and our use of the outdoor spaces. A busy day in DASP and one which highlights the fantastic partnership that binds our schools together to create a strong community of learning and ultimately fantastic learning opportunities and provision for our children.

We will be holding our spring term parent consultation evenings on the 13 and 14 March and hopefully the teaching staff will be slightly more relaxed than they were at the last ones which coincided with our inspection! These evenings provide a vital opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and to discuss their current progress in school. This year we are going to ask you to do a small task with your child prior to the meeting and more details will follow about this after half term but one thing we will be asking is what do you and your child want for their future? A big question and one which we would welcome your views on as part of our discussions in March. As always if you are unable to attend for any reason, please let your class teacher know. Mrs Scott will also be making contact with families who are unable to attend to arrange an alternative date or further support if needed.

I wish you and your families a restful half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on the 19 February when you will hopefully see the latest new additions to our playground equipment.

Catherine Smith
Headteacher



SNAZZY SCIENCE!

Have some gooey holiday fun! Is it cold and rainy outside? What about some kitchen science?!

Have you tried mixing cornflour, food colouring and water? Watch the magic mixture change from a liquid to a solid when you play with it!



If you need to take your child out of school for a medical appointment we ask for you to please bring proof i.e. the appointment card, hospital letter or text to the school office. Thank you for your support.

Fairtrade Cafe

We are holding our annual Fairtrade Café again on **Wednesday 7th March**. You are very welcome to come and join us for a drink and delicious cookie during the day. Below is the timetable to show when classes will visit the café.



FAIRTRADE

Please ask your class teacher for more specific timings nearer the time.

If you would be able to help us at any time during the day we would be very grateful! Please let us know at the school office.

Timetable

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 9.00am | Year 2 |
| 10.00am | Year 3 |
| 10.45am | Foundation |
| Lunch | |
| 1.15pm | Year 4 |
| 2.15pm | Year 1 |

MATHS MANIA!

With Valentine's Day in half term it's time to think about hearts. Why not:

- Make a heart out of right angled triangles
- Find a heart shape pebble
- Make a symmetrical pattern by folding and drawing
- Find out how many sides and corners a heart shape has
- Make some heart shaped cookies. Remember to weigh out the ingredients carefully!



Wherefore art thou ... Year 3?

Year 3 have started to explore Italy and have discovered that Verona is the setting for a very famous Shakespearean story - Romeo and Juliet. They have used this story to help them write a newspaper report, a very angry letter from Tybalt to Romeo and beautiful poetry all in rhyming couplets.

They have also been helping each other to improve their writing by leaving top tips on each others' plans. This they all agreed was very helpful and it was lovely to read some of the positive things their friends had written about their work.



Plastic Free School

On Thursday 1st February four representatives from Damers Eco Crew appeared on CBBC Newsround talking about Refill Poundbury and their passion to cut down plastic to make Damers a Plastic Free School. Take a look at the [Newsround website](#) and you'll see them at the bottom of the page. They have signed up to the 'Surfers Against Sewage' programme to help them do this. Damers Eco Crew have put a plan together to make this happen and will be needing your support over the coming months. They have already written letters to the milk and fruit companies the school uses, asking for paper straws and fruit to come loose rather than in plastic bags.



In their classes they have been encouraging their class friends to buy a reusable water bottle. They have also spoken to Mrs Harris in the kitchen about not giving children plastic spoons. Please can you support this by making sure your child has a metal or other reusable spoon in their lunchbox for their yoghurt?

Message from Dame Ellen

Damers Eco Crew received a signed picture from Dame Ellen MacArthur! She saw their Refill Rap as well as reading all the media articles about their Refill Poundbury Campaign and all our other Eco projects they are doing. She thought that a signed picture was a well deserved reward for all their hard work so far.

Eco Warriors Visit

Damers Eco Crew welcomed The Princes of Wales Eco Warriors to Damers to see what sustainable work we do in school. We told them about our Refill Poundbury Campaign and recycling cartridges, pens and biscuits wrappers to raise some money for school. We showed them our plastic bottle greenhouse and kitchen garden. They were very interested to hear about our Eco Turtle as they have just switched their cleaning products to Delphis Eco. They have now bought their own Eco Turtle as well. We will be working with the Princes of Wales School to launch Refill Dorchester after half term.



