

Damers News



Butterfly Explorers

Foundation are so excited to learn about life cycles and farming this half term. We will be looking at how plants grow, the life cycle of a plant and we will try to name and label all the different parts of a plant. We will also learn about what grows on a farm, what animals live on a farm and during this half term we are going to visit a working farm!



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of the summer term. We have experienced the joy of almost full staffing levels during these first weeks back and it feels as though we are genuinely heading in an uphill direction once again. You will see later in the newsletter that we have a number of plans in place to reflect this and to warmly welcome you back into school during the term ahead.

Over the next few weeks, each year group will be inviting parents and carers in for their first 'Stay and ...' session in their children's classrooms, followed by a second session in the next half term. These sessions have always been popular in the past and allow you a chance to see aspects of our provision in practice in the classrooms. Each year group will have a different focus but will aim to share the children's learning in a way that supports you and your understanding of that area too. We have also shared our Sports Day dates for each year group and warmly invite you to join us for these on the field again this year.

You will be aware that we are planning a whole school celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 27 May and will send final details about this celebration next week. We would very much like you to be involved in supporting the children with their contributions to the day (artwork and their clothes on that day etc) but given the logistics of a whole school 'Afternoon Tea Party' we are grateful that the PTA will be supporting us to ensure that parents can join the celebration informally after school, on The Great Field, if they would like to.

As we continue to thrive as a school, you will see that there are a number of changes ahead that reflect this later in the newsletter. I am delighted to now share with you the news that we will have an additional Deputy Headteacher from September. We are so pleased to welcome Mrs Hardisty to the evolving team and I personally am incredibly grateful for this decision from governors and the MAT to ensure that we have a leadership model in place that fully supports our school and its increasing role within the Wessex MAT. We will also be celebrating the birth of the 'Chalkhill' strand from September as we introduce a fourth Foundation class to accommodate numbers within our next intake. Exciting times for our school.

Thank you so much for the images and messages that were sent to me as a result of your 'blossom watching' over the Easter break. As Jack from Copper Base told me 'it makes me feel happy and nice'.

Mrs Bearwish has provided you with a summary of our curriculum plans for the summer term later in the newsletter and you'll be able to see the Harmony themes that are being explored within each year group. We are delighted to be playing a significant role in the Dorset Art Weeks once again and hope that you will be able to visit one of our local exhibitions in the coming weeks. We are incredibly grateful to a number of local artists who provided the initial inspiration for our work, to others who have supported our children and staff along the way and particularly to Mrs Bearwish who has ensured that we have all stayed focused and on track, with our eyes on the high artistic bar that she has set for all. Take a moment to stand, stare and marvel if you can.

We look forward to a term of sunshine, warmth and excitement. Enjoy the newsletter and thank you in advance for your support once again this term.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

Blossom Watch

Thank you to all who took part in the Damers Blossom Watch this year, for sharing your images and your thoughts about those 'stand and stare' moments and for sharing how it makes you feel when you take the time to look closely at the beauty that can be found all around us.



What the Romans Did for Year 3

Year 3 had a brilliant morning visiting the Roman Town House. We looked at the Roman items that were found when the house was excavated and we also looked at some features of a house invented by the Romans, including mosaics and hypocausts.



MATHS MANIA!

Around the school there is a buzz of multiplication facts and a great sense of achievement when the children are successful or know a trick. Why not try and add some of these ideas into your daily routine, you may be surprised how much fun walking to school could be.

- Skip count in different numbers eg. 2,4,6 remember to start at different numbers and try and go backwards.
- Learn and sing some multiplication table songs.
- Play "Last Man Standing"
- Look for multiplication patterns in nature



Mrs Hardisty

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hardisty to the Damers team from September as a new Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Hardisty is currently an Assistant Headteacher at a primary school in London but will be relocating with her family during the summer to begin her new role at Damers.

Anyone that has met Mrs Hardisty so far has welcomed her warmth, enthusiasm and experience and we are all excited to work with her. I know that during the interview process the children remarked that she had 'the kindest smile' and I hope that you will all experience this on the days that she visits between now and September.

Mrs Hardisty will work closely with Mrs Bearwish and both will spend part of their time in a teaching role from September. This role has been created as a result of the school's evolving role within the Wessex MAT. Congratulations from the Damers Community Mrs Hardisty and welcome to the team!



