

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022

Damers First School and The Wessex MAT family as a whole are deeply saddened at the passing of Her Majesty The Queen after a lifetime of devoted service. Her dedication to public service was an inspiration to children and adults alike. She set an extraordinary example and leaves a lasting legacy.

On behalf of all our communities, we send our sincere condolences to her family.



Damers News



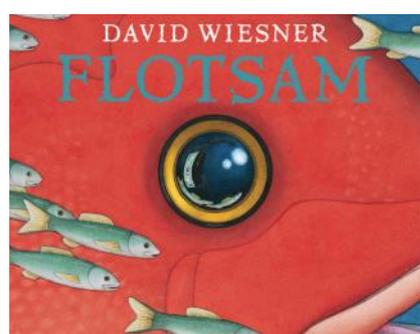
September 2022

A Big Thanks!

Our new Year 4 children have settled in fantastically well since the start of the new school year and are already great role models to the rest of the school. The children have made a great start and are doing some amazing artwork based on an interesting and beautifully illustrated book called, Flotsam.



We can't wait to see their finished pieces of art and to work more



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that the autumn term has started well for you and your families. We all extend a very warm welcome to those who are new to the Damers community and an equally warm welcome back to all, as we share our first newsletter of the year. The children have certainly had an incredibly positive start to the term in school and it has been particularly wonderful to see the confident start that our new Foundation children have made during their first few weeks. Well done and thank you to all who have played a part in ensuring that all children have experienced a smooth transition into their own individual new beginnings.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in school again over these next few weeks. You should have now received dates and details about our Meet and Greet sessions next week and our first 'Stay and Share' session of the year. If you haven't received these emails, please do contact the office as a matter of urgency to ensure that you are receiving regular, up to date information around school activities.

Individual teachers and year groups will also be sharing arrangements for our parent / teacher meetings with you shortly. These meetings will take place during the week beginning 10 October and we have adapted our offer this year, following feedback from you, ensuring that we have a mixture of face to face and virtual appointments available. Many of you have told us that the virtual meetings work well in terms of childcare, tea time disruption, absent parents etc but that you miss the opportunity to see children's books. We have therefore built in a sharing session, to look at books the week before these meetings, to hopefully overcome this issue and to allow all parents to access a meeting that suits them.

Once all children are settled into their new routines, our after school clubs will start again after half term. We will be making a few amendments to how these are delivered and accessed this year, again responding to your feedback. Further details will follow from Miss Goodridge next week.

I hope that whether this is the beginning of another school year or it's your very first experience of our school, that you are already starting to feel the optimism and excitement of a new school year. I and the Damers team remain committed to providing our absolute best for our children and our community this year and look forward to once again learning alongside you.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

eco news

Recycling

At Damers we recycle printing cartridges and toners. Please send your child in with them and they can be placed in a white box outside the staff room. They can also be dropped off at Poundbury Post Office and Poundbury Waitrose. If you have any cartridges or

toners where you work please bring them into Damers too. We also have a clothes bank in the staff carpark collecting wearable clothes, paired shoes, handbags, belts. All these items raise money for the school. Finally we collect crisp packets, confectionery, biscuits, cracker wrappers, toothpaste tubes and brushes, pens that do not work anymore, water filters and used coffee pods. There is a wooden cabinet in the staff car park in Liscombe Street where these can be placed or please send them in with your child and they can be placed in the boxes outside the staff room. Please make sure the items are sorted into separate bags as it makes it easier for us to box the items up.



Please remember to encourage children to step off bikes and scooters when they are near our queues at the beginning and end of the school day. Thank you for your support in supervising those on wheels within these areas and keeping our community safe.

MATHS MANIA!

It's a new academic year so let's start with learning to count in ones and different steps. It is really important to be able to count forwards and backwards starting from different numbers and then challenge yourself with skip counting eg. 3,6,9,12,15 ...

When you have mastered counting, let's start learning our times tables. Learning times tables off by heart makes mental maths much easier. It will boost your child's confidence in their maths lessons at school, but it's also a skill they'll use all the time in the world outside school. [Click here](#) to read our handy guide for parents about multiplication tables, with some ideas for fun ways to learn your tables!

Welcome to Foundation!

What a wonderful first few days we have had with our new Foundation children, especially as this year we have also welcomed our new Chalkhill strand. So far we have been exploring the classrooms and the outside area and we are looking forward to investigating more of the school in the coming weeks. We have been making lots of new friends and have been practising turn taking and sharing. We are really looking forward to our journey together in our new school!





What can autumn teach us?

Autumn is a time of beauty, harvesting and shedding the old. It has something important to show us about moving on and confidently meeting the challenges of new opportunities. While autumn is a time of productivity, it is also a time of completion and transition. So let's shake off the old and welcome a new and exciting year at Damers!

We recognise the need to adapt our curriculum to reflect our children's place within their world both now and in the future and we rely heavily on what nature can teach us about the importance of living in Harmony with our world to steer our planning. There has never been a better time to focus on the principles which drive our curriculum and our lives; we hope you will continue to join us on our Harmony curriculum journey.

