

Damers News



Healthy Week

We kick started our first week back by all learning about how to be healthy! There were many great cooking and healthy eating experiences including baking bread and making fruit skewers.



We would like to say a massive thank you to all the visitors including Dorset Cricket Board, Forfit Martial Arts, Ballroom dancing by Mr Jury, Jurassic Judo, Dorchester Rugby Club and yoga by Kim Burnham. Also a special thanks to lots of our brave teachers for getting up on the stage for our whole school get up and dance sessions!

Dear Parents/Carers

During these last few busy weeks of term it's always a treat to stand still, if only briefly, and to take stock of all that is happening around us. It has been wonderful to welcome so many families to our recent Sports Days. I don't think we have ever managed to host five on their original planned dates before but we have been blessed with the weather this year and I know that the children have thoroughly enjoyed each event. Thank you to all who joined us and to the staff for ensuring that each event was planned to ensure that all children experienced teamwork, inclusion and celebration.

Thank you to the families that also joined us for the DASP Songlines performance at Maumbury Rings recently. What a beautiful event in a beautiful setting, our congratulations to all the Year 4s that took part from across our partnership of schools.

Our children's kitchen has been extremely busy this half term and I'm sure you have heard about the wonderful show stopping edible feasts that have been created within. We are grateful for the support of Becky Godwin and her able team from the Thomas Hardye School who have been supporting our staff and children in bringing our food provision back to life.

I'm just coming to the end of your children's reports and I have once again thoroughly enjoyed the chance to be fully immersed in every child's learning story this year. As always I am in awe of our teachers who know all of our children so well and are focused on the holistic nature of learning, but also the children themselves who never fail to astound me with their resilience, determination, individual talents and achievements and their thirst for learning. We look forward to sharing the end of term reports with you in a few weeks time.

You will receive an email in the next few days about classes for next year as we begin to introduce children to their new teachers and support staff. It's the official 'DASP Transfer Day' on Thursday 7 July and the majority of our classes will spend time with their new teachers on the morning of that day, however, some of our classes will experience slightly adapted arrangements this year due to the availability of new staff.

I know that the children are all looking forward to these final few weeks in school and that there are many exciting events planned such as trips, brass performances, Village Shows, our PTA Summer Fair, leavers' and new starters' picnics and of course our much anticipated Year 4 performance at the newly refurbished Hardye's Theatre.

We look forward to welcoming you to some of these events and thank you as always for your ongoing support. It's great to have you back with us in person again!

Catherine Smith

Headteacher



Now is the perfect time to spot many wildflowers flourishing, particularly on the Great Field. We've included a guide below to help you to identify the most common wildflowers ...

Plantlife

June Wildflowers Spotter's Sheet



Ragged Robin
Silene flos-cuculi

Once a common wild flower, it is now classed as near-threatened. It is particularly beloved by long-tongued bees.

Where to find it:
Wetter woods & meadows



Agrimony
Agrimonia eupatoria

Also called 'church steeples' after its tall floral spikes. In Victorian times it symbolised "Thankfulness".

Where to find it:
Hedgebanks, roadsides



Bee Orchid
Ophrys apifera

In a clever ploy to Attract pollinators, it not only looks like a bee, it also emits a female bee scent!

Where to find it:
Pastures, banks, chalk



Common Poppy
Papaver rhoeas

Poppy seeds only sprout when the earth around them is disturbed, hence why so many grew on the battlefields of WWI.

Where to find it:
Disturbed ground



Common Spotted-orchid
Dactylorhiza fuchsii

Our commonest orchid, as its name suggests. It can range in colour from deep lilac to light pink & even pure white.

Where to find it:
Alkaline grasslands



Dog-rose
Rosa canina

Syrup made from this wildflower's rosehips have twenty times as much Vitamin C as orange juice!

Where to find it:
Hedgerows



Foxglove
Digitalis purpurea

Its mottled markings were once thought to be the handprints of fairies. A single 'glove' can produce a million seeds.

Where to find it:
Woods and banks



Oxeye Daisy
Leucanthemum vulgare

Often in bloom around the summer solstice. If cattle eat it, it can affect the flavour of their milk.

Where to find it:
Grassy verges



Yellow Iris
Iris pseudacorus

Also known as 'Yellow Flag', it grows where water runs shallow - hence it can indicate the presence of a ford.