Talking of our Eco Turtle, we have sold 50 bottles of cleaning products this month making £100! We are selling them on a Monday and Thursday after school in the Courtyard. £1 for a bottle made from recycled plastic milk bottles and then £1 for a squirt. Then all you do is fill it up with water at home. Please come and try out this fantastic, environmentally friendly cleaning product.

Energy Week

The Eco Crew kicked off Energy Week in assembly by telling the whole school what energy is and how it is affecting global warming. They also sang a song about saving energy in school which they had written themselves. Throughout the week each year group had an expert speaker in to talk to them about the future and about using renewable energy.

We also had a tour round Rainbarrow Farm where gas is made from food waste and maize. The farm supplies gas to a huge area of Dorset and was the first one to be opened in the UK. There are now 100. We were shown the process of how gas is made. We also got to see royal compost being made. This is used at Highgrove, Windsor Castle and at the Chelsea Flower Show. We had a great time even though the country smell was very strong at times!

Jurassic Jaunt!

What a fabulous trip Year 2 had to Charmouth. We learnt all about the Jurassic Coast and how to find fossils. Everyone went home with a bag full of treasures: ammonites, belemnites and beautiful seaglass! It made us think of how Mary Anning must have felt when she discovered her ichthyosaur.



If you fancy a family day out there then please have a look at the centre's website to find out tide times and other important safety advice.

<https://charmouth.org/chcc/>

Goodbye!



You may be aware that Mr Davis has left our school for personal reasons. We are all grateful for the good work that Mr Davis did during his time at Damers and we wish him every success in his new ventures.

Next term our Jigsaw theme is relationships. We will be talking about all the different relationships we have in our lives, friends, family, school mates, neighbours and people in the community around us. Children will be thinking about making friends, how to resolve problems and how to show respect for others.

Reading ROCKS!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
1 MARCH 2018

World Book Day is on 1st of March and as part of our celebrations we will, once again be running our **Extreme Reading Challenge**. Last year this was incredibly successful and the children were photographed reading in some extremely extreme places! If your child would like to enter this year please email one photo to extreme-read@damers.dorset.sch.uk by **Wednesday 21st of February**, we are unable to accept any late entries. Please write the name and year group of your child in the subject box. There is also a grown up category so why not enter yourself too! Please write parent entry and your child's name in the subject box.

Good Luck!

We will also be asking the children to wear some blinged up reading glasses and the following week the Roving Book Shop will be visiting Damers bringing over 3000 quality books with them! More details will be coming home after half term.

Writing competitions

This half term your child will be bringing home details about two really exciting writing competitions that have been organised by DASP. There are some really great prizes on offer and we look forward to reading the entries.

Our Christmas Jumper day raised £316.77 for Save the Children!

JIGSAW!

