

# Damers News



## Year 2 News

It has been a busy few weeks in Year 2! We have been learning about everyday materials in science (your bridge investigations at home were brilliant!) and we have started to look at how a hyacinth bulb grows.



Next half term (in November and December) we will be learning about the Victorians in History. The children have brought home some ideas for home learning in their purple books.

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy start to the new school year we have had this half term. It has been wonderful to see so many of you in school over these last few weeks attending parent workshops, 'Stay and Share' sessions and parent / teacher meetings, and I hope that you have found these both enjoyable and useful. I know that the children have shown great pride as they have welcomed you into their new classrooms to share their learning so far. Over the next few days we will be sharing our 'Stay and ...' dates for the rest of the school year. We recognise that it isn't always easy to attend these events during the school day and will therefore be providing as much notice as we can for future dates.

It was great to see your response to our new block of after school clubs which will begin after half term. I hope that those who were disappointed this time around will soon hear about their places for the spring and I am once again incredibly grateful to our teachers and support staff who go over and above to ensure that we are able to offer such an exciting range of activities.

As a school we rarely stand still and we all recognise the power of learning through our roles in the classroom but also as members of an ever developing team. As promised, I have added a summary of our [learning development priorities](#) for this school year to the school website. This will show what we have identified as areas for further development and how your responses to our parent questionnaire in July have influenced our planning for 2022/23. We had 136 responses to our questionnaire this year and a summary of your responses can be found [here](#) along with some of your feedback comments later in the newsletter. Thank you for such a warm and positive response, you have made us smile but have also constructively highlighted a few areas where we can do even better. If you did leave a comment that would welcome a response but didn't add your name, then please do speak to me at the gate or make an appointment to come in and speak to me, as this is always the most simple and effective way to address any concerns. As one of the children pointed out to me in an assembly about 'Resilience' last week - 'We may never get some things completely right but it's the trying to always get better that matters'.

Hopefully most parents have now had a chance to take part in a parent / teacher conversation with their child's teacher and to gain a greater insight into how the year has started for them. If you were unable to attend a meeting, we will be contacting you to arrange an alternative appointment after half term.

I hope that you and your families manage a break and a chance to enjoy the beauty and colours of autumn during the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 1 November.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

# eco news

## Eco Schools Green Flag

We have achieved our fourth EcoSchools Green Flag with Distinction. Eco-Schools is an international education programme that prompts young people to explore sustainability and climate change and take action. The Eco Schools ethos is implemented in 67 countries around the world with 22,000 registered Eco Schools in England.



Eco Schools were impressed with how we have linked environmental and global issues to a variety of curriculum areas. They loved seeing our Harmony curriculum and said, "This is a great example of layering sustainability and climate change in your learning." They were also impressed with our planning, our visit to Westminster to speak to MPs as part of the Big Plastic Count, our Art Exhibition 'It's Up to Us' and our children's wildlife stories which use Dorset's 'Natural Wonders' such as Durdle Door, Chesil Beach and Dancing Ledge as a beautiful backdrop to their tales.



## Compost Donation

Damers First School donated compost from our Ridan Food Waste Composter to the Borough Gardens in Dorchester.

The compost donation has helped the Borough Gardens to help to put some much needed life back into their grass after the dry Summer.

The gardens have reused material that would have gone to the tip previously and also reduced environmental impact by not using commercial top

dressing which can have a high carbon footprint in both production and transport. They also didn't need to use any plastic bags!

The value we are thinking about this month is:



*Please check around at home for any school reading books that may have been misplaced as we have a slightly depleted stock at the moment. We would be really grateful for their return as soon as possible.*

# Butterfingers!

Year 3 have been experiencing life in the Stone Age with their exciting trip to New Barn. We started off our journey by heading into a roundhouse complete with fire lit in the middle. We made butter by mixing milk with a stick until it separated and then picked it up with our hands to squish the butter into lumps. Then, we milled our own flour using 'querns' (two circular stones rotated to grind grain into flour). And after that, we made medicines from natural materials which can help cure cuts and grazes. It was an incredible day!



## A Fond Farewell

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Mrs Frampton at the end of this half term. Mrs Frampton (formerly Miss Holding) has had a significant impact on the children, staff and families that she has supported during her time at Damers. I don't think we have ever seen her without a smile and her warmth and positivity will be greatly missed by the Damers community. We wish Mrs Frampton every success as she now shares her many talents through a number of exciting new ventures. A heartfelt thank you from us all!



