



Roman Town House Trip

Year 3 visited the Roman Town House in Dorchester to see first hand what a Roman house looked like. This local trip celebrated the end of our topic brilliantly as the children were full of knowledge and awe and wonder about this period in history.



Dear Damers Families

Welcome to our first newsletter of the summer term.

As we experience our first signs of summer warmth and sunshine, it feels like one of those great times to 'stand and stare' for a moment, particularly when thinking about the term ahead. You will be aware that our focus value for April was 'Hope' but may not be aware that we introduced this value as a new addition to our annual focus cycle following our experiences during the pandemic. What a great time to reflect back and to look on the present with increasing gratitude. In school we have been reflecting on this value and its place within our own lives and within our local and global communities. During a final assembly around this theme on Friday the children decided that we have a huge amount to feel grateful for now and to look forward to in the weeks and months ahead.

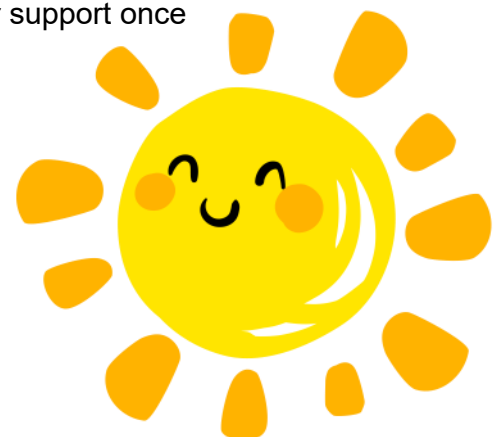
Mrs Hardisty has been busy updating the 'Curriculum' tab on our website to make this more accessible to our families and to hopefully give you a greater insight into our plans for the term ahead. Please do take a look, particularly within your child's year group, and find out about the learning that is in store for them between now and the summer break. Class Blogs are also a great place to gain an insight into what happens in our classrooms on a daily basis. They can be found by clicking on the blue bubble on the home page of our website and the children (and teachers!) love it when you leave a comment about their learning.

This week we will be marking the Coronation of King Charles III in school in a variety of ways, including a whole school celebration and 'Wild Crown' parade on Friday afternoon. We thank you in advance for your contributions to our Coronation Crown competition and we are also grateful to the Poundbury Residents' Association who will join us on Friday to present each child with a souvenir to mark the occasion.

Thank you to all who joined us at the end of last term for the wonderful Year 3 performance of 'Hercules'. This fantastic creation delivered happiness, melody, mirth, and optimism to everyone who experienced it. Although we had to ask the children to perform many times to accommodate everyone in our school hall, the children showed us that this was a great excuse to simply reach new heights during every single performance and for those of us that had the privilege of witnessing that final performance - wow! I think this kept me smiling throughout the Easter break.

We look forward to a term of sunshine, warmth and optimism. Enjoy the newsletter and thank you in advance for your support once again this term.

Catherine Smith
Headteacher



A Sad Farewell

It is with very mixed emotions that we share the news that Miss Nesbitt will be leaving Damers at the end of this term after 22 years of outstanding service as a teacher, SENDCo and leader at our school. Schools often talk about every child needing a champion and many of you will know, as we do as a team, that Rachel has given her all to being the champion for so many children with vulnerabilities and special educational needs throughout her time with us.

We are delighted that Rachel has been appointed as a new Early Years Lead at Dorset Council and know that she will continue to make a significant difference to the lives of many young children and families as part of a new 'Best Start for Life' programme. I am sure you will join us in sending Rachel our heartfelt congratulations as she begins her exciting new role in July.

Thank you Rachel for your energy, your passion and your selfless determination to secure the absolute best outcomes for every single child and family that you have taken under your broad wings over the years. You have been a significant part of the 'beating heart' of Damers for a very long time and will be greatly missed, but we all wish you, and the lucky children that you will be working with next, well.

We also offer our congratulations to Mr Bracey who will be taking on the role of Interim SENDCo from September.



MATHS MANIA!

On 6th May the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place at Westminster Abbey. This is a perfect time to do some maths. Why not try some of these ideas.

- Make a crown and decorate it with 2D shapes (square, circle, triangle)
- Think about the date, 06.05.23. What do these numbers represent? Find objects outside that represent the date eg. 6 leaves, 5 flowers and 23 stones.
- Create a Coronation timeline. Westminster Abbey has been Britain's Coronation church since 1066. King Charles III will be the 40th monarch to be crowned. Can you find out about all the Coronations that have taken place since 1066?
- Find out what the most popular monarch's name is. Can you make a graph?