SPORTS NEWS

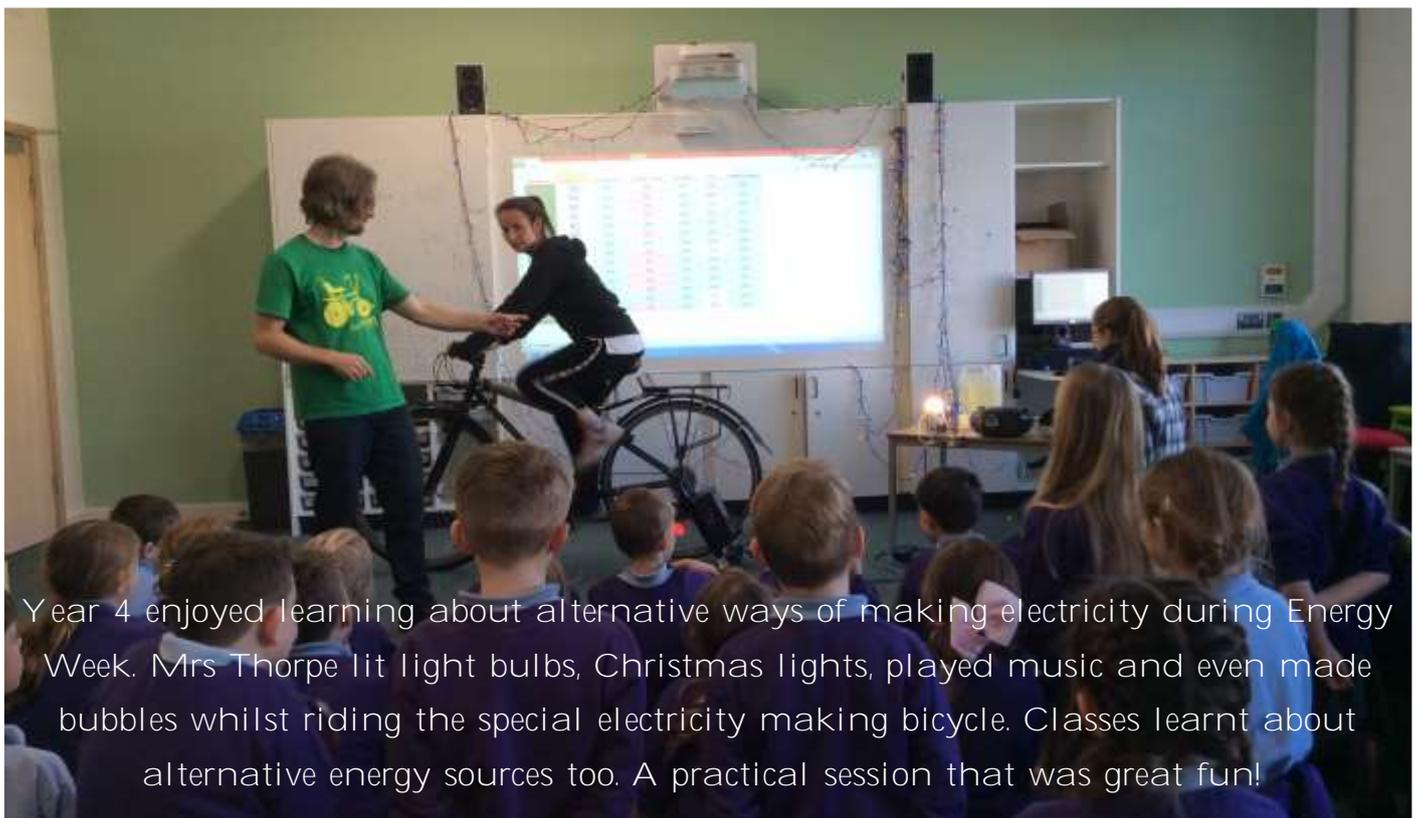


DASP NETBALL FESTIVAL

A team of Year 4 pupils recently took part in the DASP netball festival held at St Osmund's Middle School. They worked alongside the Year 7 middle school netball squad to develop their skills in dodging, marking, shooting and throwing. At the end of the morning, there was time for two games against other first schools attending, and the confident Damers team won both. Special thanks to Verity Batchelor who has worked alongside Mrs Thorpe with the netball team who demonstrated their amazing skills, shooting and their excellent team spirit.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Our talented pupils in PE have continued to extend their skills further in the areas of agility, coordination, and flexibility. Pupils enjoyed using the spring boards and trampette to aid their flight whilst trying to somersault. Our thanks go to Mr Dailey (DASP Sports Coordinator) who works with Mrs Thorpe to deliver these sessions, which are enjoyed by all of the children involved.

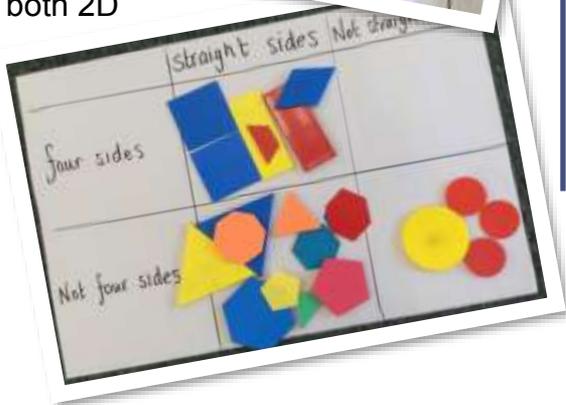


Year 4 enjoyed learning about alternative ways of making electricity during Energy Week. Mrs Thorpe lit light bulbs, Christmas lights, played music and even made bubbles whilst riding the special electricity making bicycle. Classes learnt about alternative energy sources too. A practical session that was great fun!

