

17 May 2023

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Headteacher:
Mrs Catherine Smith

Dear Parents and Carers

A heartfelt warm welcome to all of our new Damers families and for those of you that may be here again with younger siblings, welcome back to the 'starting school' conversation once again. I am pleased to say that our transition wheels are now well and truly in motion for our September 2023 intake. I know that this will be a long-awaited and incredibly special time for you and your families and we are all very much looking forward to starting our time together, in preparation for September, over these next few weeks.

Classes

During this half term Ellie Goodridge (Assistant Headteacher) and Rachel Nesbitt / Tom Bracey (Inclusion Leader / SENDCo) have been visiting local pre-schools and gathering a detailed picture of all our new arrivals to build our three new Foundation classes.

Your child's class, teacher and support staff will be confirmed during our new families open evening after the half term break. For some of you, you may be hearing teacher / support staff names for the first time but I can guarantee that these names will secure a very special place in your family life in no time at all.

Countdown Sessions / Picnic

All children will be invited to attend 'Countdown' taster sessions with their classroom staff and half of their class children in July. All Countdown sessions will take place at the end of the school day. Further details about these sessions will be provided during our new families open evening.

There will also be a new families picnic on The Great Field on Wednesday 12th July at 12noon which will provide an opportunity to meet other families, the school staff and to sample food from our hot school meals provider - Local Food Links. Please let us know you will be attending this so we can gauge the amount of food required, please email or phone the office - office@damers.dorset.sch.uk or 01305 264924

Start Date

Our new Foundation children will start school on Monday 4th September 2023 and during their first two weeks in school will be part of a smaller group of 15 that will attend for morning or afternoon sessions, again the details of these sessions will be confirmed during our new families open evening.

‘Meet the Team’ New Families Open Evening / Tour

The new families open evening for parents and carers will be on Wednesday 21st June at 7.00 pm. This will provide an opportunity to meet the Damers team, your child’s class teacher/s and support staff, to see their new classroom and to take a look at some uniform samples.

General Information

On our school website under the ‘Parents’ tab there is a section called ‘New to Damers 2023’. We will keep this section updated over the coming weeks with any information that is relevant to you as you prepare your child for school. You can find all the information that you will need relating to uniform, school meals, Pupil Premium, key staff in school etc within this section. Please note that any online uniform orders should be placed before the end of June to avoid delivery delays before September. We also hold a small amount of stock in school, please contact the school office before visiting to check.

Admissions Forms

At the open evening you will receive a pack containing a pupil information form and a consent form for you to complete. We would be grateful if these could be returned to the school office as soon as possible, our out-of-hours letterbox is located on the wall opposite the school office entrance. If you are unable to join us at the open evening the pack will either be posted to you, or if there is an older sibling in school it will be sent home with them.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require support in completing these forms.

Additional Needs

Our Inclusion Leader / SENDCo Rachel Nesbitt / Tom Bracey will be offering the opportunity for any new parents who have concerns about their child’s additional needs to meet with them before the end of term. An appointment with Miss Nesbitt / Mr Bracey can be booked via the main school office.

Should you have any further questions or concerns about your child’s start at school please don’t hesitate to contact us. We want you and your child to experience as happy a start to Damers life as possible and we will endeavour to do all that we can to make sure that this happens.

I look forward to meeting you all soon as we start this exciting new beginning together.

Kind regards

Louise Greenham

Head of School from September 2023



Brave, unique, caring and kind.