PHSE and RE

Our Jigsaw theme this term is "Healthy Me!" We are learning about keeping our bodies and minds strong and healthy. We will learn about keeping ourselves safe at home and out and about. We will find out about eating healthily and how what we eat affects our bodies. We are getting ready for HEALTHY WEEK starting week beginning 5th June!

Discovery RE

This half term **Year 1** will be finding out about Shabbat and why it is so important to Jewish children and families.

Year 2 will be discovering how going to the Mosque helps Muslim people feel that they belong

Year 3 Will be studying Hinduism and finding out how Hindus believe Brahman can be everywhere

Year 4 investigate how often and where Muslims pray and why this is so important to them.



Outdoor Transformation

We've got some exciting developments underway in our Foundation outdoor area and they link perfectly with our current learning: what lives outside our classroom?

Our outdoor area has a large area of grass, or should I say mud! Over winter it often has to be taped off as it just becomes a slippery mess so...

Rather than fighting against the mud we are turning the area into a garden with raised beds. Miss Baker and Mr Tims have organised fencing, beds and gardening equipment. The children will be in charge of the planting and growing! This follows our EYFS curriculum learning about the natural world. We know children will have the opportunity to observe changes, draw, compare plants, harvest and over time watch how the garden changes through the seasons. Do ask your children about what they've been planting in school and we'd love to see photos of anything you're growing at home. Do send them to foundation@damers.dorset.sch.uk



Seed Library

Year 1 are excited about their new pledge!

We are going to set up a Seed Library where children and adults can donate the vegetable or flower seeds they do not need anymore and exchange them for seeds they do need.

We hope to involve the Community Farm and allotments in Poundbury.

Also the rest of the community at some point too. We will be in touch soon asking for your contributions.



Super Spotters

We made an exciting spot last week, the first swift of the season flying high in the sky. Swifts, swallows and house martins are amazing little birds. They don't live here all year long, they spend winter in Africa and then fly here for the summer.



The migration route of our swifts is an epic adventure from eastern Africa all the way to the UK and back again. This journey is part of a flyway used by millions of birds every year, including other familiar migratory species, like swallows and cuckoos. But swifts are just a little bit special. Not only do they do this journey without ever landing, but they can also travel super-fast, zipping along at speeds of almost 70 mph.

Swift Facts

Swifts build their nests high up in the roof space under the eaves of houses. The nest is built by both adults out of any material that can be



gathered on the wing, including feathers, paper, straw, hay and seeds. It is cemented together with their saliva and they are reused year after year.

Look into the sky and see if you can spot any swifts, swallows, house martins or you can look on houses for their nests. If you have any super spots email them to superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk.



Year 2 at the Pond

Year 2 have really enjoyed going pond dipping. After reading all about Bog Baby, we thought we would go and look in the school pond to see what life we could find or whether there were any Bog Babies swinging amongst the grass. There was much excitement over identifying what had been caught - tadpoles, worms and water boatman were some of the things identified. Some were even lucky enough to see a frog!



Year 2 are also excited to share their new pledge - we are planning to grow sunflower seeds and support local pollinators. We are planning to grow our seeds in repurposed pots which would have been making their way into your recycling bin. We can't wait to see the sunflowers grow!



A Message From Weldmar



Receipt: 177951
Gift Amount: £432.20

To all of the wonderful children and staff at Darners First School,
On behalf of everyone at Weldmar Hospicecare, thank you so very much for the kindness and generosity you have shown, in memory of your much loved teacher, Mr Oram.
The money that you have so kindly donated will help to care for some of the most poorly people in your community and will be of such a help to their families in their time of need.
With most grateful thanks
Martha Lee,
Weldmar Hospicecare

The Final Countdown (to Leeson House) and Ukuleles

The Year Four children have been getting ready for our amazing residential trip to Leeson House in early May. They have been busy getting things ready at home, including sourcing and packing all their equipment and learning to change their bedding (which is a key skill!). We are also very lucky to have a DASP musician visiting us every week in the Summer Term where we will be learning the ukulele.





Free Event!

Sat 20th May, Thomas Hardy School, 10am - 2pm

A music, dance and drama festival featuring many performances by young people from the local area.

In addition, there will be drama, dance and music workshops open to all (adults and children!), drop-in sessions (such as 'come and try' instrument demos) and refreshments.

<https://www.daspmusic.co.uk/dasp-arts-fest.html>

Reading ROCKS!