It's Up To Us – Dorset Art Weeks

Damers First School pupils are excitedly designing and planning their work to participate in Dorset Art Weeks as part of the Art in Poundbury exhibition.



Damers pupils are sincere in their quest to make a difference and protect our planet for the future. As a result they are creating artwork to illustrate their vision and pledges for this future where they value the importance of nature at the heart of everything we do.



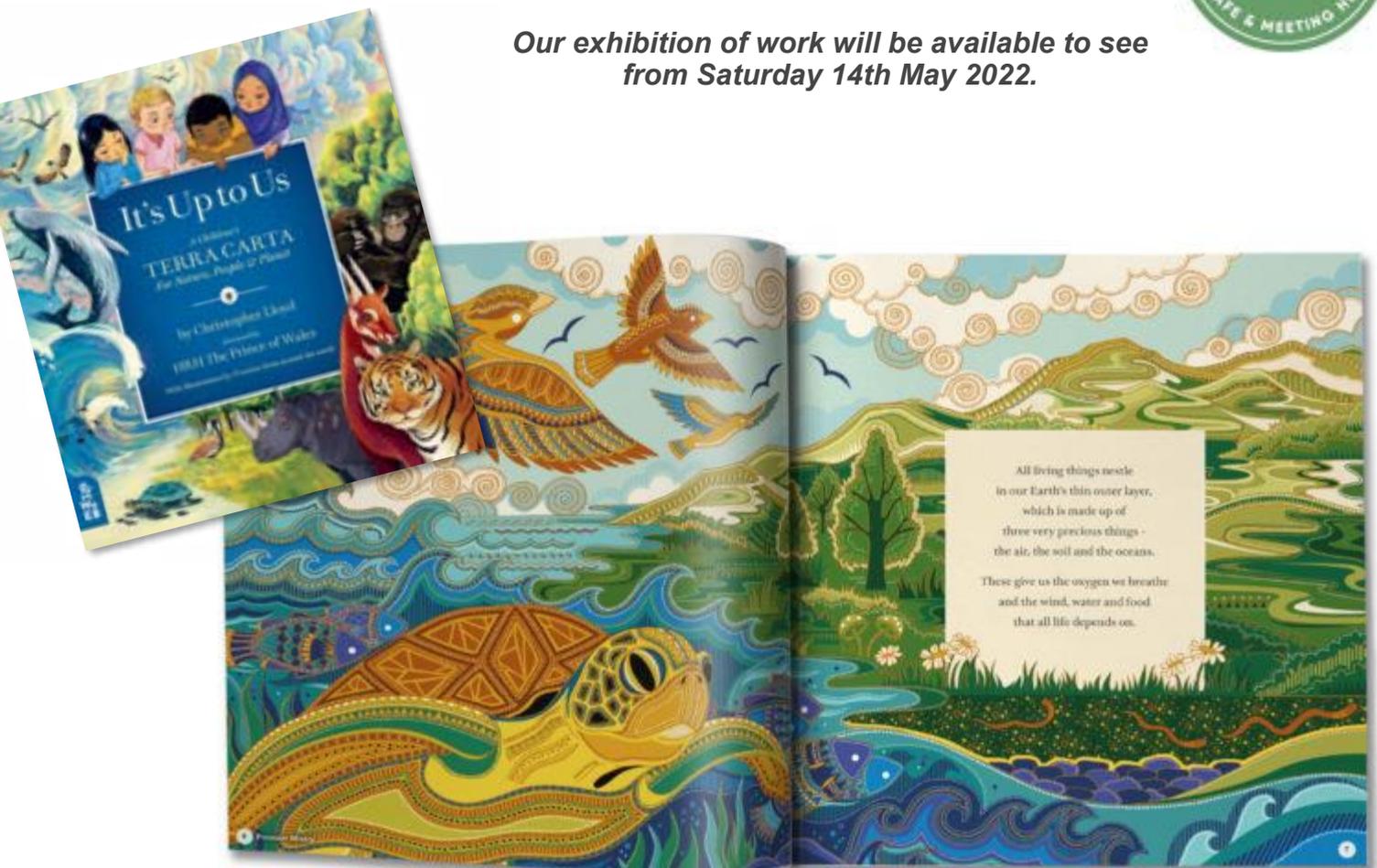
'Children have a unique curiosity for Nature and for this amazing planet we call home.' So writes HRH The Prince of Wales in his introduction to *It's Up to Us: A Children's Terra Carta for Nature, People and Planet*. His Royal Highness, author Christopher Lloyd and 33 amazing award-winning artists from around the world take you on a beautiful, lyrical and thought-provoking voyage through Nature, the threats we face and an action plan for the future. *It's Up to Us* is based on the Terra Carta, a roadmap to sustainability issued by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and his Sustainable Markets Initiative.

