

Damers News



Foundation News

In the coming weeks we are looking forward to some exploration: finding out what happens when it gets really cold followed by learning about dinosaurs. We'll be encouraging children to ask questions and use their senses to discover.



Alongside that our basic skills teaching continues with more phonemes to learn in phonics and looking how numbers are made up in maths. We are trying to teach the children to be able to put on and do up their coats independently. Your support and encouragement with this would be greatly appreciated. When you're in a rush it's tempting to step in and do it for them but a little bit of practice everyday and showing how to start the zip will mean you're soon not needed!

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our first newsletter of what we all hope will be a positive and exciting 2023. The children have started the new year with energy and enthusiasm and I am hoping that this newsletter will provide you with an insight into the learning and explorations that have been planned for each year group in these next few weeks. Children have also been thinking about their hopes and dreams for the future and we are all enjoying their thoughts on our current school value of 'Integrity' and whether this has any bearing on our hopes and dreams. Further details about each year group's plans for the half term can be found [here](#) and in the section of our website that supports you with learning at home [here](#).

You will also see in the calendar that our next group of 'Stay and ...' sessions will be taking place before half term. Please make a note of the dates and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these valuable classroom sessions, joining the children as their spring term learning evolves.

A huge thank you from myself and the team to all those parents that have volunteered to support our Science teaching this term, sharing their experiences of Science through their jobs and projects that they have been involved in. Mrs O'Donnell has been working incredibly hard to coordinate this I know, and the menu of experiences now available to the children to support their Science learning is incredibly exciting. Thank you to all involved.

Many of you will be aware that Mrs P hasn't been in school for the last couple of months and I wanted to share with you, particularly if Mrs P has been your child's teacher in the past, that due to family circumstances, Mrs P will now be adapting her role in school in light of the challenges that she is currently facing. We are sad that she will be stepping back from her role as a class teacher, as you will know that having a sprinkling of Mrs P in the classroom is akin to a sprinkling of gold dust. However, Mrs P will still be around and will be supporting teaching across the school, but on a more flexible basis. We will all be delighted to have her back with us again soon.



Please remember that if you would like to talk to me about any aspect of your child's learning or their school day, I am on one of the gates most mornings (with the exception of Tuesdays when I support other schools in the MAT). Cold and wet winter mornings become much more bearable with the sharing of a good news story or a proactive bit of joint problem solving when issues arise.

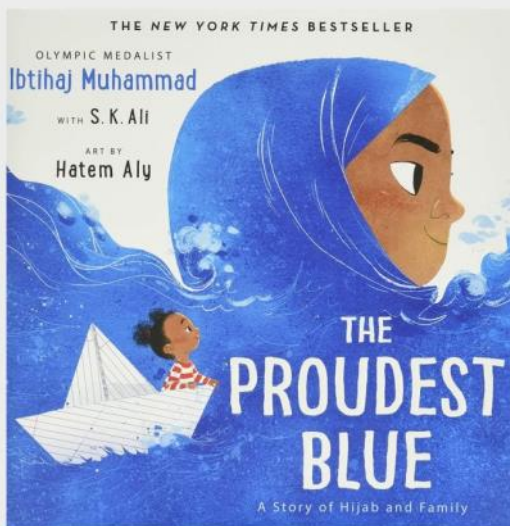
We look forward to the positive new beginnings that I know 2023 will bring and particularly Spring, in its many welcome forms, as it appears on the horizon.

Catherine Smith

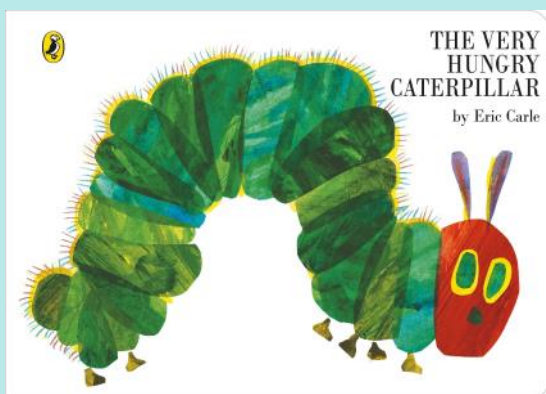
Headteacher

Reading ROCKS!