A huge thank you to all of those who entered our Extreme Reading competition back in March. We're delighted to share with you the winners: Finn (CF), Royston (G1) and Freya (M4) and the teacher award went to Miss Mansell. All were awarded with a £10 book voucher. Well done to everyone who entered, the efforts were better than ever and we can't wait to see where your reading takes you next year!



News From the PTA

Congratulations to our Easter raffle prize winners from Skipper 3, Meadow 1 and Foundation and Grayling 3. We hope you enjoyed your chocolatey goodies over the holiday. Thank you to everyone who contributed, raising a whopping £330 which will go towards resources for children across the school to enjoy.

Preparations have already begun for our Summer Fair on Friday 23rd June. We are running the fair in a new way this year, with each class being given the opportunity to work together to set up and run a stall. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

We'd love to go ahead with lolly sales again this summer, it's such a well deserved treat for the children on a Friday, but we need someone to coordinate this. If you can spare an hour on a Friday afternoon around pick up, please email damerspta@gmail.com.



No Mow May

The 10 most common plants recorded during the No Mow May campaign last year were daisies, creeping buttercup, yellow rattle, common bird's-foot trefoil, field forget-me-not, meadow buttercup, white clover, common mouse-ear, oxeye daisy and dandelion.



People are mowing their lawns less as the trend for neat gardens is becoming less popular.

This May there is a very easy thing you can do in your garden to help wild flowers and struggling pollinators too. Put your lawnmowers away for No Mow May. Whether it's a small patch or your whole lawn, you can have an impact. Leaving the grass uncut will create a habitat that will benefit bees and other insects. At the end of May record your results [on their website](#) of the number of wildflowers you find in your lawn.

On a single day in summer, one acre of wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers and produce 1 kg of nectar sugar for pollinators.

Dorchester to Poundbury Cycle Route

Thank you to everyone who filled out our questionnaire. Here are the results:



- 81% said they would use the route other than the school run
- 72% said they would use a cycle lane to get to Poundbury
- 65% of children cycle in Dorchester
- 46% would use the route daily, 29% would use it twice a week
- 56% adults cycle in Dorchester
- 68% cycle elsewhere

Giles Watts of Dorchester Transport Action Group is supporting our campaign and we have a meeting with him on Monday 15th May.

We wrote an email to Jason Bowerman, Duchy Estate Manager who is in support of a safe cycle lane/route between Dorchester and Poundbury.

We also wrote an email to Chris Peck, Head of Highways at Dorset Council where we are in discussions with him about the lane/route.

We have been invited to a workshop to discuss our campaign further with Chris, Giles and local Dorset Councillors at the end of May. We will keep you up to date with what happens next.



Power Down Day

Damers Eco Crew have been focusing on reducing the schools energy consumption. Since September we set a target of reducing our energy consumption by 10% each month which we have met so far. We use a programme called [Energy Sparks](#) that helps us to analyse how much energy we are using.

We organised a power down day with the money saved going into a pot and classes who have powered down correctly could put a proposal into having some of the money for new equipment, money towards a school trip, or an educational workshop. "Keep Powering Down Keep Getting Rewards" is our slogan. Foundation and Year 1 went above and beyond claiming £50 Amazon vouchers each to be spent across each year group.

We have designed a poster with Nick Morris from Wallis on Poundbury and hope to launch the poster in all classrooms and offices over the next few weeks to remind classes and staff what they need to turn off before they go home.

During the Easter Holidays we turned everything off and saved 60% of our energy Consumption, saving £350.

Mon 8th to Fri 12th May	Year 4 to Leeson House
Wed 10th May	Foundation Stay and Play
Thurs 18th May	Year 3 Stay and ...
Fri 19th May	Year 4 Stay and ...
Sat 20th May	DASP Arts Fest
Wed 24th May	M1 Stay and ...
Thurs 25th May	G1 Stay and ...
Fri 26th May	S1 Stay and ... Last day of the half term
Mon 5th June	School starts

Dates for
your Diary

Coronation Champion

Huge congratulations to our very own Mr Moore who has been named as one of only 500 Coronation Champions whose work within their communities will be recognised as part of the Coronation Celebrations at the weekend. This is an amazing achievement and we all send Mr Moore our congratulations. Enjoy the Coronation Concert and your trip to Windsor!



This Month We Have Been Singing ...

Damers pupils are fantastic singers! We enjoy singing assemblies every week, as well as singing in our classes and music lessons. This term we have been enjoying this song:

[Be The Change](#)

Our Value of the Month is:

