

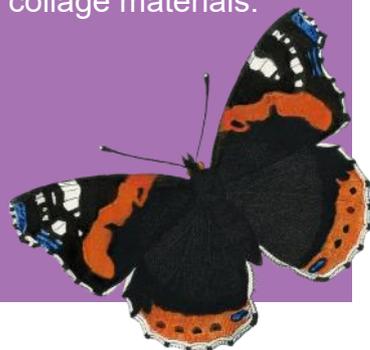


Butterfly Explorers

Year 2 have loved finding out about different life cycles this term, especially that of the butterfly. They have also enjoyed exploring the school grounds for butterflies, there aren't many as it is still early in the season. So far the children have spotted a Small Tortoiseshell and a Red Admiral. The children have written about the lifecycle and are creating a booklet for other people to learn about this amazing transformation too.



The children have also enjoyed thinking about how a butterfly camouflages with its environment and have created their own symmetrical butterflies using collage materials.



Dear Parents/Carers

As we all take a breath following another unique roller coaster ride through yet another unique term, I thought I'd simply concentrate on the optimism that has emerged in these last few weeks and the emerging signs that we can start to function as a Damers 'whole' once again.

Last week I had the absolute privilege of joining our Year 4s during their residential trip to Leeson House. After attempting to keep the beauty of Leeson firmly within our Year 4 plans during the restrictions of the last two years, it was a huge relief to witness the magic and the memories that are created during a longer trip once again. I don't think we have ever experienced snow during the night walk before or the sight of many children wearing ALL of their clothes at the same time to ensure that they were prepared! The Year 4 team, and all involved in the trip, did an incredible job as always, but none of us should underestimate the anxieties that they masked so professionally given the current staffing and attendance challenges. Thank you to all involved for making this happen.

This week it was Year 3's turn to remind us that the excitement is returning and I cannot think of a better way that they could have done this than through their Moana performances. What a burst of colour, energy, joy, music, laughter and hope for all those that shared this wonderful creation this week. It was great to welcome parents back into the hall again and although we had to ask the children to perform many times to accommodate everyone safely, the children showed us that this was a great excuse to simply reach all new heights during every single performance. Again, I cannot thank the staff involved enough for the professional masking of the challenges that they have faced in the run up to these public performances and the way that they have supported their colleagues during many staff absences.

Yesterday evening many families joined us for our PTA Easter Bingo. This has always been one of my favourite events of the year - a chance for families (including past, present and future pupils) to enjoy a simple, fun evening together. A great reminder of the joy of being back together in person again, the incredible work that goes on behind the scenes from our amazing PTA and the sheer talent of Mrs Grimmett and Mrs Hirst when it comes to Bingo calling! Thank you to all who made this happen or supported this event as, along with the after school cake sale, this raised over £1000 for our school.

And finally, your support for our School Council's 'Blue and Yellow Day for Ukraine' yesterday raised an incredible £622. Thank you for your generosity and your donation to Save the Children.

The whole Damers team thank you for your continuous support and I thank each and every one of them for 'hanging on in there' and still giving their absolute best to our children and families during a difficult term.

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

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

Leeson News!

Year 4 have just returned from a brilliant residential trip to Leeson House, near Swanage. They walked miles, stayed up late and did lots of amazing activities! Here's looking forward to next year's trip!



MATHS MANIA!

This Easter, why not create your own Easter eggs. These gorgeous Ukrainian Easter eggs are beautiful.

- What shapes can you see in the design?
- Can you find any lines of symmetry?
- What patterns can you see?
- Using these as inspiration, create your own symmetrical patterned Easter egg.



Big Walk and Wheel

Well done to everyone who took part by making active journeys to school where possible. Our children made a total of **1,867 active journeys** over the 10 days. The results show us that **walking** is the most popular active journey we make, followed by scooting and then cycling.

The winning year group with a total of 554 active journeys is **Year 2** and the winning class with a total of 231 active journeys is **Skipper 2!** Congratulations and look out for a class prize coming your way soon!

Fantastic effort from all of Damers so well done and keep up the active journeys!



Disney MOANA



We are all incredibly proud of the whole of Year 3. The children performed "Moana" live to their families and the school. They sang, danced and acted with great enthusiasm, energy, commitment and joy. Well done Year 3, you were absolutely amazing and you all should be incredibly proud of your achievements.

Reading ROCKS!