Have you ever thought about the authors of the books you are reading? There are so many amazing authors out there whose books have transported us to magical places. Did you know that Ibtihaj Muhammed, who wrote *The Proudest Blue* was the first American Muslim woman to compete in the Olympics fencing competition in a hijab?



Or that Eric Carle, who wrote the famous *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, was only 15 years old when he was made to dig trenches in WW2.



What can you find out about the authors of your books?

Off to India!

This term, Year 4 are looking forward to taking an in-depth look at India and its amazing culture, from Bollywood to the Himalayas, as part of a geography and literacy project. As part of this work, Year 4 will also be finding out about what it means for



places to be designated as a UN World Heritage Site, researching some of the most amazing sites and even finding out about one that's right on our doorstep in Dorset.



eco news

Changes in Recycling

Terracycle are changing the way they recycle items making it easier for you all to drop off certain items at your local supermarket or Recycling Centre.

This means we no longer collect bread bags, bread wrappers, bread packaging, Pringles, Ella's Kitchen baby pouches, caps, snack packets, personal and beauty free packaging and containers. These can all be recycled at your local supermarket.

To check where items can be recycled please go to www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator

More Globe Trotting!



Year 3 are so excited to start their Geography project with a focus on Italy. We've started the unit by looking at the countries of Europe and their capital cities. This half term we'll be looking at Italy and its human and physical features including famous landmarks and the many volcanoes.

Did you know you can visit your child's classroom at least once a week from the comfort of your armchair? Our Class Blogs are the perfect window into your child's learning. Take a look for yourself and see what's going on by clicking the link - www.damers.dorset.sch.uk/blogs



MATHS MANIA!

Why not start off the New Year with a scavenger hunt? Not any old scavenger hunt, but a "Maths" one. During the dark evenings find some of the things on this scavenger hunt or even make one up for your family to try. Good luck!

<p>A rectangular prism</p>	<p>An odd number</p> <p>Odd Numbers 1 to 100</p> <p>1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47</p>
<p>Something with symmetry</p>	<p>2 parallel lines</p>
<p>Something taller than you</p>	<p>Something that is cut in half</p>
<p>A pattern</p>	<p>Something that comes in pairs</p>

Library Music Sessions

Dorchester Library are holding 'Music Time with Lucy', music fun time sessions for ages 0-3.

Where: Dorchester Library, Charles Street, Dorchester, DT1 1EE

When:

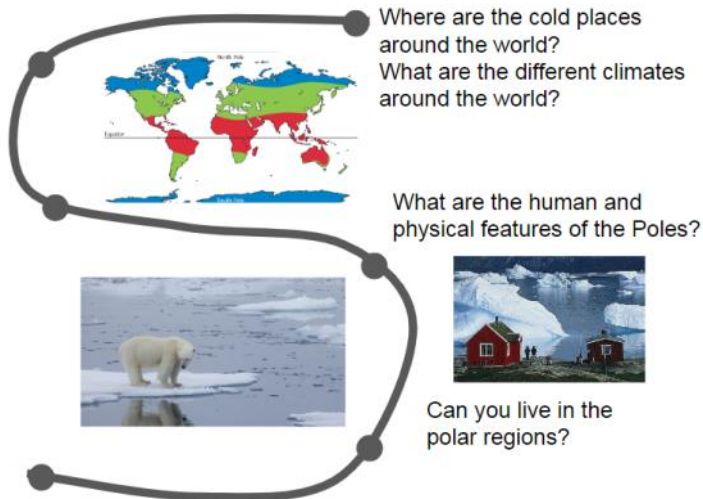
- Tuesday 21st February, 1-3pm
- Tuesday 28th February, 1-3pm
- Tuesday 7th March, 1-3pm
- Tuesday 14th March, 1-3pm
- Tuesday 21st March, 1-3pm
- Tuesday 28th March, 1-3pm

Phone 01305 224220 to book a place.

