



March 2023

## In Space, No One Can Hear You Go to the Toilet

Foundation have loved finding out all about space this term. We discovered a crash scene! We investigated and wrote about what we found. We have found out about life in space for astronauts and the children particularly loved hearing about how they wash their hair and go to the toilet in space.

Next we will be finding out about planet Earth and the other planets in our solar system.

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this half term has started well for you and your families and that you are all enjoying a positive snapshot of your child's progress so far this year during our parent / teacher conversations this week.

Thank you to everyone who sent in an entry to our Extreme-Reading competition over half term, we will be sharing these entries and announcing the winners in our Celebration Assembly on Tuesday 14 March when we will be marking World Book Day.

On Friday, two of our Eco Ambassadors represented our school at The Barbican Centre in London and had the pleasure of meeting one of our Damers heroes, Dame Jane Goodall. I know that part of their conversation centred around our Damers values and how we take pride in putting them into practice in ourselves, our school, our wider community and our world. The children proudly shared many examples of the difference that our children make on a daily basis and the inspiration behind their 'Roots and Shoots' termly pledges ...

Our thanks go out to all parents in Years 2-4 who will be supporting us in ensuring that some of the team are able to say a

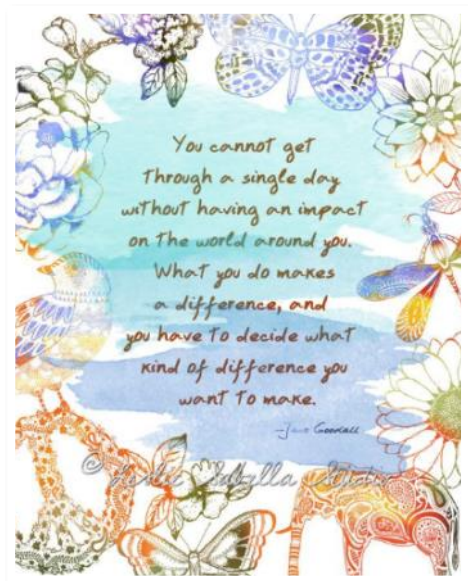
final farewell to our dear friend and colleague, Tim Oram next Monday.

We look forward to celebrating Tim's life and to remembering the difference that his unique humour, creativity, warmth and kindness made to the lives of many children, families and colleagues. We will be keeping the condolence email ([condolence@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:condolence@damers.dorset.sch.uk)) open until the end of this half term if you would like to send a message to Mr Oram's family, or simply to share a story or a picture. I think Tim would have had the widest smile admiring the artwork that has come in and the uncanny likeness within every portrait. Instead of marking Red Nose Day next week, we will be organising a collection for the Weldmar Hospice on the day of Tim's funeral. If you would like to contribute in remembrance of Mr Oram then please send a small donation in with your child on the Monday morning.

Thank you from all of us for your ongoing support and we look forward to celebrating our learning alongside you again this half term.

Catherine Smith

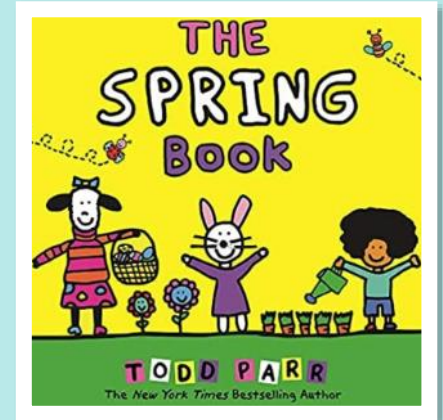
Headteacher



# Reading ROCKS!

## Celebrating Spring

Spring is almost upon us and all around us are those signs of new life. On your walk to school have you spotted daffodil buds or colourful crocus flowers poking out of the grass. It's such an exciting time for super spotting in nature! We've collected a selection of great books that celebrate all the brilliant things about springtime!



## What Year 3 (volca)Knows



Year 3 have recently been exploring volcanoes and we looked closely at Mount Vesuvius and the destruction it caused to the Roman town of Pompeii. We really enjoyed learning about how volcanoes are created and where we can find them across the world. We are excited to begin learning all about the Romans next and visiting the local Roman town house ruins.

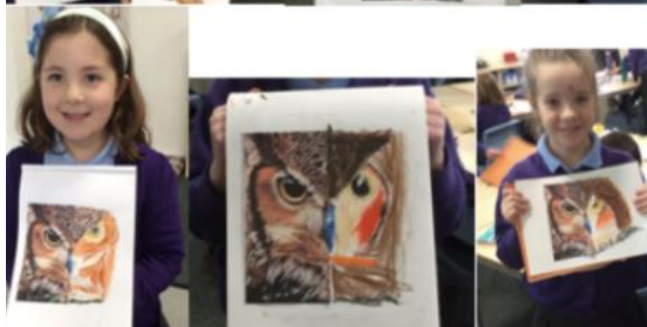
Thank you for all your support at home and for all your amazing creations during our mountains and volcanoes topic. The children really enjoyed sharing what they had done and were proud of their contributions.



# Learning About Animals

In Year 2 we are continuing to learn about the polar regions and will be extending that to learn about polar exploration this term. We have also been continuing to learn about Emperor penguins - we are now such experts that we are preparing to publish our own non chronological reports. We have been writing our introductions and subheadings in readiness for this.

We have also been exploring adaptation in the animal world and the beauty of nature through our artwork. Year 2 have enjoyed looking at symmetry in the natural world with a particular focus on the magnificent tiger. Using our observation skills we have created our own pieces using both pencil and pastel.