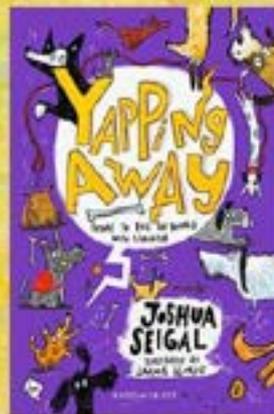
9 Poetry Books to read aloud



Reading poems is one thing, but performing them and sharing them is where their true beauty lies! Try sharing one of these books with your family or friends.

1. Yapping Away

Joshua Seigal & Sarah Horne



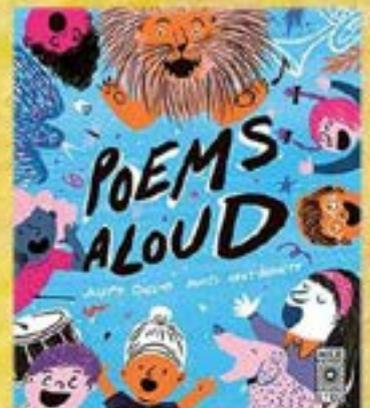
2. The Lost Words

Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris



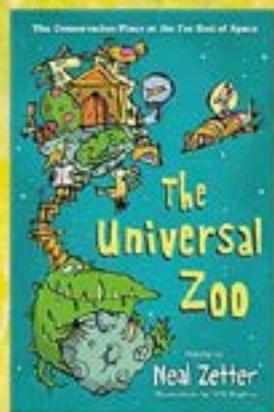
3. Poems Aloud

Joseph Coelho & Daniel Gray-Barnett



4. The Universal Zoo

Neal Zetter & Will Hughes



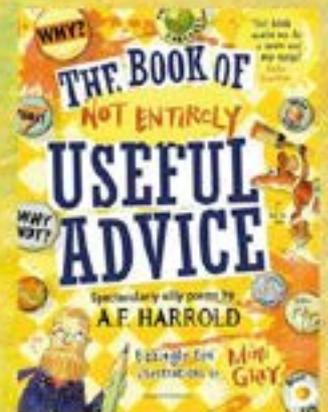
5. Bright Bursts of Colour

Matt Goodfellow & Aleksei Bitskoff



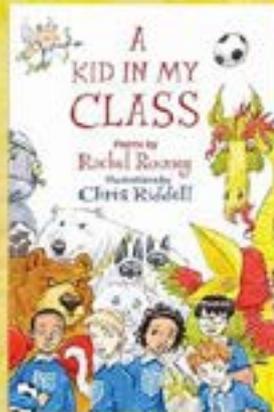
6. The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice

A.F. Harrold & Mini Grey



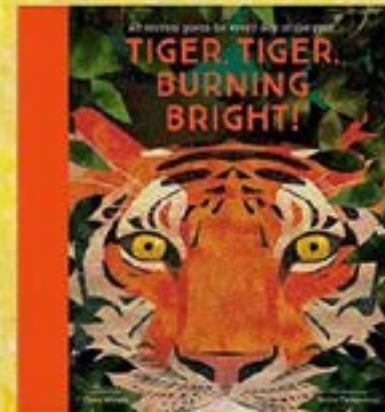
7. A Kid In My Class

Rachel Rooney & Chris Riddell



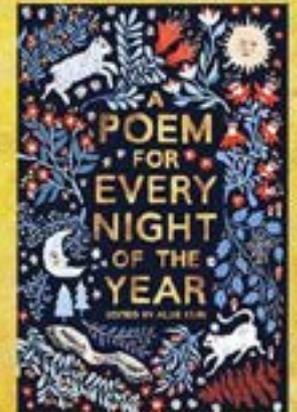
8. Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright

Fiona Waters & Britta Teckentrup



9. A Poem for Every Night of the year

Allie Esiri



Young Scientists

Foundation had an amazing time in the science dome last week. We learnt lots of interesting Dinosaur facts from an expert and held some fossils including real dinosaur fossilised poo! We then went inside the dome to experience life size dinosaurs all around us, see them hunt for their prey and learn more about how they became extinct. Thank you to the PTA and parents for your help in funding this great day.



Super Spotters

We found our first dragonfly nymph of the year in the Damers pond. This nymph will turn into an adult dragonfly this summer. What type of dragonfly will it be?



On the Year 4 trip to Leeson House last week we were lucky enough to pond dip and find these amazing male Smooth Newts, we thought they looked like Godzilla! We found out that ponds either have frogs or newts living in them but not usually both at the same time. The Damers pond is definitely a frog pond this year.



