



Year 1 Tidy Up

Year 1 have been on a walk to the Hillfort on Poundbury to learn about buttercups with Miles King from People Need Nature.

The children picked the seeds from the buttercups placing them in paper coffee filters and then sprinkled them on the new Damers Meadow on the Great Field.



Dear Damers Families

The value that we are focusing on in school at the moment is 'Gratitude' and for me personally, this couldn't be more aptly timed as I am experiencing this in bucket loads as I begin the process of 'handing over'. Our school grounds are the perfect place to be thankful and one of the many highlights of my day at the moment is seeing to the chickens first thing, but then seizing the opportunity to simply stand and stare in the quiet and the sunshine. Gosh do I feel proud and grateful for all that we have achieved together over the last ten years, but particularly the bringing to life of our beautiful school grounds which I don't think I have ever taken for granted. They will be firmly engraved in my memory and in my heart for many years to come.

Thank you to all who have joined us, or are about to join us for our year group Sports Days over the next week or so. Our team have done a fantastic job as always in ensuring that each event is planned to ensure that all children experience teamwork, inclusion and celebration.

I'm busy reading your children's reports in the evenings at the moment and I am relishing the chance to be fully immersed in every child's learning story again this year. As always I am in awe of our teachers who know all of our children so well and are focused on the holistic nature of learning, but also the children themselves who never fail to astound me with their resilience, determination, individual talents and achievements and their thirst for learning. We look forward to sharing the end of term reports with you in a few weeks' time.

You will receive an email tomorrow about classes for next year as we begin to introduce children to their new teachers and support staff. It's the official 'DASP Transfer Day' on Thursday 6 July and the majority of our classes will spend time with their new teachers, in their new classrooms, on the morning of that day, but there will be many more planned encounters before and after that day too.

I know that the children are all looking forward to these final few weeks in school and that there are many exciting events planned such as Sports Days, 'Stay and ...' sessions, our PTA Summer Fair, leavers' BBQs and new starters' picnics and of course our much anticipated Year 4 performance at the Thomas Hardy Theatre. Thank you to all involved in the preparation and delivery of these exciting events.

This is my penultimate newsletter and at this point in the term this year, I simply want time to stand still as my time at Damers begins to draw to a close. I am trying to make the most of every minute and hope that over the next few weeks I'll be able to catch up with as many of you as possible in person for a brief chat and a chance to say farewell. Please do come across for a chat if you are in school for an event or if you see me on the gate - I would genuinely love that.

We look forward to enjoying these last few weeks of term alongside you!

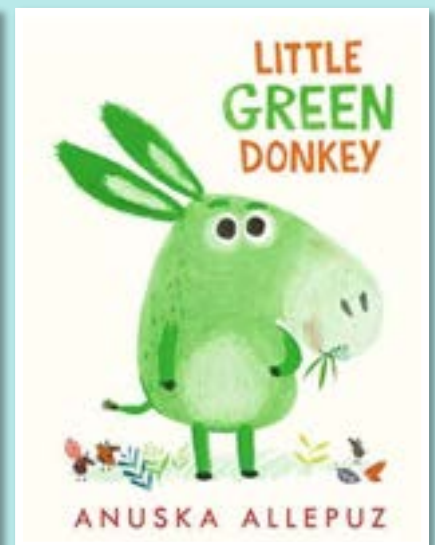
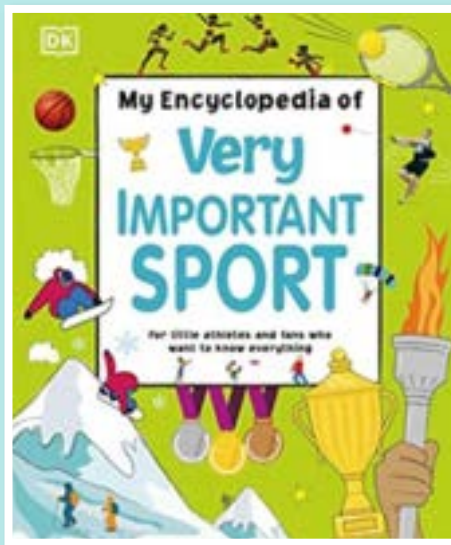
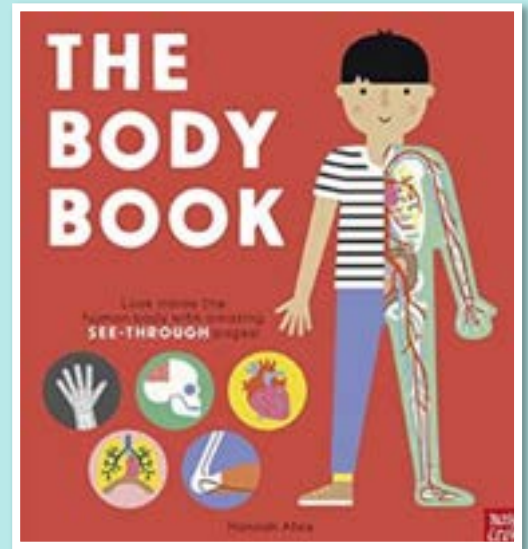
Catherine Smith



Reading ROCKS!