# Thank you for making us smile ...

(Parental Feedback July 2022)

100% of parents who responded said their children were happy at Damers

*R absolutely loves school. She has come on in leaps and bounds in terms of her confidence which has been really fantastic to see. This year we have noticed a big leap in her maths work, so thank you for all your support.*

99% of parents who responded said their child was making good progress

*What a fantastic report for L. If it wasn't for all the outstanding support and help from all of her teachers throughout her time at Damers, she wouldn't be where she is today. I cannot begin to put into words how upset she is to be leaving you all. Hopefully if she continues to work hard and becomes a teacher like she wants to, she can join you all once again. All the staff at Damers are amazing and will be greatly missed.*

*F has thrived from the moment he arrived at Damers and we couldn't have hoped for a better year at school for him since moving back to England. I have seen tender care, nurturing and passion about kids' wellbeing and as a parent I am so pleased that my son is part of such a lovely school.*

98% of parents who responded said they would recommend Damers

*Constantly in awe of the teachers and amazing staff at the school. Thank you all!*

99% of parents who responded said children were well cared for

*I feel incredibly lucky to have had both my children come through Damers. We have had successful years and they have been extremely happy and thrived. The teaching staff are kind, gentle and patient. Thank you for teaching my children to grow - particularly through the hard times during COVID. Damers is such a fun and nurturing school, we feel sad to leave.*

*Thank you for yet again another personal, true to pupil, honest report. After 9 years, we as a family are so sad that our Damers journey has come to an end but thankful of the time and support our girls have had to further them into their next schools.*

*A has thrived since joining Damers ... it's a wonderful, nurturing school - I wish he could stay there forever! Thank you so much*



# SNAZZY SCIENCE!

Try making your own invisible ink! Can you write a secret message?

## What you need (Equipment):

- \* Lemon
- \* Thin paper
- \* Paintbrush
- \* Small plate
- \* Wax crayon

## How to (Method):

1. Pour a tablespoon of lemon juice onto a small plate
2. Dip your finger or a paintbrush in the juice and draw a picture on thin paper
3. Leave the paper to dry
4. Rub over the picture with the wax crayon – what happens?

## What's happening (The Science bit)?

Lemon juice is an acid. The acid breaks down the particles in the paper and weakens it, changing the surface of the paper. You can't see this change until you rub a crayon over it. Then the lemon juice part stands out as darker than the rest.

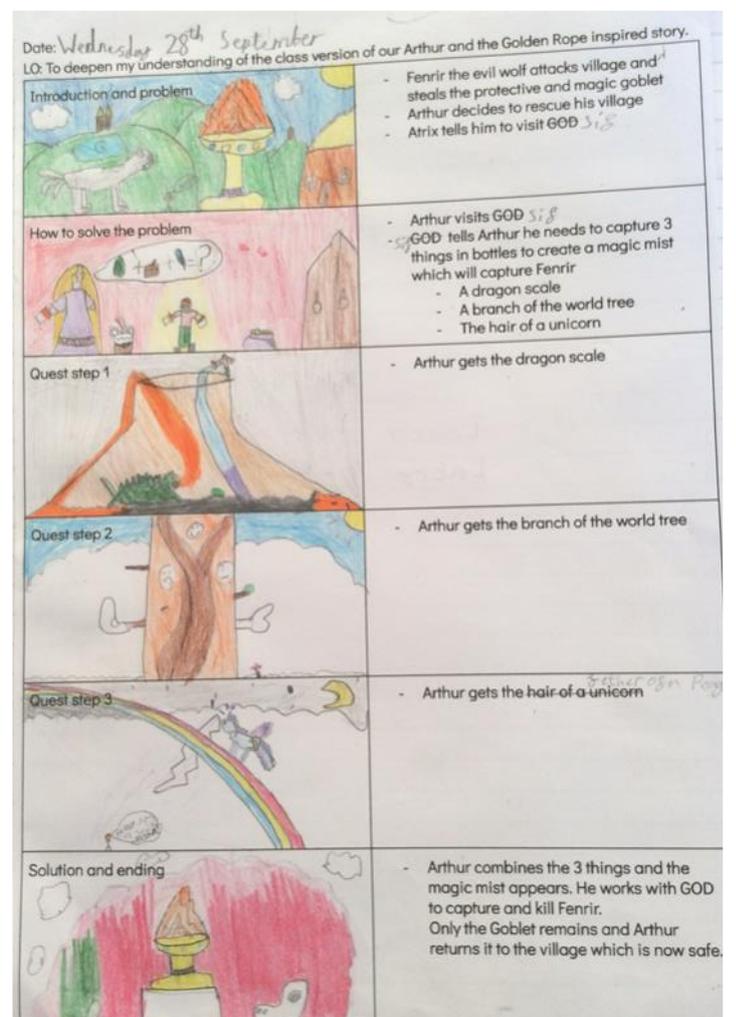
Please send your photos of any science you do at home to [science@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:science@damers.dorset.sch.uk). At the end of the term, we will celebrate this in an assembly and give out prizes to some of our super scientists! We can't wait to see what exciting things you discover!