Where to find it:
Damp soil, water margins



Yellow Rattle
Rhinanthus minor

Great for wildflower meadows as it restricts the growth of grasses by feeding off their nutrients.

Where to find it:
Grassy banks

Help us bring colour to the countryside. Join today: www.plantlife.org.uk/membership

We will continue to ask children to attend school in their PE kits on PE days in September.



DASP Music

Is your child interested in starting to learn an instrument in September?

If your child is in year 2 and above, DASP Music can provide music lessons in school on a variety of instruments. Group lessons are available from £4.50 per lesson.

Please see our website www.daspmusic.co.uk for more details.

Applications need to be received by **1st July** in order to guarantee lessons starting in September.

In addition, we also have a variety of ensembles available for children in first schools including our Stringalings beginner string group, Bandamonium beginner windband and Skylarks Choir.

Please email daspmusic@thomas-hardye.net if you require further information.



SNAZZY SCIENCE!

Why not try making a Surprise Spinner?

You will need (Equipment):

- Mug
- White card
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Felt tip pens
- Cocktail stick
- Straw



How to (Method):

1. Put a mug on a piece of white card and draw around it. Then cut out the circle you have made
2. Using a ruler and a pencil, divide the circle into eight equal parts (half it, half it, half it, half it)
3. Fill one section of the circle red, the next green, and the next blue. Repeat this until all the sections are filled in
4. Push the cocktail stick halfway through the middle (looks like a spinning top)
5. Rest the stick inside the end of the straw. Use your other hand to spin the circle as fast as you can. What do you see?

Extension - what happens if you use different colours?

What's happening (the science bit)?

When the spinner turns fast, your eyes see all three colours at the same time. Your brain can't separate them. So it combines them to make white or white with a grayish tinge.

Please send your photos of any science you do at home to science@damers.dorset.sch.uk. At the end of the term, we will celebrate this in an assembly and give out prizes to some of our super scientists! We can't wait to see what exciting things you discover!



NSPCC
Speak out. Stay safe.
programme

We are pleased to tell you that again this year we will be participating in the **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe** online programme delivered in school by your child's class teacher. The focus is keeping our children safe by teaching them that **every child has the right to:**

- **Speak out and be heard**
- **Be safe**
- **Get help when they need it**

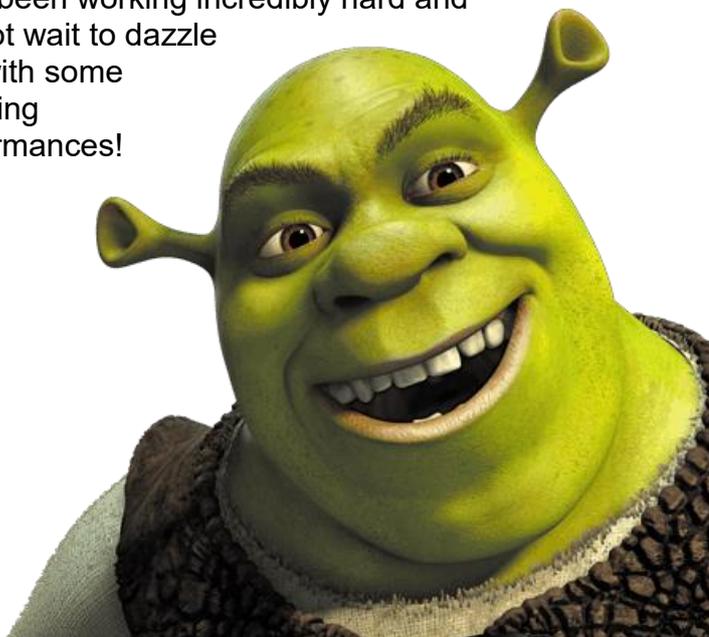
The messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

The assembly and materials are completely age appropriate and most importantly by the end of the programme we are confident our children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme you can find information on the [NSPCC website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).

Damers Dazzles

In Year 4 we have been working hard on all things performing! From learning our brass instruments as part of our DASP music lessons to rehearsing for our upcoming performance of Shrek 2 at the Thomas Hardy School Theatre. The children have been working incredibly hard and cannot wait to dazzle you with some amazing performances!





