

Damers News

December
2022



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been wonderful to share these final few weeks of the autumn term alongside you again - our first 'in person' Christmas celebrations in three years. I hope that you and your families enjoyed at least one of our Carol Services or performances and that the links to the recordings of the Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 shows have now made their way into family homes. I have had the pleasure of watching every single performance and you've probably realised now why I wanted the KS2 children to know how important these lifelong memories are for children and their families, but also for Headteachers that have made big decisions! A perfect festive celebration of song, story-telling, dance, teamwork, inclusion and fun and a gentle reminder of the beauty and joy that can be found in the simplest of moments. Our thanks to the staff who nurture these amazing performances, the performers themselves and to Miss Barnes who has ensured that many precious moments were captured and edited within a short space of time.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking our PTA for the many 'icing on the Christmas Cake' moments that have raised vital funds for our school this term, but have also enabled some wonderful family moments too. I particularly enjoyed the Christmas Bingo last week and I'm sure the momentous efforts of the PTA Elves will be celebrated as those surprise gifts for families appear under Christmas trees next week.

My heartfelt thanks to all for the kindness and support that you have shared throughout 2022, but particularly for the messages and words that have been shared since I sent my letter to you on Wednesday. I have been overwhelmed by your response and have very much appreciated the opportunity to speak to lots of you in person, to read and hear your thoughts and to hopefully share that glance into an exciting new chapter for Damers alongside you.

And finally, I remain ever grateful to and in awe of the tireless and relentlessly optimistic, energetic, kind and caring staff team at Damers. Their commitment to and support for our children, our community, each other and myself throughout this year has been never ending and I am sure you will join me in wishing them all a well-deserved Christmas break.

I wish you and your families a Christmas filled with simplicity, magic, family, love and laughter and I look forward to embracing whatever 2023 holds in store for us together.

Happy Christmas!

Catherine Smith

Headteacher



Happy Christmas from all at Damers!



Peace and Joy from Year 3

On Tuesday 6th December Yr 3 created a magical experience for us all. This was a time to celebrate Christmas and shared values of love, hope, peace and joy. They retold the story of the First Christmas and sang beautifully, filling the church with jubilation.



Don't forget!
Back to School
Tues 3rd Jan



MATHS MANIA!

Around this time of year, you'll begin to hear various festive songs, but have you thought about doing some maths with one? The twelve days of Christmas is a song that counts down festive items in numerically descending order. Listen or sing the song and try to answer some of these questions.

- How many birds are there in the song?
- How many instruments in total are there?
- How many humans are in the song?
- How many gifts were given?



Story Tellers

As part of this term's literacy work Foundation have been learning the nativity story through storytelling. They have learnt a version based on the pattern of We're Going on a Bear Hunt with actions and repetition to help them remember. They have made story maps and become story telling professionals ready to take to the stage.



We hope they wowed you with their memory for the story, their big voices and beautiful singing and dancing. It's hard to remember the shy new little people who walked through the door only 3 months ago. They have grown so much and as for seeing what they do next term - 'WE CAN'T WAIT!'

Blinged Bikes

What a great turn out for the our Christmas Bling your Bike event! It was amazing seeing all the tinsel wrapped, lit up bikes and scooters parade around the courtyard. Well done to everyone who took part and to our winners from each year group!



Super Spotters

The seasons have changed from autumn to winter and the weather has definitely become much colder. We have been thinking about our Damers Values and how we can show our December value of LOVE to the wildlife that lives in our school. We have been busy with projects to help our resident hedgehogs and insects through the winter months.

We have made a special 'hog bath' which can be used by hedgehogs, birds or any creatures, to drink from and we will be putting a ramp into the pond so creatures that accidentally fall in can safely escape.



We have also started to collect material to make bug houses so our insect friends have somewhere safe and warm to shelter in.



While using a wildlife camera for the Year 4s and their dragon eggs we were lucky enough to capture footage of a

hedgehog - [you can watch it here](#). We think it has been using the hedgehog house by the bird hide. What an inquisitive, adventurous little hog!