# Arthur and the Golden Rope

In Year 4 we have been focusing on writing our own stories based around the book Arthur and the Golden Rope. They are exciting adventure stories involving quests, dragons and Vikings! We've written exciting story starts like, "The fire crackled as Arthur lay awake thinking." and "As the great goblet of fire burned furiously, Arthur stared at the night sky."

With openings like that who wouldn't want to read more?



# Bargain Bites

Welcome to our 'Bargain Bites' column! If you're anything like me, you've probably spent time recently working out how to save money any way you can. I've been looking for cheaper recipes to cook, some not using the oven, and I thought I'd share them with you. Mostly they're from Jack Monroe's website, [Cooking on a Bootstrap](#) - do have a look as she really does try and create some tasty and very, very cheap recipes. This first one is done in the microwave ... extra money saving points!

Happy Cooking! - Miss Barnes

## Chillaf (aka Chilli Pilaf), serves 2

1/2 small onion, finely chopped	400g chopped tomatoes
1 clove of garlic, crushed	400g can kidney beans (drained and rinsed)
140g rice	1 vegetable stock cube
1/2 tsp ground cumin	4 squares of dark chocolate
1 tsp paprika (sweet or smoked)	300ml cold water



## Ingredients

Finely chop your garlic and onion and pop them into a microwave safe jug or bowl. Add a tablespoon or two of water to stop them from sticking and cover with a plate. Turn your microwave to around HALF power. Cook for 2 - 3 minutes, and leave to stand for a few more. Carefully remove the plate so you don't burn yourself.

Add the rest of the ingredients, crumbling the stock cube in to it dissolves rather than sits at the bottom in a lump, and add the water. Re-cover with the plate and cook on FULL power for 5-6 minutes. Remove, carefully uncover and stir really well, cover again and pop back in for another 5-6 minutes. Remove, carefully uncover, and leave to stand for a minute before serving. If your rice isn't cooked (just nibble a piece to check), then pop back in for two more minutes – not all rice is created equal. Add a tiny splash of vinegar and a pinch of salt to serve, it just makes it. ([The original version of this recipe is here](#))

## News From the PTA

Plans are already under way for another quality, varied and enjoyable programme of events for families over the year, raising vital money for the school.

Last year, the PTA donated over £6000 for school resources and activities, including after school club resources, books, class trips, literacy events, commemorative Jubilee gifts and Hamish and Milo PSHE Resources. This year, the PTA have already pledged money for playground activities, whole class music resources, Hamish and Milo books, and will continue the donation of £5 per pupil towards the cost of a school trip, significantly reducing the cost to parents.

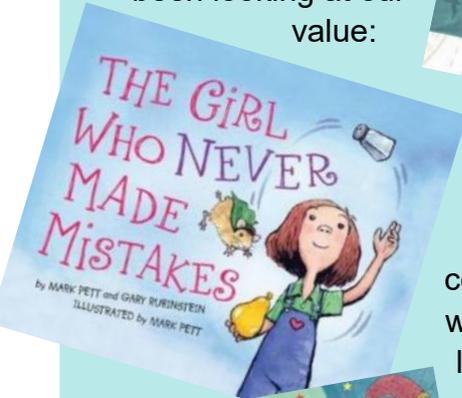
To make such valuable donations happen, we need new volunteers to run events over the year. We appreciate that with children we all lead busy lives, so we're asking volunteers to commit to just one event. There are still events such as World Book Day, Easter Bingo and regular cake and summer ice lolly sales that we are looking for volunteers to run. If this is something you'd be able to do, please get in touch via [damerspta@gmail.com](mailto:damerspta@gmail.com) - we'd love to hear from you.

The PTA officers for this academic year are Emily Cheeseman and Owen Gower being re-elected as Co-Chairs; Alice Johnson re-elected as Treasurer and Ciara Hughes newly elected as Secretary. We said goodbye and a huge thank you to our previous Secretary, Mary Godding. Mary went over and above her role on so many occasions, and we are incredibly grateful to her for both her time and effort.