Year three had an amazing sports day on Wednesday. The sun was shining brightly and the playground was full of cheering spectators. All the children ran their best races in a sprint race and a relay race. Even the teachers took part and joined in a class relay. What a fantastic afternoon and it was amazing to see the school full of Damers families.

MATHS MANIA!

Over the last few weeks we all have had the opportunity to take part in Sports Day. There's been running races, relays, obstacles and more. There are always opportunities to think maths, and this is no exception. Why not ...

- Set out an obstacle course and time yourself. Challenge your family.
- Measure out a 100 metres.
- Usain Bolt ran 100m in 9.58 seconds. See how far can you run in under 10 seconds.
- Look up some sporting "world records".
- See how far can you jump and throw?



PANTS!

We all want to keep our children safe. This term we will be teaching our children important safety skills in a fun, interactive and age appropriate way. We will be learning the NSPCC's Underwear Rule with our friend Pantosaurus.

If you would like to know more or talk PANTS with your child please use these NSPCC resources to help you join us in keeping your child safe.

[Talk PANTS and join Pantosaurus - the Underwear Rule - NSPCC](#)



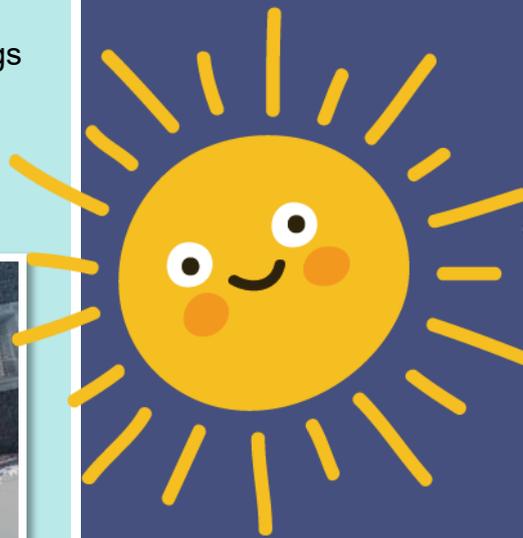
Reading ROCKS!

**Make and Play - Dragon Masters
Dorchester Library, 4th July at 4.00pm**

Dorchester Library has a fun session for children who are age 8 and above. Staff will read the first few chapters of "Rise of the Earth Dragon" by Tracey West and then everyone will get crafty and transform junk into their very own Dragon Castle. Mini furniture, gardens, training grounds, a wizard's workshop and other exciting things will be made to go in the rooms of the castle. Sounds like a magical event! [For more information and to book click here.](#)



School Times for September



eco news

Three children from Damers brought the fight against plastic waste to the heart of power Last Week as they lobbied MP Selaine Saxby, North Devon (Chris Loder MP, West Dorset was unable to attend) to take action against plastic pollution on The Big Plastic Count's Youth Empowerment Day.

After learning about the role of MPs and why talking to your MP is important, the pupils created a plastic themed collage to give to their representatives then set to work lobbying their MP for more action on plastic waste in a face to face meeting in Parliament. They joined students from nine other schools from across the country to raise the alarm to their MPs on the UK's plastic waste problem.



Year 1 Needs Flowers

Year 1's big question this half term is "Which is my favourite wild flower? We have been lucky enough to work with Miles King from People Need Nature. He took us on a fantastic trip and told us so much about wild flowers. It's amazing what you can spot when you look closely!

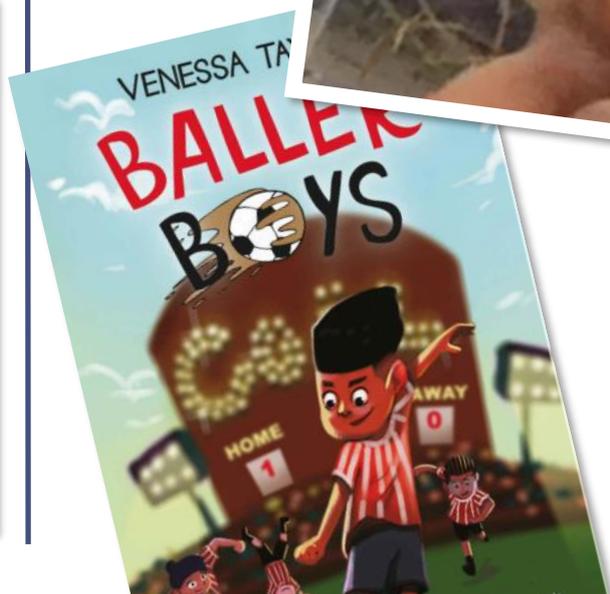
We walked to Poundbury Hill Fort and collected Buttercup seeds to sow on the Great Field - we can't wait to see the difference our small seeds make!



