



Souper Year 4

In Year 4 we have been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We have started to explore what food the Vikings might have eaten by making our very own Viking soup! We learnt the bridge and claw cutting technique, used lots of different vegetables and made ourselves a delicious dinner.



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have all enjoyed a happy return to school following the half term break.

As this second half term of the year gets underway, the sights and sounds of the festive season are now beginning to emerge across the school. We are all very much looking forward to you joining us once again this year after a long gap in 'live' Christmas performances. It has been a lonely few years for our younger performers and I know that the welcome return of family audiences will be something that we are all looking forward to in the coming weeks.

We have tried to make all of our performances as accessible as possible to our working parents. For our youngest children though we can only ask for one daytime performance and all dates and times are included in the calendar at the end of the newsletter. Any parents and carers that have been with us for some time will notice that we have changed the format of our performances slightly this year to make these events more manageable for children and families. Our Foundation classes will now perform as an individual class to their own parents and carers and Years 1 and 2 will now perform within one whole year group performance. Years 3 and 4 will take part in a Carol Service at St Peter's Church, as we did pre-pandemic, and a separate letter will be heading your way with further details about this event.

In addition to this, please also look out for an email which will be sent to you separately with the dates for all 'Stay and ...' sessions for the rest of the school year. Again, we recognise that it may be difficult for some parents to attend these and have therefore attempted to give you as much notice as possible to allow you to see your child's class in action at the beginning of a school day.

You will also see later in the newsletter that our PTA continues to work incredibly hard to ensure that we have many additional 'icing on the cake' moments for children and families in these coming weeks. Please do lend your support where you can as the responsibility for these events often lands on a very small group of hardworking parents. Each class has a class rep that will keep you informed and your help, however small, will always be gratefully received.

Enjoy the newsletter and an insight into what we have been up to in the last few weeks. Please remember that class blogs are also there to provide a regular window into every classroom and can be found following the icon on the home page of the school website.

I look forward to seeing you in school in the run up to Christmas and if you don't get into school too often, please do take the chance to say hello at one of our events if you can. We look forward to the arrival of tinsel, sparkle, sleigh bells and some much-missed community festive joy and I hope that the excitement starts to build as children begin to practise their performances at home too.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

Bling your Bike or Scooter Competition!

Damers First School



Thursday 24th November –
Christmas Bling Your Bike

Decorate your bike or scooter on the theme of Christmas. For example turn your bike into a sleigh, reindeer, Santa or a snowflake!

Get as creative as you like, but please make sure your bike or scooter is still safe to ride. Don't obstruct the brakes, wheels or steering with your decorations.

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MATHS MANIA!

We seem to be talking about the weather a lot at the moment, so why not make it an opportunity to talk about maths?

- Watch the weather forecast and look at the temperatures across the country.
- Find out what the average temperature should be for this time of the year and how much rain we should have.
- Find out what the temperature and rainfall is for other countries.
- Collect the rainfall and measure it.
- Go for a walk and count the puddles (jump in them if you have wellies!), you may even like to measure them.



Autumn in Foundation

The Foundation children are currently enjoying exploring an autumn theme. We have been taking a wander further from the classrooms to look for signs of autumn around our lovely grounds. We noticed different leaves changing colour, falling and turning crispy as well as the seeds on dead flowers. We compared the tiny stripy sunflower seeds with the conkers and acorns in the classroom and realised seeds come in all shapes and sizes. On offer indoors have been cinnamon scented playdough, autumn woods themed tuff trays, woodland stories and we're looking forward to hearing from a hedgehog expert! Don't forget to check out our blogs for more photos.



Life in the Stone Age

In Year 3 we're really enjoying learning about the Stone Age. We've been building Stone Age houses and learning how people in the Stone Age lived and survived. In Literacy, we're reading a book called 'Ug - Boy Genius of the Stone Age' by Raymond Briggs. This has inspired us to write about the similarities and differences between Ug's life and ours. We will also be investigating Skara Brae and the clues it gives us to understand what life was like in the Stone Age.



The value we are thinking about this month is:



RE at Damers

This half term will be finding out about different aspects of the Christmas story, the different characters and the meaning it still has for people today. We will have opportunities to share our own Christmas traditions and share our favourite bits.



