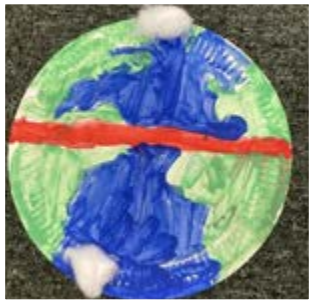




Oceans and Spirals

Year 1 have loved learning about the continents and oceans. We've explored which parts of the world are hot and cold and created our own models, complete with an equator and icy North and South Poles!



We have also enjoyed exploring spirals, inspired by our Oceans learning. We've looked at spirals in snails, linked to the book *The Snail and the Whale* and created spirals in watercolours, chalk crayons and pebbles from the beach.



Dear Parents and Carers

Although this half term seems to have flown by, I'm sure, like me, that you'll have been relieved to welcome the good weather and the promise of spring this week as we head towards the half term break.

It has been great to see so many of you in school over these last couple of weeks, joining your children in their learning, and for some of you, partnering them in their dancing! Whether you were counting alongside us or engaging in an energetic 'dosey-doe', it was great to have you with us. I also wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone that supported our Number Day last week. I am always in awe of your response on days like this as I know that this isn't easy in the midst of busy family lives, but your efforts never go unrecognised. I particularly enjoyed seeing the class set of dominoes in Skipper 2! Between us we raised £220 to support the valuable work of the NSPCC.

Mrs Hardinge is currently finalising our World Book Day plans and you can read about these later in the newsletter. We are all looking forward to our celebration of reading and stories during the second week back and the annual gathering of the literary potatoes! Our PTA will also be supporting us at key events and further details will be confirmed during the first week back. I am sure that you are aware that there is the potential for further NEU strike action on Thursday 2 March but we are not in a position to confirm whether we will be affected by this yet. However, if this is the case, we will move our World Book Day celebrations to Wednesday 1 March instead. Many thanks to all involved in supporting this vital area of celebration.

We will be holding our next round of parent/teacher consultations after half term, during the week beginning 6 March and appointment slots will be released via SchoolCloud after the holiday. We will continue to offer the option of face to face or virtual meetings as we did last time and we look forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible at these meetings.

I hope that you and your family enjoy a restful half term. You will see later in the newsletter that we have set the children a few challenges - if they are at a loose end and would like to do some spring flower spotting or engage in an exciting 'Extreme Read' we would love to hear from you.

Thank you as always for your support this half term. I look forward to seeing you back in school after the break.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher



Reading
ROCKS!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

World Book Day

For World Book Day on the 2nd March we would like the children to dress a potato as their favourite book character! Please bring your potato into school on World Book Day where we will take part in a potato parade around school to showcase our amazing creations.

We are hoping to welcome parents and carers into the school hall after school on World Book Day to marvel at the fantastic potato characters, more information will be shared nearer to World Book Day.

We have deliberately chosen potatoes as a recyclable resource and we would love to hear what your potato is used for after their adventure as a book character so that they aren't wasted. We encourage you to reuse your potato at home, maybe in a warm soup or as a topping on a pie!

Extreme Reading

Where is the most unusual place you have ever read a book? Up a tree, on top of a mountain or stood on your head we want to see your photos.

Over half term your mission is to take an amazing photo of you reading in an unusual place or in an unusual way. Stay safe and don't do anything dangerous, we just want to know who has such a passion for reading that they will literally pick up a book anywhere!

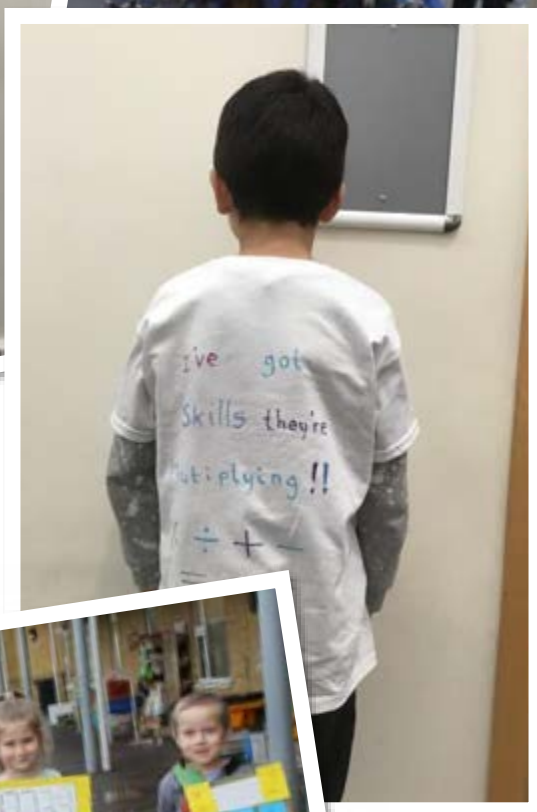
Email your entries to: extreme-read@damers.dorset.sch.uk with your child's name and class in the subject box by **Friday 24th February**. Winners chosen from Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will receive a book voucher.