Year 2 Newsssss

Year 2 recently enjoyed having visitors in from the Urban Heath Partnership. The children had a fantastic time learning about wildlife on the heathlands in Dorset and the threats that they face. The children enjoyed seeing and stroking a smooth snake. (The staff hold a license to capture and handle these snakes which are a rare and protected species).

Year 2 also participated in a virtual author visit with Venessa Taylor, author of *Baller Boys*. They listened to some of the story and had the opportunity to ask Venessa some great questions too.



Foundation Sports Day

Foundation had a fantastic time at their Sports Day last week. It was a super hot afternoon but they tried so hard, showing great team spirit for each event. We are so proud of you all! Thank you to all our families for coming along to cheer them on and for taking part in your own races!



Super Spotters

Dragonflies and Damselflies have been spotted at Damers pond! Dragonfly young are called nymphs and Damselfly young are called larva and they live in the pond for years getting bigger and bigger and shedding their outer casing which is called its exoskeleton as they grow. Once they are fully grown they all crawl out of the pond on a warm sunny day onto plants and emerge from their exoskeletons as beautiful adults.



Unfortunately one of the dragonflies that emerged had a crumbled wing and couldn't fly, which was really sad. It did mean that we got the chance to meet this amazing male Emperor Dragonfly close up.

We have also spotted a female Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly, she was laying her eggs just under the surface of the water, we can't believe we got to see it!



Dragonfly Fact

How can you tell the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly? When dragonflies land they keep their wings open, damselflies close their wings up.

We've had some amazing emails from Super Spotters. If you would like to send us any spots email superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk

Henry has filmed some spikey garden visitors and Emma found this Lime Hawk-Moth on the way to school!



Wed 6th July	Stay and Den Build - Year 1 6.30pm - Year 4 performance at THS
Thurs 7th July	DASP Transfer Day 6.30 - Year 4 performance at THS
Fri 8th July	DASP LitFest
Tues 12th Jul	Meadow 3 Lulworth trip Meadow 2 Hardy's Cottage trip
Wed 13th Jul	Skipper 3 & Grayling 3 Lulworth trip Year 4 Brass performance
Thurs 14th July	Year 2 Stay and ... Year 2 Village Show
Fri 15th July	Grayling 2 Hardy's Cottage trip PTA Summer Fair
Mon 18th July	Year 4 Leavers' Picnic after school
Thurs 21st Jul	Leavers' BBQ Last day of term

*Dates for
your Diary*

News From the PTA

Summer Fayre

Next month will see the return of Damers Summer Fayre after school on Friday 15 July. This is the first fayre we've held in 3 years and we can't wait to help welcome families back into the school for this fun community event. Generously sponsored by Zero C in Poundbury, you can expect all your usual stalls, games, face painting, refreshments and some exciting performances from some of our favorite little stars. We will also have some large vehicles and some minibeast friends visiting for the children to explore.

Can you help us connect?

A class rep system has worked really well in the past at helping get messages to classes in a quick, efficient and informal way. We are looking to restart this and need a person in each class to post PTA notices in their class communication groups so that everyone knows what is going on. If you would be happy to do this please email damerspta@gmail.com.

Lolly Sales

Lolly sales have been a lovely Friday afternoon summer treat and will continue on the 1 and 8 July after school so don't forget your 50p's. Lolly holders to stop little hands getting cold while waiting for ice pops to be eaten have also been kindly created and donated by parents and are available for £2.50 including an ice pop.

Damers Lucky Numbers

Lolly sales have been a lovely Friday afternoon summer treat and will continue on the 1 and 8 July after school. We have now been able to give out over £100 in cash prizes. Our third draw in June saw one of our contestants win for a second time which she incredibly generously donated straight back to the PTA. We will be available at the Summer Fair to help families sign up. The odds of a cash prize are great and the school benefits by £1 from every £2 number you buy so please get involved - email damersluckynumbers@gamil.com for more information.

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6.00 PM

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