Goodbye Mr Oram

I am sorry to let you know that we will sadly be losing Mr Oram at the end of this term. Mr Oram has been a highly valued member of the Damers team for many years and throughout his time with us, has played a vital and supportive role in the lives of many children and families. He has also provided expertise and guidance for staff in embracing technology, and more recently Science, and has secured his place (in the words of one of his former pupils) as a Damers 'Chess Legend'. Those who know Mr Oram well will know that this has been an incredibly difficult decision and we all wish him well as he begins a brave new chapter in his life. Thank you Tim for all that you have given to our school and to the teaching profession, you will be greatly missed.

Autumn Pledges

Every term, each class in Years 1-4 pledges to make a difference to their community, the environment or to animals.

Our 'Roots and Shoots' pledges are inspired by Dr Jane Goodall's wise words and the United Nation's Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

Some of our pledges for the Autumn term ...



Grayling 3 have been inspired by the White-Tailed Sea Eagle reintroduction we learned about from Martin - The 'Bird Man'. They are going to raise money to support the project.



Grayling and Meadow 1 are pledging to feed the birds by making bird feeders and sharing the instructions with their wider community so we can all help.



Skipper 1 are going to create bug hotels to encourage wildlife and insects to the Year 1 outside area. We will do a tally/pictogram of what insects we find each week.



Year 4 classes are planning to run a bake sale to raise money for the British Red Cross who help refugees and people fleeing conflict all over the world.





SNAZZY SCIENCE!

How to clean your pennies!

What you need (Equipment):

- * Vinegar
- * Glass jar
- * Dirty pennies
- * 1 teaspoon of salt



How to (Method):

- * Pour the vinegar into the jar until it is about half full
- * Stir in the salt until it dissolves
- * Drop several dirty pennies into the vinegar
- * After a few minutes, take out half of the pennies and lay them on paper to towel dry.
- * Remove the other pennies and rinse them with water before letting them dry
- * Note the difference between the two groups of pennies after they have been out of the vinegar / salt solution for a while.

What's happening (The Science bit)?

The vinegar / salt solution is able to loosen the residue on the pennies, which is called copper oxide. With this residue removed, the pennies are shiny once more. When you rinse them off, the cleaning stops and they remain shiny. The unrinsed pennies still have some of the solution on them, and when oxygen in the air hits them, a new reaction occurs, turning the pennies a bluish-green colour.

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!



Remember November

There's a lot to remember in November!

Year 2 have 'Remembered, remembered the 5th of November' using our history skills to find

evidence about Guy Fawkes. With openings like that who wouldn't want to read more?



We've also been learning about the

poppy and why lots of people are remembering others on the 11th November. Do you like the

children's own poppies created using watercolours, tissue paper and paint?



We're also looking forward to our Shire Hall

trip to help us find out about what life was like for some children in Victorian times, especially Harry Parker, who was 7, and lived in Dorchester in 1873.



Bargain Bites

Our next 'Bargain Bites' entry is not really a recipe so much as an assembling of two ingredients, but I promise you it's a thing, and in our household we've made it many times since we discovered it! What's more, it's so simple you may even get your children to make it for you ... bliss.

Quick 'n' Hot Banana Pot, serves 1

Ingredients

1 banana

2 squares of your favourite chocolate

Thinly slice your banana and pile into a microwave safe small dish or mug.

Microwave on full power for 30 seconds, leave it to stand for 30 seconds, and then microwave again for 30 seconds. It should be soft, hot and juicy - if it isn't, give it a stir and pop back in for another 30 seconds.



Give it a good stir and put your two chocolate squares on the top. Stir to gently melt them in. Enjoy! ([The original version of this recipe is here](#))

Jigsaw Theme for This Term

The theme for this half term is "Celebrating Differences" and children will be enjoying finding out about how unique we all are and how special!



News From the PTA

Thank you to everyone who supported our pumpkin parade, by bringing along brilliantly decorated pumpkins, baking deliciously spooky cakes, volunteering with help and to those who came along and generously contributed to our fundraising pot. The event raised around £200 which will go straight towards new playground resources for all our children, such as chalks, hoops and den building equipment.