# Super Spotters

Some of the Damers Nature Club children had the opportunity to plant the first plants and sow the first seeds in the Damers wildflower meadow, which is just a few minutes from the school, at the top of Duke's Parade, in an area called The Swale.

The children helped plant Lady's Bedstraw, which was collected by Damers children on Midsummer's day in 2021, from the Weymouth Avenue cemetery. Miles King from People Need Nature also gave the children seed heads from Bee Orchids that had flowered last year on Fire Station Green; and the downy seeds from the Picnic Thistle, collected from nearby Poundbury Hillfort. The Children enjoyed breaking open the Bee



Orchid seed heads and finding the dust-like seed within. It will take at least six years before the seed becomes a flowering orchid! The thistle seeds were launched into the air and some will fall and germinate in the meadow while others will fly much further.

There will be other opportunities to go on seed collecting expeditions this Spring and the children will have the opportunity to grow wildflowers from the seed they collected, before planting out the flowers in the Damers Meadow.

## Ice Crystals

Theo spotted some amazing ice crystals that formed on his garden shed, aren't they beautiful?



## Spring Flowers

It's the time of year to keep your eyes peeled for the first flowers of the year ... email [superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk) with any of your finds.



# Superstars, Super Singing!

On Tuesday evening the Year 4 children went to Thomas Hardy School theatre to take part in the DASP Year 4 singing concert along with other schools in the area.

They were totally amazing, made us all very proud and even caused a few grown ups to shed a little tear!

The children sang a variety of songs from folk to Ed Sheeran and our own school song, We Go Together, from the film Grease. As if that wasn't enough we added some great dance moves. Well done everybody. We hope you enjoyed it because we certainly enjoyed watching you.



## MATHS MANIA!

Maths is **Spring**ing up all over! Spring is still breaking through and giving lots of different opportunities for maths learning!

- Measuring things that grow and change in size, like plants, is not only fun, but it's full of opportunities for maths learning at all levels. Look for bulbs that are starting to grow and measure the shoots - daffodils and other shooting flowers whose bright green spears are easy to measure as they grow. What size is the tallest shoot you can find?
- The backs of seed packets also estimate how long it will take for each plant to mature - mark off when each plant should be ready based on these estimations and practise using the calendar to countdown to harvest time!



## Value of the Month

The value we are thinking about this month is:



Where possible please leave scooters and bikes in the shelters and stands until leaving the school grounds. Please join us in making our school site a safer place to move around by encouraging your child not to ride or scoot in the school grounds before and after school.





## Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Awards

Two members of Damers Eco Crew represented Damers First School at Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Awards at

The Barbican in London on Friday. The Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Programme has been running for over 30 years. These were the first awards since March 2019

when Damers First School won the prestigious Environment Education Award. The children got the opportunity to speak with Dame Jane Goodall about all the environment projects they had been leading that included reducing the school energy costs using Energy

Sparks, campaigning for a safe cycle route from Dorchester town to Poundbury and a top secret item for the Nature Area and Pond which they hope to launch once funding has been raised.

The day ended with Jane speaking to a theatre of children about the hope she has for the future of our environment. Damers First School children handed over the trophy to winners Goat Lees Primary School, Ashford, Kent.



The priority for all of us is keeping our children safe no matter where they are. Please see [this useful information](#) for parents from NSPCC on how to make sure your children are safe in clubs, sports and other activities outside of school.

## News From the PTA

### Our Next Meeting

As the weather warms up, we have lots of exciting events in the pipeline. Keep an eye out on parentmail for more info, or even better, join us at our next meeting in school on **Monday 20th March at 6.30pm.**

### Damers Lucky Numbers

If you are looking for a simple way to get involved with raising funds for the school, why not take part in Damers Lucky Numbers, a monthly lottery open to parents, carers and staff. We've recently had lots of new entries into Damers Lucky Numbers, so our cash prize for our March draw is going to be bigger than ever! If you would like to enter into our next draw, please email [damersluckynumbers@gmail.com](mailto:damersluckynumbers@gmail.com) to receive an entry form and sign up details.

*Dates for  
your diary*

Tues 7th Mar	Year 1 Sealife Centre
	Year 3 Roman Town House visit
Wed 8th Mar	Foundation Vision Screening
Thurs 9th Mar	Year 3 Roman Town House visit
Mon 13th Mar	Collection for the Weldmar Hospice - 'Remembering Mr Oram'
Tues 14th Mar	Foundation Vision Screening
Wed 15th Mar	Foundation 'Stay and ...'
Mon 20th Mar	6.30pm - PTA meeting
Wed 22nd Mar	Power Down Day - led by Damers Eco Crew
Thurs 23rd Mar	Non-Uniform Day - bring in a chocolate donation for the PTA
	2.30pm - Year 2 Parents' SATS session
Mon 27th Mar	Year 4 'Stay and ...'
Tues 28th Mar	Year 1 'Stay and ...'
	Year 3 'Hercules' Performances
Wed 29th Mar	Year 3 'Stay and ...'
	Year 3 'Hercules' Performances
Thurs 30th Mar	Year 4 Royal Opera House Trip
<b>Fri 31st Mar</b>	Year 2 'Stay and ...'
	<b>End of term</b>
<b>Mon 17th Apr</b>	<b>Back to school</b>

## Sealife Adventures

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth this week. It really brought our learning to life! We definitely now know why our oceans are amazing and picked up some top tips on how to make sure they stay that way!

There was so much to see: turtles, sea horses, sharks, otters, seals and lots of incredible fish!