News From Year 2

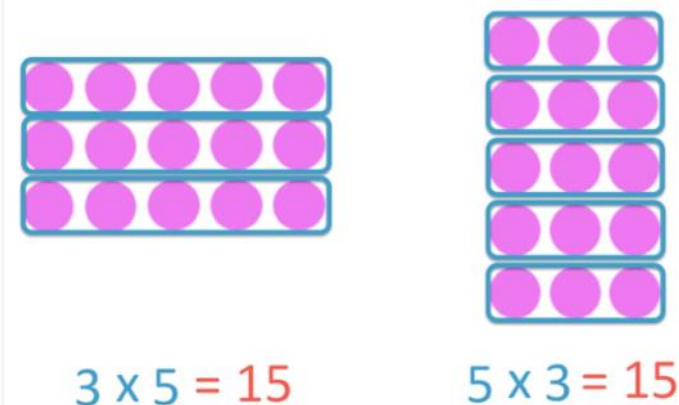
Happy New Year and a warm welcome back.

In Year 2, we will soon be learning about the polar regions, the climates and about some of the wildlife that has adapted to live there!

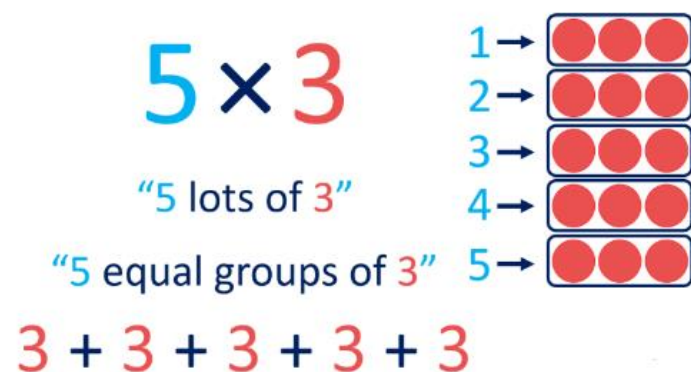


We're also thinking about our times tables and have been focusing on our 2s, 5s and 10 times tables. We have learnt how the 'x' symbol can mean 'lots of' or 'equal groups of'. We used repeated addition to show this:

We are using arrays to show how times tables



are 'commutative'. This means if we know one times table fact, we know its partner: E.g. if we know 3 x 5, we know 5 x 3:



Amazing Oceans

Year 1 are looking forward to discovering what makes our oceans amazing! We have some special trips and visitors lined up to really bring this important topic to life. Ocean Generation will be visiting us in school to talk about the relationship between humans and the oceans. We also look forward to having a visit from the Science Dome so we can really feel what it is like to explore under the water without getting wet! And finally, after half term we will be visiting the Sea Life Centre to get up close to some of the wonderful marine life we have learnt about.



The value we are thinking about this month is:



Mon 16th Jan	7pm - PTA Meeting	
Wed 25th Jan	Foundation 'Stay and ...'	
Tues 31st Jan	Year 2 'Stay and ...'	
Wed 1st Feb	Meadow 1 'Stay and ...'	Power Down Day
Thurs 2nd Feb	Grayling 1 'Stay and ...'	DASP Rugby Festival
Fri 3rd Feb	Skipper 1 'Stay and ...'	NSPCC Number Day
Tues 7th Feb	Year 3 'Stay and ...'	Safer Internet Day
Wed 8th Feb	Science Dome in school	
Thurs 9th Feb	Year 4 'Stay and ...'	Science Dome in school
Fri 10th Feb	Training Day	
Mon 13th Feb	Half Term	
Mon 20th Feb	Back to school	

*Dates for
your Diary*

Early Years Practitioners Required

Summertime Nursery Dorchester, two positions available, full-time and part-time.