If you do any Super Spotting over the Christmas holidays let us know by emailing superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk



Songs from Year 4

Year 4 singers performed their Christmas songs for the residents of Bowes Lyon Court. They sang beautifully and the audience commented on how clearly they could hear every word and how professionally they stood. A wonderful way to support our local community.



For more information on what happens in the event of extreme weather, click here!

Our poppy collection raised £290.57 - thank you!

Next PTA meeting - 17th Jan at 7pm



SNAZZY SCIENCE!

Have a go at this over the festive period! Please send any photos of your investigations to science@damers.dorset.sch.uk and we will share them in our science assembly.

What you need (Equipment):

- * Blindfold (scarf)
- * Your hand
- * Equal size pieces of apple, potato and onion (adult to cut it up)
- * An assistant

How to (Method):

Ensure you are not allergic to any of the food items

1. Place the blindfold over your eyes and hold your nose with your hand
- * Have your assistant place one item into your mouth at a time, and try to guess what it is based only on how it tastes

Extension - try the same investigation with other foods.

What's happening (The Science bit)?

Your sense of smell is a major factor in how food items taste. When your nose is plugged or blocked you lose your normal ability to taste. Aside from the textures, you probably couldn't detect a difference between the items you tried. When you let go of your nose your nose, all the flavours should come back, although the strongest ones might overwhelm the others.



Jigsaw and RE Themes for This Term

The Jigsaw theme for the next half term is "Dreams and Goals". In RE, Year 1 will be thinking about friendship, Year 2 will be finding out about Passover, Year 3 will learn about Jesus' miracles and Year 4 will be finding out about Hinduism.



News From the PTA

A big thank you to all families and the school staff who have supported our Christmas events this term.

The Secret Shop was an absolute treat to organise for the children who were so excited to be able to choose little gifts for their loved ones. Over 1600 gifts were ordered, wrapped and shipped for and lots of smiles and excitement were shared which was so lovely. The sun shone on our stall at the Poundbury Christmas Fair on the same weekend raising a record or around £300 for the school from crafts and games at this busy festive event.

We were pleased to support the school by funding the Damers' Christmas Elf to distribute class gifts after the Christmas lunch on Wednesday.

Christmas Bingo was great fun, with huge festive hampers and bags of Christmas goodies won by many different families. Thank you to all those who donated so generously to the event.

We look forward to being able to organise more events for the Damers community in the near future. It has been wonderful to have so many parents offer their valuable free time to make sure this term's events could happen and we extend our enormous gratitude to you all.

If you want to keep informed of upcoming events and how you can get involved, from organising an event to helping for an hour or two, please email in to damerspta@gmail.com and we will make sure you are added to our mailing list.

We want to say a HUGE thank you to all our volunteers who have supported our children in various ways over the past academic year. We would be lost without you!



Reading ROCKS!

Christmas is a time for traditions new and old. Whatever you believe, we all celebrate in our unique and special ways.

For over 70 years, people of Iceland have celebrated their passion for books with a unique tradition called 'Jolabokaflod' meaning Christmas book flood. It is a tradition to give each other books to open on Christmas Eve and everyone reads the books they have been given straight away, often while drinking hot chocolate.

Why not start a new book tradition this year?

- * Reading with the whole family on Christmas Eve
- * Read a story or poem as a performance
- * Giving books as gifts



Thank you for
your Children
in Need

donations - we
raised £780.78! A
big thanks also to

our School Council and Miss
Hosking for organising our
Children in Need Walk-a-Thon.





Year 1 put on such a special Christmas show this week - "Penguins Save the World". This was their very first performance in front of a live audience. The children sang beautifully and we were all very proud of their performance.



Year 2 Measure Up

In science this half term in Year 2, we have had fun investigating different materials and their properties!

We selected different materials based on their properties to make catapults in class and then measured how far we could catapult different objects using metre sticks.

Our Christmas Jumper Day raised £234.70 for Save the Children - thank you!



Don't forget!
Closing date for middle school applications is
15th January 2023