The Shape of Things for Year 1

Year 1 have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have been finding out the names of different shapes, how many sides, corners, faces and edges they have and sorting

them into different groups. We were surprised how many shapes were around us inside and outside the classroom. We also had fun printing with both 2D and 3D shapes. Who knew you could have so much fun with a shape!



Bike News

We are looking forward to our Dr Bike day on **Thursday 1st March** (weather permitting!).

This is a free bike check up by Jonathan Dixon, our Sustrans officer, for every child and adult who cycles to school that day.

The priority will be to check children's bikes first and then move on to adults' bikes if time allows.



Please use the bike storage sheds as usual until they are full. 'Overflow bike parking' will be in the corner of the courtyard near Grayling 2 (the first corner on the right if walking up the curved path onto the playground).



If you have any questions about the event, or if you are able to help support future events, please speak to Mr Misun.

Junior Governors News

This half term we have started 'The Daily Mile' in our school. We have been spending our time asking the children how they have been enjoying it and whether they think that taking part in the Daily Mile is helping them with their learning.



Our next big job which we have just started is the annual pupil questionnaire where we will spend time in our link classes finding out about the children's views of learning, behaviour and teaching in our school. We plan to analyse the results after half term and think about ways we can improve learning experiences for all.

Copper Base News

We have been really enjoying our dinosaur topic. We have been looking at different dinosaur fact books and stories, which we have enjoyed very much.

This week we have made dinosaur junk models and labelled them. It has been great fun. We are going to continue our dinosaur topic after half term which will end with a visit to see 'Dippy the Dinosaur' in the Dorset County Museum. We can't wait!



Dates for your Diary

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Mon 19th Feb | School restarts |
| Sat 24th Feb | J Rock Competition, Guildhall, Southampton |
| Thurs 1st Mar | Dr Bike Day |
| | World Book Day |
| Wed 7th Mar | Fairtrade Cafe |
| Fri 9th Mar | Year 4 Orienteering, Dorchester Middle School |
| Mon 12th to 16th Mar | Scoot to School Week |
| Tues 13th Mar | 3.30 - 7.00pm - Parent Teacher Meetings |
| Wed 14th Mar | 3.30 - 6.30pm - Parent Teacher Meetings |
| Fri 16th Mar | Non-Uniform Day - PTA Chocolate Donations |
| Thurs 29th Mar | Last Day of Term |

News From the PTA

Thank you to everyone who came to the disco, featuring our popular new DJ! He definitely embraced the new role! The evening raised £400 so thank you for supporting the event.

We also took the first steps to reducing our plastic use at the disco by replacing drink bottles with cups of squash. We will be meeting with the Eco Crew to work with them on new initiatives and ideas to be plastic-free wherever possible while still keeping events fun!

Label Companies

If you are looking to stock up on uniform name labels, the following companies offer commission back to the school and offer a good selection of personalised stickers and iron-on labels for uniform and other items:

Mine4Sure. Use code 'DOR1379' and receive up to 15% off your order plus 15% goes to the school. Free delivery too on every order. www.mine4sure.com

Easy2name. Use code 'Damers First School DT1' for a 20% school commission. www.easy2name.com

Stampstastic. Use code 'DT13DF' for 20%-30% school commission. www.stampstastic.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 7th March, PTA Meeting

7pm in the staff room. Everyone welcome, or email any ideas and feedback to damerspta@gmail.com

Friday 16th March, Easter Egg Donation Day

Please bring in a chocolate donation for the Easter Bingo (see below) and pupils can wear home clothes for the day as a thank you. If your child is on a trip that day, please check with your class teacher.

Wednesday 28th March, Family Easter Bingo

Back by popular demand (and with a new bingo machine, which makes it easier for children to find the numbers!). Doors open at 5.30pm, eyes down at 6pm in the school hall. Bingo books and professional dabbers can be bought on the door, refreshments will also be available to buy and a chance to win more prizes in a raffle.

Tuesday 24th April, Happy Birthday Liscombe Street

Afternoon tea and cake to celebrate the school's first year at Liscombe Street. Come along to the main playground after school to join in the celebrations.