Healthy Reading

After an amazing 'Healthy Week' in school, we were inspired to look at books that help us learn more about our bodies and how to live healthier. Have a look through your local library, the heart space or your classroom book corner to see if you can find any interesting books about healthy living!



Healthy Week

Foundation had such a great time in Healthy Week. Each morning we joined the whole school for dancing or yoga to get our minds awake and ready for the day. We started our Forest School sessions creating dens for animals, ensuring they were strong and camouflaged. In class we baked bread just like the Little Red Hen and we had a special visit from Forfit Martial Arts, teaching us how to kick and chop in a safe manner.



Jigsaw and RE



This term we are following our unit Changing Me which looks at how our bodies change as we grow. This includes lessons on Sex Education. The material we use is unchanged this year and is from the Jigsaw scheme of work.

All parents/carers will receive a leaflet which explains the lessons for their child's year group in more detail. If you have any more questions please talk to your child's class teacher.

This term in RE:

- ◆ Year 1 are finding out about the Jewish celebration of Hannukah
- ◆ Year 2 are exploring the Muslim pilgrimage of Hajj
- ◆ Year 3 are finding out about the Hindu pilgrimage to the River Ganges
- ◆ Year 4 are investigating how Christians pray, at home and in a church



Please note that due to the ongoing IT issues at Thomas Hardy School as a result of the recent cyber-attack, DASP Music now has a new email address - wessexmusic@wessex.ac. All access to previous emails on the accounts daspmusic@thomas-hardye.net and htrevorrow@thomas-hardye.net has been lost. All parents who are engaged with DASP Music through instrumental lessons or ensembles should have received an update email yesterday, highlighting the new address. If you think that you should have received this email from us, but haven't, please contact us and we can double check that you are still on our database.

Super Spotters

Damers is now in full bloom and our beautiful Oxeye daisies and wildflowers are attracting lots of insects and bumblebees

who are busy harvesting nectar and pollen. We've been identifying the bumblebees at the pond area and we found Garden; Red Tailed; Common Carder; Tree Bumblebee and Hairy-Footed Flower Bee (see picture) ... who knew there were so many different types?!



Bumblebees fall into three rough groups based on tail colour: white-tailed (includes off-white to yellow), red-tailed, and 'uniform-tailed' bees, where the tail is the same colour as the rest of the abdomen (usually ginger). Did you know that ...

- They live in smaller groups than honey bees and do not tend to swarm
- Bumblebees hibernate underground
- They scent mark flowers they have visited
- Bumblebees will not die if they use their sting, whereas honey bees will
- Male bumblebees cannot sting as they do not have a sting.

Tadpole Update

Our tadpoles have now become perfect, tiny little froglets. Very cute I'm sure you'll agree.

If you spot anything you'd like to share, please email



superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk





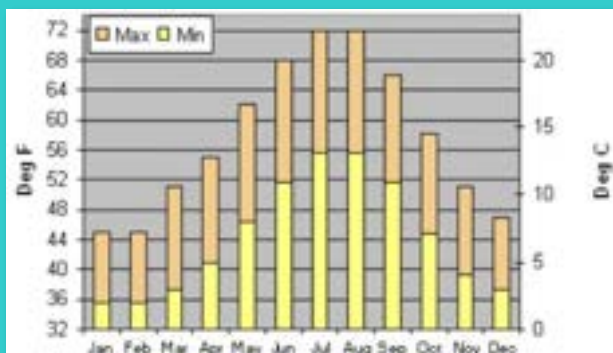
Lights, Camera ... Not long to go!

Year 4 are hard at work rehearsing for the upcoming production of Peter Pan. We can't wait until the 5th and 6th July to share this with you!

MATHS MANIA!

With the talk of the weather all around us, and trying to keep out the sun as much as possible, maybe it's time to do some weather maths! Why not:

- Find out how we measure temperature
- Watch the weather forecast and track the temperature over a week or longer
- Make a sundial and use it to tell the time
- Look at the graph and see how the temperature changes over the year
- Investigate other countries weather and see if you can find a country that is hotter and colder than the UK.



Hello!