This term we are excited to be exploring the principles of Harmony through a range of enquiries of learning. Each year team has developed a BIG ENQUIRY question to lead their learning journey across all subjects, providing children with a real sense of what they are learning and why. The questions are designed to inspire, engage and encourage children to think about the ways in which they might answer them, resulting in a purposeful outcome to be celebrated by all.

Harmony

ENQUIRY QUESTIONS - Autumn Term 1

Foundation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
What makes me special? Who am I?	How does being outside make me feel good?	What traditional tales are told around the world?	How did prehistoric people live in harmony with nature?	How are humans interdependent with the world around us and what is our role within it?

HARMONY PRINCIPLE

Diversity	Oneness	Diversity	Oneness	Interdependence
The richness of the natural world lies in its diversity. It ensures the natural world is resilient as natural systems are not dependent on one particular species for their health and survival. Diversity enriches our lives. It is something not just to value, but to promote and celebrate.	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.	The richness of the natural world lies in its diversity. It ensures the natural world is resilient as natural systems are not dependent on one particular species for their health and survival. Diversity enriches our lives. It is something not just to value, but to promote and celebrate.	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.	Every system promotes healthy relationships and connections. Nothing works in isolation. We all work together and everything has a role to play.

Not a Box

Year 1 have had a fantastic start to the year! We have been looking at the book Not a Box and using our wonderful imaginations. Can you guess what our boxes are? Is it a hot tub? Is it a pirate ship? Is it a fox's den?



The value we are thinking about this month is:

Courage

Free Books for Under 5s

Do you have a child under 5?

Imagination Dorchester offers a free book every month in the post until your child's fifth birthday! There is no charge and no catch.

If you live within 5 miles of the Dorchester Military Keep and your child is currently aged under 4 years and 10 months you can apply. [Visit their website](#) for more details and to enrol.



Stone Age Year 3

Year 3 are really excited about this term where they will be learning about life during the Stone Age and how that has impacted on our lives today. We have lots of exciting adventures planned in and outside of school including a trip to New Barn and a Stone Age Day later in October.



There has been a small increase in the price of school uniform from September - you can find an updated price list [on our website](#).

Magic Bubbles

A warm welcome to Year 2! We hope you've had an enjoyable, restful and happy summer break. We're very excited to be welcoming the children into their new Year 2 classes.

In our first week, we were thinking about bubbles! We described them, wrote poems about them and imagined we had a magic bubble that could take us anywhere we wished! We watched [this video](#) to give us some ideas and talked about how the different characters might be feeling too.



We've been enjoying some sketching and using watercolours in art too!



We will be having our own Harvest Celebration at the end of this month and it will involve a Swap Shop! More information to follow ...

Hello From Mrs Hardisty!

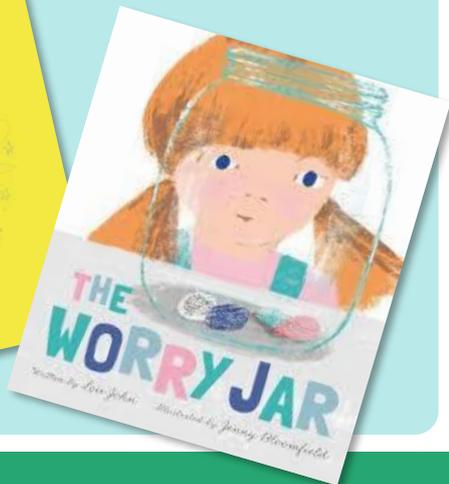
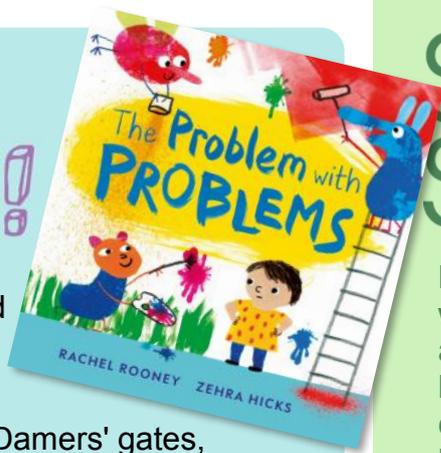
We are delighted to welcome Mrs Hardisty, Deputy Headteacher to the Damers team!

"It has been lovely starting at Damers this week and getting to know the wonderful staff, children and families. I grew up in Dorchester and my family are still in the area, so it definitely feels like 'coming home' after 15 years in London. We've been revisiting favourite spots like the beach and sunflower trail at Maiden Castle and getting to know new places like the amazing new playground on the Great Field. I love singing and music so I'm looking forward to singing with the children at Damers and sharing the music and songs that inspire me."



Reading ROCKS!