December Diary Dates

- Christmas Secret Shop **Friday 2nd December** - the elves will be opening their top secret school shop again this year to enable children to buy small gifts as a surprise for their family on Christmas Day. Please order through www.pta-events.co.uk/damers if you are able to, making sure all orders are in by Friday 18th at the very latest.
- Poundbury Christmas Market **Saturday 3rd December** - Damers families will host a stall at this festive fair in Poundbury with games and crafts. We are very grateful to those who have stepped forward to make this happen. If you can spare an hour to help on the day, please email damerspta@gmail.com
- Christmas Bingo **Friday 9th December** - held in the school hall, this event will bring a huge amount of festive sparkle to our school community. The keen eyed amongst you will have noticed we've opted for Bingo this year instead of a Christmas Fayre.
- Next PTA meeting **Monday 16th January at 7pm** - all are most welcome to meet to run through past and future events and any fundraising requests and ideas. Please email damerspta@gmail.com to confirm your attendance ahead of the meeting.

Look out on ParentMail for any further details of these events coming soon. Would you like to get involved with any of our events? Please email damerspta@gmail.com to ensure you are on our mailing list as this is independent to the school's database.

Reading ROCKS!

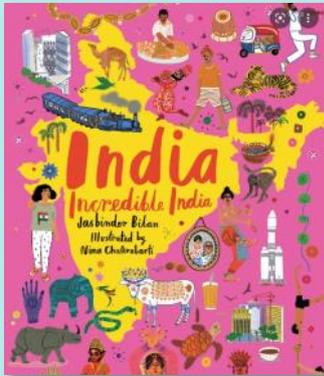
Let's get excited about
Non-Fiction in
November!!

Are you curious about cooking?

Are you inquisitive about India?

Are you wondering about the world?

There are some amazing books out there that will quench your thirst for learning no matter what it is that interests you, so let's get excited for Non-Fiction in November!

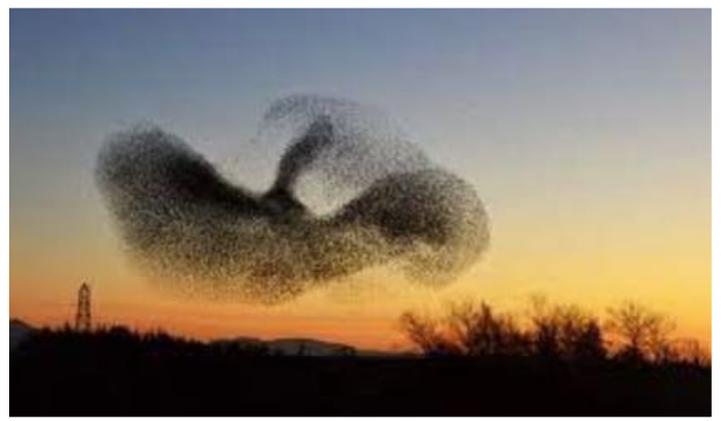


Super Spotters

Now the strong winds have blown the autumn leaves from the trees, it is easier to do some bird spotting. On the Great Field you can see flocks of little goldfinches flitting from tree to tree. You will always see them in groups as it helps keep them safe from predators and they have beautiful black, yellow and red feathers.



At this time of year you might also be lucky enough to spot a murmuration of starlings. Murmurations typically occur in November until as late as March, whilst the birds are roosting together through winter. In the evening they gather in the skies in vast numbers and fly together making amazing patterns before they go down into the trees and pack themselves together so they are safe and warm at night.



These little birds show amazing teamwork and harmony. Keep your eyes peeled and let us know if you manage to spot any birds by emailing [superspotters@damers.](mailto:superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk)

dorset.sch.uk



Some of the children in Year 1 have enjoyed filling up some bug hotels this week. We are looking forward to visiting them over the year to

see what insects move in! A huge thank you to Mrs Beasley's husband who made them for us!

BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN

this winter

What's changed?

Tick tock, tick tock.

Yes the clocks have changed and you will have noticed the darkness setting in to our afternoons and evenings.

Unfortunately statistics show road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Some of these collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under the age of 16 are the most vulnerable. Visibility is a key issue all year round, all day round, whether children are walking or on their bike, scooter or skateboard.