The pupils from Foundation to Year 4 have been exploring the different styles depicted by artists from around the globe in Christopher Lloyd's book *'It's Up To Us'*. Year groups have been inspired by these professionals to experiment with a variety of media including drawing, painting, printing, clay and textiles to develop their knowledge and skills.

A large selection of our amazing variety of work will be displayed in PiPs cafe on The Great Field. We are so grateful to The Alcohol Education Trust for providing us with the central space to celebrate all our achievements with family, friends and our community.



Our exhibition of work will be available to see from Saturday 14th May 2022.





In Year 4 we have started to learn a brass instrument! These sessions take place every Wednesday for the next ten weeks and are led by brass expert, Mr Randall from the DASP music service. We can't wait until our next lesson!

Underwater Art

This half term Year 1 have been responding to the amazing artwork of illustrator Peter Sis. We have taken a mixed media approach. Firstly we used a masking paper to draw our underwater designs and then we stuck these onto watercolour paper. Next we painted over our paper in greens and blues. Once the paint had dried we peeled off the masking paper to reveal blank voids where our underwater creatures should be. For the final stage we sewed metallic thread into our work.

Our art has a very important message; if we don't look after our planet then there really will be blank voids where all living creatures should be. We cannot wait to share our art with you.



Clay-mazing Art!

Year 3 have had the amazing opportunity to work with ceramic artist and storyteller Katie Netley. Katie loves to make sculpture using clay carving and is fond of the use of vibrant colour. The children have designed and created a Totem Pole with her that will eventually sit in the heart of our school grounds to illustrate their vision of nature for the future.

This beautiful piece of work will initially be unveiled as part of Dorset Art Weeks displayed in The Jubilee Hall, Poundbury. We are beyond excited to see the final piece. We hope you will take the time to visit the exhibition and see for yourself this wonderful, collaborative outcome.

Katie Netley has been a joy to work with and we wish her huge thanks for inspiring Damers children with her talent and skills.

Many thanks also to Poundbury Community Trust, Pengillys and The Mansel-Pleydell & Cecil Trust who have generously awarded Damers grants to enable this project to come to fruition and afford the school the privilege of working alongside an artist like Katie.



Super Spotters

We have seen lots of hedgehog poo on the field which we think is yucky but also very exciting. We have moved a hedgehog box near the bird hide with a dish of water and we will be putting out a wildlife camera to see if we can capture our spiky friend on film.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal mammals and like to eat worms, insects, slugs and snails so they will be a big help in our vegetable garden.



Hedgehog Fact

The 'Hedge' part of their name comes from where they build their nests, hedges, bushes and shrubs. The 'hog' part comes from the small snorting/ grunting sound they make which is similar to a pig/warthog.



If you have spotted any hedgehogs or hedgehog poo please email to superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk with any stories or pictures.



Please note that from Monday 9 May, Year 4 classes will join Year 1 and Year 2 at the Lychgate at the beginning and end of the day. We are very much looking forward to being back together again!

No Mow May

This May there is a very easy thing you can do in your garden to help wild flowers and struggling pollinators too. Put your lawnmowers away for [No Mow May](#). Whether it's a small patch or your whole lawn, you can have an impact. Leaving the grass uncut will create a habitat that will benefit bees and other insects. On a single day in summer, one acre of wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers and produce 1kg of nectar sugar for pollinators.



At the end of May record your results of the number of wildflowers you find in your lawn [here](#). [Sign up today](#) and get a free poster!