Let us know if you spot anything in the Easter break. It might be blossom trees, baby lambs or even an Easter Bunny! Email any 'spots' and photos, if you have them, to superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk.



News From the PTA

Easter will see the return of our first full face to face fundraising event since 2019 and we are so excited to get the Damers community back together for a fun evening of Bingo. There are lots of chocolate prizes to be won in the bingo kindly donated by Damers families and our raffle has been well supported by some really generous local business sponsors to whom we are very grateful.

Our World Book Day event was a lovely chance to welcome families back into school to see your marvellous potato personalities and we have been enjoying holding cake sales for the last three half terms. We are so impressed with the culinary skills of some of our parents and carers. By coming to enjoy some of these sweet treats you have helped to raise almost £1000 already which has funded an invaluable mental health and wellbeing resource for the school.



April will see our first Damers Lucky Numbers draw. Damers families and staff are able to join in our monthly lottery to win half of a cash pot every month with the rest of the pot going straight back to the school via the PTA. Each number costs only £2. Entry forms were sent out by Parentmail at the end of March and copies can be obtained from us at damersluckynumbers@gmail.com. The more families who join in, the larger the pot so sign up for the first draw by the 10th April to be in with a chance.

Coming up this Summer we hope to help the school with a Jubilee event for the children to celebrate this historic event. We will also see the return of the Damers Grand Summer Fete with all your usual stalls, treats and games for all the family. Lolly sales will replace cake sales as the weather hopefully improves and we may even get crafty with some crochet - watch this space!

A big thank you must be said to Casterbridge Rotary Club who accepted our grant application for £450 towards our school trips pledge to allow £5 per pupil towards school trips in 2021/22.

We just can't run the scale of events we love at Damers without your support and we would be thrilled if more families could get involved in our fundraising and events. We are a big school and we should have a strong PTA to match for the benefit of all our families. We will be looking for a new Secretary from next September so get in touch to find out how you can get involved at damerspta@gmail.com

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be April 27 at 19:00 in school.

Blossom Watch

Inspired by the Japanese Hanami ('flower watching') festival, we have decided to hold our own Damers 'Blossom Watch' again this year. The National Trust are also doing the same and you can [find out more here](#)

We've included a few pictures and names to help you with your blossom spotting.

If you get the opportunity over the next few weeks to simply 'stand and stare' whenever you see blossom, let us know what you have found and how it made you feel!

Email your blossom finds to harmony@damers.dorset.sch.uk and Mrs Smith will do her absolute best to send you a reply. She will also be awarding a few prizes after Easter for the best blossom images so please do send these in in any form - photograph, collage, painting ... whatever takes your fancy and shares the joy that you have found in some simple spring blossom!



Cherry



Pear



Elder



Goat willow



Apple



Hawthorn



Blackthorn



Damson



Plum

Year 1 Investigates ...

In Year 1 we have been learning all about living things. We have been finding out different ways to categorise living creatures. We have learnt how all living creatures can be sorted into vertebrates or invertebrates. Last week we discovered how we can categorise living creatures by what they eat. Year 1 investigated whether a creature was a herbivore, omnivore or carnivore by examining their poo. We found bones in the carnivore poo, plants in the herbivores and both in the omnivores poo. It was pretty yucky - but very interesting!



Dates for
your Diary

Thurs 7th April Last day of term

Fri 8th April INSET Training - school closed

Mon 25th April School starts

Wed 27th April G3 Roman Town House trip

Thurs 28th April M3 Roman Town House trip

Fri 29th April S3 Roman Town House trip

Mon 2nd May May Bank Holiday - school closed

Tues 10th May Foundation Gore Farm trip

Sat 14th - Sun 29th May Dorset Art Weeks (*further details about our exhibitions to follow*)

Thurs 19th May Foundation Gore Farm trip

Tues 24th May Foundation Gore Farm trip

Fri 27th May Last day of the half term

Jubilee Celebration (*further details to follow after Easter*)

Mon 6th June School starts

*Congratulations to
Jonathan Dunne on his
election to our Governing
Body as a new Parent
Governor.*

Our Blue and Yellow day for Ukraine raised

£622.19

for Save the Children's Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

A very big thank you to all of you
who made a donation.



Save the Children

JIGSAW!

Our Jigsaw unit next term will be Healthy Me! Healthy Week will be the week beginning 6th June. When we will be exploring lots of ways to look after our bodies, keep ourselves healthy and have lots of fun!