Imagine a world without maths. From roads to measures, medicines to money and the symmetry of nature – ALL involve mathematics! This is why we took part in ...

Number Day 2023

All pupils across the school celebrated the magic of maths during our 'Number' day. The purpose of the day was to raise money for the NSPCC, whilst also raising the profile of Maths within our school. The children celebrated in a true Damers style.



Mrs Hardisty Shares ...

'What did you do at school today?'
'I don't know'.

I have experienced this so many times! So here is a useful set of questions which might help you chat with your children to find out more about their day:

- What made you laugh today?
- Who showed kindness today?
- What did you learn today that you didn't know yesterday?
- Who were you kind to today?
- What made you feel happy today?
- What made you feel proud today?
- Who did you help today?
- What is something you learned today that you can teach me?
- What was tricky for you today?
- Who did you sit next to at lunch, today?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- What made your teacher smile today?
- What mistake did you make that taught you something new?
- Who do you want to make friends with but you haven't yet?
- What was difficult for you but you kept going and you didn't give up?
- If you were the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?



Super Spotters

Brrr it has been a cold few weeks but it hasn't stopped us exploring the school grounds and seeing how the weather has changed things in nature. The ice on the pond has only just thawed now the weather has become a little warmer. We've been learning how to be safe around ice and measuring how thick it got on the pond surface - 3cm! We also saw that some ice is clear and some has tiny air bubbles trapped inside it. We discovered amazing ice crystals that formed under the play bark, they are called Needle Ice and are beautiful when you look at them using a magnifying glass.



Ice cold facts ...

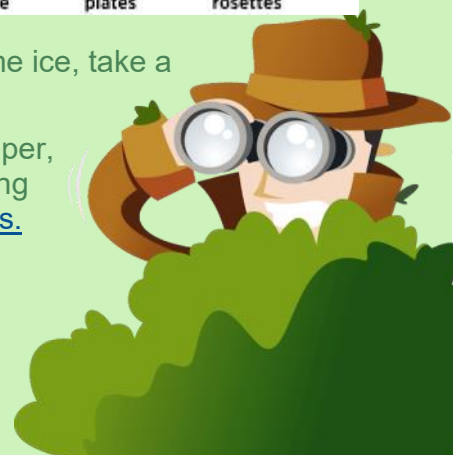
- * Needle ice forms when the temperature of the soil is above 0°C and the surface temperature of the air is below 0°C. Liquid water underground rises to the surface by capillary action, and then freezes and grows a needle-like ice column.
- * Ice crystals come in all different shapes, here are some of them below:



Next time you see some ice, take a closer look.

If you spot anything super, let us know by emailing superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk.

dorset.sch.uk



Roarsome Foundation!

This half term Foundation have been learning about dinosaurs. We have some budding paleontologists who have been investigating through careful observations, researching, labelling and even digging for clues. The work culminated in a wonderful visit from the Dinosaur Dome this week. Children enjoyed the special effects inside as well as getting to handle some artefacts. They learnt about dinosaurs evolving from fish and being wiped out by a giant meteor. "I liked seeing the meteor crash" said Max whilst Bailey's favourite bit was "the T-Rex going roar"! Huge thanks to our PTA for part funding this opportunity for our children and making it more affordable to families.



MATHS MANIA!

Why not do some maths this Valentine's Day?

- Discuss symmetry (of the heart)
- Create symmetry (by putting the same colour on the same place in each heart, or by only decorating one side and folding it in half to dry). This is called reflective symmetry by the way!
- Make little hearts challenging yourself to create a pattern (ABAB, ABBA etc)
- Create some heart tessellation
- Find a recipe and make some Valentine biscuits - remember to weigh your ingredients out carefully.