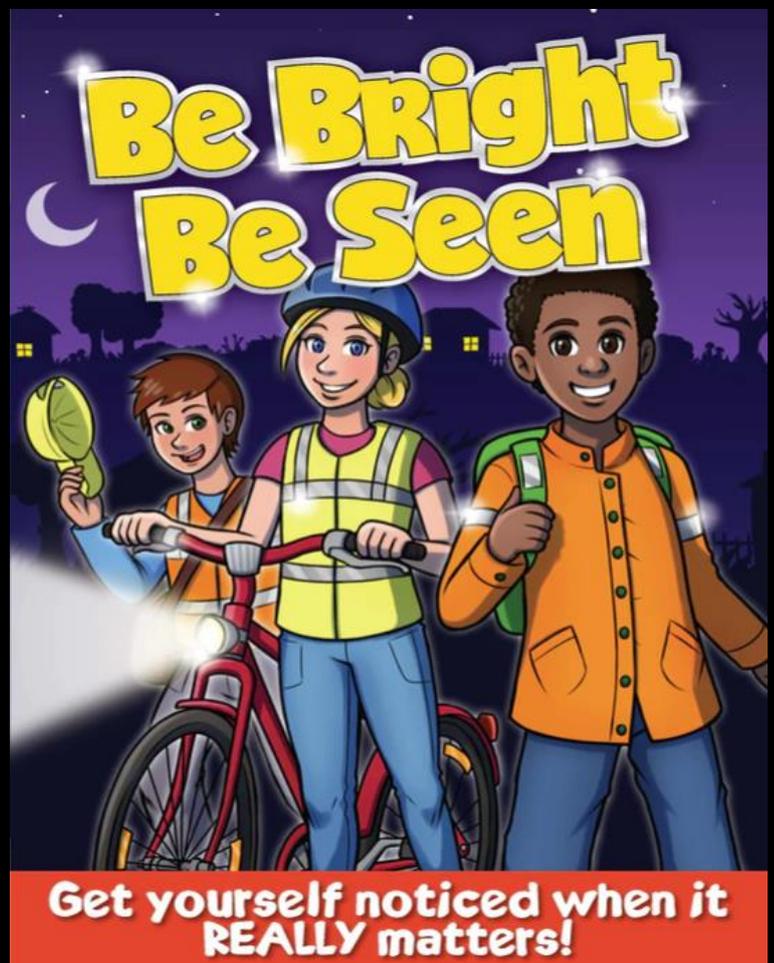
So how can we make sure we keep our children safe?



Take care everyone!

Be Bright. Be Seen.

Be SAFE.



Dates for
your Diary

Tues 15th Nov	Individual school photos
Thurs 17th Nov	Shire Hall trip - Grayling 2 1.30 - 2.30pm - Foundation 23/24 Open Afternoon
Fri 18th Nov	Children in Need walk-a-thon
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 ...'
Fri 25th Nov	Non-Uniform Day - in exchange for PTA 'Christmas food' donation
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
Tues 6th Dec	1.15pm and 6.00pm - Y3/Y4 Carol Service
Wed 7th Dec	1.30pm - Skipper F Nativity 2.30pm - Chalkhill F Nativity
Thurs 8th Dec	1.30pm - Year 1 Christmas Performance 2.30pm - Year 2 Christmas Performance
Fri 9th Dec	PTA Christmas Bingo
Mon 12th Dec	1.30pm - Grayling F Nativity 2.30pm - Meadow F Nativity
Wed 14th Dec	Christmas lunch Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 16th Dec	Last day of term

It's Gold Again for Damers!



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



We heard last week that we have received Artsmark Gold again. Artsmark is a prestigious award, the only creative quality standard for all schools and is accredited by the Arts Council, England.

An Artsmark award recognises the school dedication, forward thinking and high quality provision provided in all arts activities and cultural education. It puts creativity and well-being right into the spotlight and achieving gold status recognises that we, as a school, clearly understand the value of arts education and the skills, the life long experiences and joy that it brings.

With this in mind we are looking forward to having you join us for our Christmas sharings "live again," after three long years.