Whilst we're so excited to be back and welcoming our new children through the Damers' gates, we understand that there may be some nervous tummies, from children and the adults! Sharing a book together is a lovely way of opening up those conversations over any worries. Here are a few picture books that we recommend:



Super Spotters

Late summer is an exciting time of year, it's wonderful to see Damers full of children again and outside the hedgerows and countryside are full of berries and fruit. Despite the very dry, hot summer, our school apple trees have fruit on them.



Apple Facts

Did you know it takes the energy of 50 leaves to produce one apple and that apples are members of the rose family!

The wild flowers around the pond are dropping their seeds which will settle into the soil, make roots and grow into beautiful flowers for the insects and us to enjoy in the spring and summer. We hope that the children can mirror what is happening outside and put down strong roots for the journey ahead this year. We're looking forward to exploring the amazing things that happen all around us in nature through the seasons.

If you spot anything you would like to share with us please email superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk



News From the PTA

Welcome to the Autumn term to all new and returning parents and carers. We just wanted to alert you to a couple of important diary dates in the early days of this half term...

Tea & Tissues for Foundation families -

Friday 23 September after morning drop off in the main school hall. This is a chance for all those whose children joined us in Foundation this year to get together at the end of their child's first full-time week at school. This can be an emotional but also exciting time, even if for some it may not be the first time you've done it. PTA members and school representatives will provide you with soft drinks, biscuits, tissues, friendly faces and distractions for younger children while you have the opportunity to meet us and other parents and carers who will be travelling this road with you for the next few years.

PTA meeting and AGM - Monday 26 September 19:00 at the school (entry via main office). We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for our first meeting of the year to come and find out what we do and how you can be involved in making a difference to your child's school journey. Your contribution is so valuable and important to us no matter how small, so please do join us to find out more.

To be added to our mailing list and keep in touch please email damerspta@gmail.com.

Dates for
your Diary

Mon 19th Sept	Bank Holiday for the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II
Tues 22nd Sept	Year 3 Xtreme Falconry
Fri 23rd Sept	8.45 - 10.00am - Tea and Tissues for new Foundation Parents / Carers in the Main Hall
Mon 26th Sept	7.00pm - PTA AGM
Wed 28th Sept	9.00am & 7.00pm - Foundation Phonics Workshop for Parents / Carers
Tues 4th Oct	Year 3 trip to New Barn 2.30pm - Year 1 Phonics Workshop for Parents / Carers in the Main Hall
Fri 7th Oct	Year 3 trip to New Barn
Wed 12th Oct	Visiting Poet - Kimba
Fri 14th Oct	8.30am - Mrs Pluck on the Year 4 gate
Wed 19th Oct	10.00 - 11.00am - Foundation 23/24 Open Morning Last day of the half term
Thurs 20th, Fri 22nd & Mon 31st Oct	INSET Training - school closed
Tues 1st Nov	School starts

Half term starts here!

Children Starting a New School

For children starting school for the first time or moving to Middle School in September 2023, the application dates are as follows:

Children eligible to start school for the first time in September 2023

Date of Birth	Application Type	Closing Date	Offer Date
1 Sept 2018 - 31 Aug 2019	Starting School Sept 2023	15 January 2023	17 April 2023

Children due to start Middle school in September 2023

Date of Birth	Application Type	Closing Date	Offer Date
1 Sept 2013 - 31 Aug 2014	Starting Middle School	15 January 2023	17 April 2023

Apply online at [Dorset School Admissions](#)

Vision, Aims and Values

Vision

At Damers First School we strive to nurture an inclusive community of respectful, collaborative learners who are encouraged to constantly achieve their very best. We empower all learners to make valuable contributions both locally and globally and to enjoy and benefit from a lifelong love of learning.

Aims



Values

All of our aims are underpinned by our core values. Our values are very important to us and direct our work every day. They enable us to ensure that we continuously do our best for every child but also for all within and beyond our school community. As a whole school community, we agreed when we met to review these in June 2022, that our values and the way that we focus on these values needed to reflect our learning and experiences from the global pandemic. We now focus on the meaning of these values from four distinct perspectives and our visual representation of these ‘ripples’ when we display a focus value, reminds us of the importance of looking at values through different lenses;

- Intrapersonal (what this value means to me personally)
- Interpersonal (how this value can be seen in my relationships with friends, family and familiar adults)
- Societal (how this value can be seen and shared within our communities)
- Global (what this value means and looks like in the wider world – global citizenship)

Throughout the school year values are introduced in assemblies and alongside our Jigsaw work but will also be reinforced practically through our everyday provision and a targeted focus on deepening children’s understanding of one of these values each month. They will also be referred to in staff correspondence, newsletters, parent emails and via posters around the school to promote a whole community dialogue.

September	October	November	December
Courage	Resilience	Equality (Tolerance)	Love
January	February	March	April
Integrity (Rule of Law)	Kindness	Honesty	Hope
May	June	July	September 23
Justice (Democracy)	Gratitude (Liberty)	Respect	Harmony

These values will be frequently revisited throughout school life and our curriculum has been designed to ensure that our core values are frequently revisited and applied due to their natural link with Harmony principles.