Year 2 News

Year 2 have been enjoying learning about the Polar Regions. We have compared how they are similar and different and also looked at why they are so cold. We are looking forward to finding out more about the animals that live there, especially penguins.

Year 2 also enjoyed having some familiar faces come into class and talk about their jobs linked with microbiology and freshwater biology.

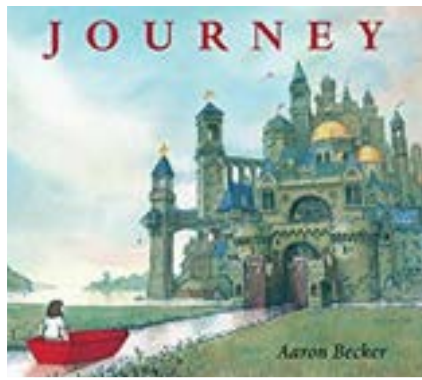


Art Adventures

What amazing adventures and journeys a simple line can take us on...

Aaron Becker author and illustrator has taken Year 3 to magical places in his wordless books with the power of LINE.

Year 3 have been exploring the quality of line in order to draw fine detail using a range of drawing media. Aaron Becker's illustrations have inspired us to create our own beautiful, imaginative settings combining the qualities of watercolour paint and fine pen detail.



Super Science!

Year 4 have been doing lots of experiments over the last few weeks exploring solids, liquids and gases. We have been discussing how each of these three states of matter are made up of particles but how these particles work in different ways depending on what type of matter it is.



Have a go at home...next time you see a puddle discuss what might happen to it once the sun comes out? Or when you next boil a kettle discuss with your child what is happening to the water inside the kettle and what is coming out of the top - are the states of matter changing?

Jigsaw and RE

The Jigsaw theme next half term is 'relationships'. Children will be exploring all the different types of relationships we have in our lives including friendships and different family relationships.

In RE children will be exploring and talking about the Easter story. Our different traditions and how Christians celebrate this festival.

The value we are thinking about this month is:



*Dates for
your Diary*

Fri 10th Feb	Training Day
Mon 13th Feb	Half Term
Mon 20th Feb	Back to school
Thurs 2nd Mar	World Book Day
Mon 6th Mar	Year 1 Sealife Centre
Tues 7th Mar	Year 1 Sealife Centre
Wed 8th Mar	Foundation Vision Screening
Tues 14th Mar	Foundation Vision Screening
Wed 15th Mar	Foundation 'Stay and ...'
Thurs 23rd Mar	Non-Uniform Day - bring in a chocolate donation for the PTA
Mon 27th Mar	Year 4 'Stay and ...'
Tues 28th Mar	Year 1 'Stay and ...'
Wed 29th Mar	Year 3 'Stay and ...'
	PTA Easter Bingo
Thurs 30th Mar	Year 4 Royal Opera House Trip
Fri 31st Mar	Year 2 'Stay and ...'
	End of term
Mon 17th Apr	Back to school

Bargain Bites

Marmite Mac-n-Cheese in a Mug, serves 1

Ingredients

75g pasta	20 mature cheese, grated
2 tsp butter	1/2 tsp Marmite, or other yeast extract

Tip the pasta into a microwavable mug and balance a saucer on the top. Stand the mug in a bowl - you'll see why in a second! Cook on full power for 2 mins, then remove the mug. The water will bubble up over the sides and into the bowl, so just tip it back into the mug again. Give it a good stir and leave to stand for a minute. Repeat this step twice more until your pasta is soft. Add a splash more water if necessary.

Add the butter, stir in the Marmite and cheese. Cook for one more minute on full power, stir and serve.

[\(The original version of this recipe is here\)](#)



It's that wonderful time of year again when we start to see signs of spring, new life and the wonder of nature's cycles all around us. How many spring flowers can you spot over half term? As always, Mrs Smith would love to hear about your Spring Flower Spotting via the Harmony email address (harmony@damers.dorset.sch.uk) - see what happens if you send her a picture of your discoveries on your Wildlife Watch ... !

Spring flower spotter



Snowdrop



Daffodil



Wood-sorrel



Winter aconite



Bluebell



Primrose



Wild garlic (ramsons)



Cowslip



Lesser celandine



Wood anemone



**wildlife
watch**