Candidates should ideally hold a relevant Level 2 or 3 Childcare qualification.

Contact Cathy or Tash for more information - email office@summertimenursery.co.uk or phone 01305 257756.

All applicants will be subject to DBS checks.

GOVERNOR NEWS



with
Sophie Duke

You will now all know that Mrs Smith has decided to stand down as Headteacher at the end of this school year; after 10 years at Damers I know that this was not an easy decision for her to make. Under her leadership, our wonderful staff work hard everyday to bring joy, nurture

and inspiration to all pupils and governors are very proud of the learning environment that they create and the relentless determination they bring to the classroom. This week, I will be meeting with Mike

Foley, CEO of the Wessex MAT, to discuss advertising for her replacement and we all know that there are big boots to fill!

It continues to be an incredibly challenging time in education, across the country schools are still witnessing the ongoing impact of the pandemic and this coupled with well - publicised budget constraints puts a huge amount of pressure on those who are responsible for the well being and education of our children. With this in mind, I am sure that parents and carers will join me in thanking everyone at Damers for their continued commitment, professionalism and kindness, and for working so hard to make Damers such a special place.

Online Gaming

Gaming and online gaming are fast becoming part of many children's everyday lives. While these gaming experiences are fun, engaging and a way to connect with others it is also vitally important that your child understands how to play safely and appropriately and that they are accessing content that is age appropriate.

From a safety perspective, It is of the utmost importance that you, the parent or carer, are aware of what your child is playing, that it is age appropriate and who they might be playing with (if playing online).

To see more information and links about online safety please do visit our online safety website pages at: <http://www.damers.dorset.sch.uk/parents/online-safety/>

If you have any questions or concerns or would like any further support in relation to online safety please do speak to your class teacher or email the school office.

Roblox - Parent Safety Guide <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-roblox-and-how-your-kids-can-play-it-safely/>

VR Headsets and the Metaverse - Advice for Parents
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/>

Fortnite - Parent Safety Guide
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming/>

Rocket League - Parent Safety Guide
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/rocket-league-video-game-a-parents-guide/>

Xbox, Nintendo and Playstation consoles - Advice for Parents and Carers - <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/games-consoles>

Gacha Life - What Parents Need to Know
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-gacha-life-what-parents-need-to-know/>



ONLINE GAMING

Online gaming describes any video game where you can interact with other players online, whether that is on a computer, console, tablet or phone. The amount your child can interact with others varies from game to game. How much information players share and how many people they interact with are the two key factors for parents to be aware of. Online games can offer a lot of fun, teamwork and adventure for children, and they can help children learn and make friends. However, it's important for parents to fully understand online gaming so they can encourage safe and healthy habits in children and technology from a young age.

HOW TO KEEP GAMING HEALTHY

- Get involved by finding out what type of games your child enjoys and making sure they're appropriate for their age
- Play games together with your child and keep the technology in shared family spaces rather than bedrooms
- Talk to them about who they are playing with and what information they are sharing
- Talk about what information is and isn't appropriate to share, particularly personal details that could identify them or their location
- Talk about the financial costs of games and agree how children will spend their money online
- Discuss what they would do if they were bullied online, and what the appropriate steps to take are



SOME THINGS PARENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF

Stranger danger - some games let children play and chat with anyone in the world. This means they might come across offensive language and bullying

Don't give out personal information - not everyone online is who they say they are. Children shouldn't give out personal details that could identify them or their location

In-game purchases - some games encourage players to buy extra elements during the game - children have been known to run up large bills without realising

Risk of bullying - in extreme cases bullying can be used as a tactic to win games. Children may find themselves either bullying or being bullied



DID YOU KNOW?

You can use the [PEGI app](#) to find game and app rating information.



USEFUL LINKS

Gaming advice sheet for under 13s -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13FjpoDww4-bhD1VZWeDMjG3aDzosfQjx/view>

Online gaming guide -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/the-basics/>

How to set parental controls on popular devices, apps and platforms -

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>