Money Raised Through Recycling

Since September we have raised £1077 through our Terracycle Programmes, Clothes Bank and recycling printing cartridges and toners. The money raised goes back into our environment projects. Thank you for your support. Please keep collecting these items.

Damers Sunflower Super Highway

Damers children will be taking part in the Dorset Sunflower Super Highway. The sunflower seeds are from Maiden Castle Farm who put together a Sunflower Trail last year. Sunflowers are a positive, happy plant that strengthens our connection with being outdoors. Sunflowers also save green species which include bees, starlings and hedgehogs. They have also become a symbol of support for Ukraine too.



Each class in the school will grow 15 sunflowers (1 between 2) at school to create a Damers Sunflower Trail which will be put together by the School Council and Miss Mansell. More information to follow about this after May Half Term. Each child will plant another sunflower each that they will take home before they break up for May Half Term. We would like you to take photos of your child's sunflower and email it to harmony@damers.dorset.sch.uk.

When the sunflower dies we will keep the seeds so we can do the Sunflower Super Highway again next year, giving out seeds we have to other schools, community groups, families, businesses to grow our Sunflower Super Highway.

It's Up To Us

Year 2 have been enjoying looking at the book 'It's up to us'. We have focused on a particular piece of art from the book. We have been exploring the artwork by Peter Sis and using his amazing work to help inspire us for our own piece which we have been working on to showcase in the Dorset Arts Week exhibition that is coming up soon! We are excited to show you our beautiful artwork!



News From the PTA

The last day of the Spring term saw our first proper in school face to face fundraising event since 2019 with the return of the family favourite Easter Bingo. We think we speak for everyone there when we say a fabulous time was had by all with an abundance of chocolate won in the bingo along with some fantastic raffle prizes generously donated by local businesses. Combined with the cake sale earlier the same day, over £1000 was raised for the school so thank you to all our supporters, donors, bakers and helpers not forgetting our wonderful bingo callers Mrs Hirst and Mrs Grimmett.

April also saw our very first Damers Lucky Numbers draw with Karen Roper-Brown being our first winner with Lucky Number 24! This simple monthly lottery allows families to support the PTA in our fundraising efforts from the comfort of their sofa and, even better, be in with a chance of winning a cash prize every month of half of the monthly takings. Numbers are only £2. To get involved email damersluckynumbers@gmail.com and we will tell you what you need to do.

The Summer term will keep us busy with Jubilee celebrations, lolly sales, a Grand Summer Fayre and Year 4 Leavers events including a PTA funded and run last day BBQ. Please add the dates to your diaries and we will keep in touch with further details. As ever, the committee cannot run these events without all hands on deck from the fantastic Damers community so please support us if you can.

- Friday 27 May - Damers Jubilee Celebrations continuing after school
- Friday 15 July - Damers Summer Fayre (please email damerspta@gmail.com if you can help support a stall for an allocated time spot during the fayre)
- Every Friday in the second half term - ice lolly sales after school

****Can you crochet?*** Are you handy with a hook? We need you to assist with an initiative for Lolly Fridays - please get in touch if you can help!

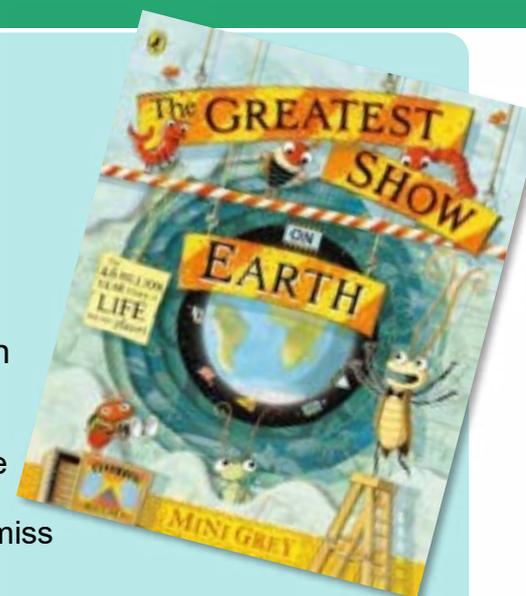
Where do the funds go? This term we are supporting the school with funding for after school club resources, a Yoga teacher for Healthy Week in June, resources for Dorset Art Weeks in which the school will be involved, the Year 4 Leavers' BBQ and momentos, a very special Jubilee souvenir for all pupils and continuing contributions towards year group school trips among other requests.