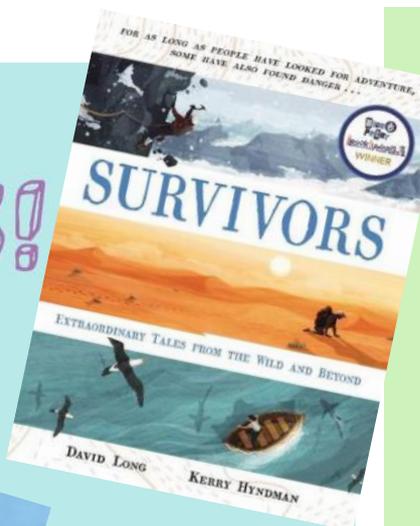
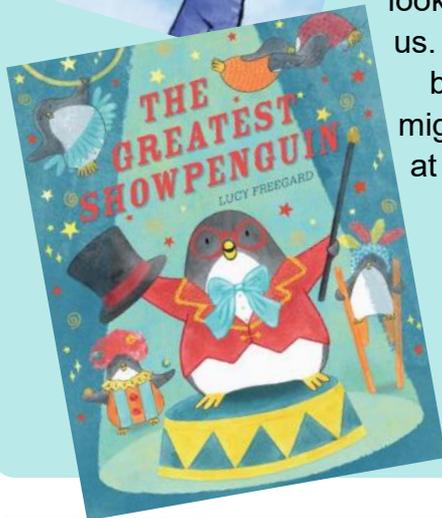
Our next PTA meeting is on Monday 7th November 3.30pm, in school (entry via main office). We welcome all parents and carers to join us and find out how you can be involved.

# Reading ROCKS!

This month we have been looking at our value:



**RESILIENCE** and have had some brilliant conversations about what resilience can look like for each of us. Here are some books that you might enjoy sharing at home that show resilience in different ways.



# Super Spotters

The leaves on the trees are turning golden orange, red, brown and yellow, and it's getting chillier, so it must be autumn time. It's nice to get all cozy at this time of year and it's important that we make sure creatures in our gardens and parks are cozy as well. It's important to make sure we don't rake up all the leaves so hedgehogs have somewhere to get snugly and that we feed the birds so they are healthy and strong for wintertime.

## Easy Bird Feeder Recipe

- Dried out end of a loaf of bread or a pinecone
- Peanut (or other nut) butter
- Bird seed
- A piece of string or wool

Make sure the bread is completely dried out, then make a small hole and thread through the string. Cover both sides in the peanut butter, or smear it over your pinecone, and tie the string around the top. Then you're ready to dip it in your bird seed and hang it up for the birds to enjoy. Yum yum!

## Super Spotting

Theo in Year 2 has been doing some amazing super spotting in his garden. He's seen a Sparrow Hawk and a Common Darter Dragonfly.



If you spot anything you would like to share with us, please email [superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk)



It is RSPB National Feed the Birds Day on Saturday 29th October. To get ready for this day, Year 4 have been busy making bird feeders using natural items like fern cones, lard and bird seed. These bird feeders have gone up around the school to help feed the birds during the cold months ahead.



Dates for  
your Diary

<b>Wed 19th Oct</b>	10.00 - 11.00am - Foundation 23/24 Open Morning <b>Last day of the half term</b>
<b>Thurs 20th, Fri 22nd &amp; Mon 31st Oct</b>	<b>INSET Training - school closed</b>
<b>Tues 1st Nov</b>	<b>School starts</b>
Mon 7th Nov	3.30pm - PTA Meeting in the Small Hall
Thurs 10th Nov	Shire Hall trip - Meadow 2
Sun 13th Nov	Remembrance Sunday
Tues 15th Nov	Individual school photos
Thurs 17th Nov	Shire Hall trip - Grayling 2 1.30 - 2.30pm - Foundation 23/24 Open Afternoon
Mon 21st Nov	Shire Hall trip - Skipper 2 Foundation 'Stay and ...'
Tues 22nd Nov	Year 2 'Stay and ...'
Wed 23rd Nov	Year 1 'Stay and ...'
Mon 28th Nov	Year 4 'Stay and ...'
Wed 30th Nov	Year 3 'Stay and ...'
Fri 2nd Dec	PTA Secret Shop
Sat 3rd Dec	Poundbury Christmas Market
Fri 9th Dec	PTA Christmas Fair
Wed 14th Dec	Christmas lunch
<b>Fri 16th Dec</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>

## Ups and Downs

Foundation have enjoyed their first PE lessons. We have explored the hall, learnt about finding and moving into your own space and using our listening ears to follow instructions.

The children have done warm ups and cool downs, played the traffic light game and the bean game.

We have had so much fun exercising!