Reading ROCKS!

This month we are recommending this fabulous book by Mini Grey. It is suitable for all ages of children and a book that can be explored over and over again.

Take your seats for the ENTIRE history of Planet Earth, as we take a whistle-stop tour from the birth of Earth, to the age of bacteria, the era of dinosaurs . . . to the moment of people (blink and you'll miss it).

Narrated by a friendly troop of insects and with mind-blowing, lively illustrations, this illustrated non-fiction book will entertain and educate, as we put on a show, the greatest show, the show of the evolution of life on Earth.





As the Summer term hots up so are we at Damers. For us this year it fills us with joy as we begin to renew our activity within and beyond our community. The summer feels like it is full of 'extras', extra sunlight, extra playfulness, extra activity and of course extra time off. The energy of summer feels fun, full, and fast.

Join us as we continue our Harmony journey through the summer term's enquiry based projects. We are not simply learning about nature but learning from nature. The summer season means that everything in nature gets a lot of energy from the sun, to support life, breeding and feeding. Warmth of the summer days creates lifelong conditions for animals and plants. Everything has a vibrance and has a significant benefit to health and wellbeing.

Harmony

| ENQUIRY QUESTIONS - Summer Term 1 | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Foundation | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
| What lives outside our classroom? | What makes me feel good? | How does the work of others inspire us to look after our environment? | How do trees contribute to the cycles of planet Earth? | Stranded! How do we survive? |
| HARMONY PRINCIPLE | | | | |
| Cycles and Circles | Health | Oneness | Cycles and Circles | Health |
| Nature works in cycles that are endlessly self-sustaining and self-regulating. Nature has no waste. Everything has a value. | The principle of Health reminds us of the need for balance and the link between our own human health and the health of the natural world. Nature rejuvenates and heals us. It restores our spirit. It captures our imagination. It is a constant source of inspiration. | Oneness helps us to find our own sense of peace. It is living in harmony and unity with everyone and everything. Mindfulness helps us to link with everything around us. | Nature works in cycles that are endlessly self-sustaining and self-regulating. Nature has no waste. Everything has a value. | The principle of Health reminds us of the need for balance and the link between our own human health and the health of the natural world. Nature rejuvenates and heals us. It restores our spirit. It captures our imagination. It is a constant source of inspiration. |

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|-------------------------|--|
| Tues 10th May | Grayling Foundation Gore Farm trip |
| Sat 14th - Sat 28th May | Dorset Art Weeks |
| Mon 16th May | Stay and Spell - Year 3 |
| Mon 16th - Sun 22nd May | 'The Big Plastic Count' |
| Tues 17th May | Stay and Explore - Year 4 |
| Wed 18th May | Stay and Explore - Foundation |
| Thurs 19th May | Skipper Foundation Gore Farm trip |
| Tues 24th May | Meadow Foundation Gore Farm trip |
| Wed 25th May | Stay and Sketch - Year 1 |
| Thurs 26th May | Year 3 Roman Day |
| Fri 27th May | Last day of the half term Jubilee Celebration |
| Mon 6th June | School starts |
| Thurs 9th June | Stay and ... (tbc) - Year 2 |
| Mon 13th June | Year 4 Sports Day |
| Fri 17th June | Foundation Sports Day Stay and Number Crunch - Year 3 |
| Wed 22nd June | Year 3 Sports Day |
| Thurs 23rd June | Year 1 Sports Day |
| Fri 24th June | Stay and Perform - Year 4 |
| Mon 27th June | Year 2 Sports Day |
| Wed 6th July | Stay and Den Build - Year 1 |
| Thurs 14th July | Stay and ... (tbc) - Year 2 |

*Dates for
your Diary*

*Don't forget!
Healthy week starts
on the 6th June*

RE at Damers

This is what we are exploring in our RE lessons this term ...

Year 1 - Judaism and Shabbat

Year 2 - Judaism and Jewish peoples' special relationship with God

Year 3 - Hinduism and Brahman.

Year 4 - "What is the best way for a Jew to show belief and commitment to God?"