A big Damers welcome to two new TAs who have joined us this term. Jess Folkard and Rachel Foad will be joining our KS1 team. We hope you settle in quickly and enjoy your first summer at Damers!





Does your child want to learn an instrument/voice at school in September?

APPLY HERE FOR IN-SCHOOL LESSONS.

DEADLINE IS 30TH JUNE.

SIGN UP NOW!

WWW.DASPMUSIC.CO.UK

Fond Farewells

It is with great sadness that we must let you know that we will be losing two incredible TAs at the end of this term - Joanna Sheail and Nikki Cooke.

Mrs Sheail has been a much loved TA and colleague and is one of the kindest and most nurturing TAs that any parent or teacher could wish to work with. Jo has many talents and skills that stretch far beyond the primary classroom, (including being the winner of the last staff bake off competition (!)) and we feel privileged to have worked with her. Jo will now be spreading her wings and heading into a new and exciting direction as her career develops.



Mrs Cooke has also secured a firm place in the hearts of all staff, children and parents who have had the pleasure to know and work with her during her many years as a parent and teaching assistant at Damers. Her talents and experience also stretch way beyond the primary classroom and we feel so lucky to have witnessed the joy and care that surrounds her during her time with us. Nikki also holds a top spot in the 'legendary face painter' category too. Our loss will be very much Puddletown First School's gain as Mrs Cooke takes on a new role in her local school.

Jo and Nikki, you will be very much missed by us all. Thank you both for your creativity, patience, care, love and laughter and we all wish you well as you begin your new roles in September.

eco news

'It's Up To Us'

Damers First School, have been Highly Commended in the Primary Awards for Green Education for our 'It's Up to Us' Art Exhibition in May 2022. The school has won £100 that will go towards our Diversity Project from September. The Art Exhibition was based on a book called 'It's Up to Us' by Christopher Lloyd and was forwarded by King Charles III. The judges were impressed by the range of artwork from Foundation to Year 4 that included the ceramic totem pole that was made by Year 3 children (now Year 4).



Swift Bricks

Damers Eco Crew are campaigning with Hannah Bourne-Taylor (originally from Dorchester) to make sure every new house that is built has a swift brick in them. Poundbury's Phase 3 and the Duchy are leading the way nationally with all houses having a swift brick which is monitored by the RSPB. Damers Eco Crew have written a letter to Chris Loder MP asking him to support their campaign and to represent them at a debate in the House of Commons on Monday 10th July.

The Feather Speech is a national conservation campaign for swifts and other cavity birds, supported by the RSPB and Rewriting Extinction. Four cavity nesting birds (Common Swifts, House Sparrows, Common Starlings and House Martins) are on the red list of highest



conservation concern, a term defined by the need for 'urgent action.' One of the issues hindering them is their nesting sites being inadvertently blocked off by insulation and house improvement measures. You can find out [more here](#).

You can record nesting swifts you see [on this map](#). This will help to build a picture of where swift nest sites need to be protected and where it would be best to provide new nest sites.

The value we are thinking about in June is:

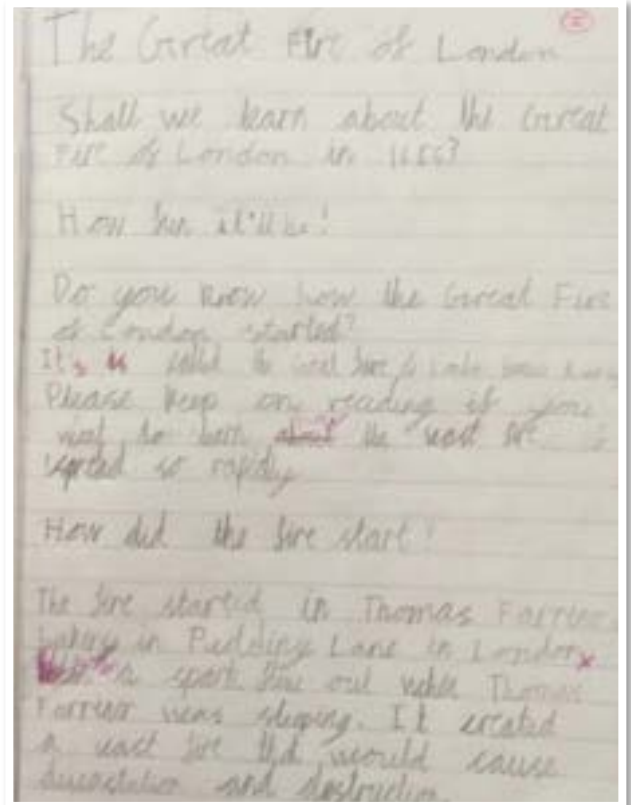
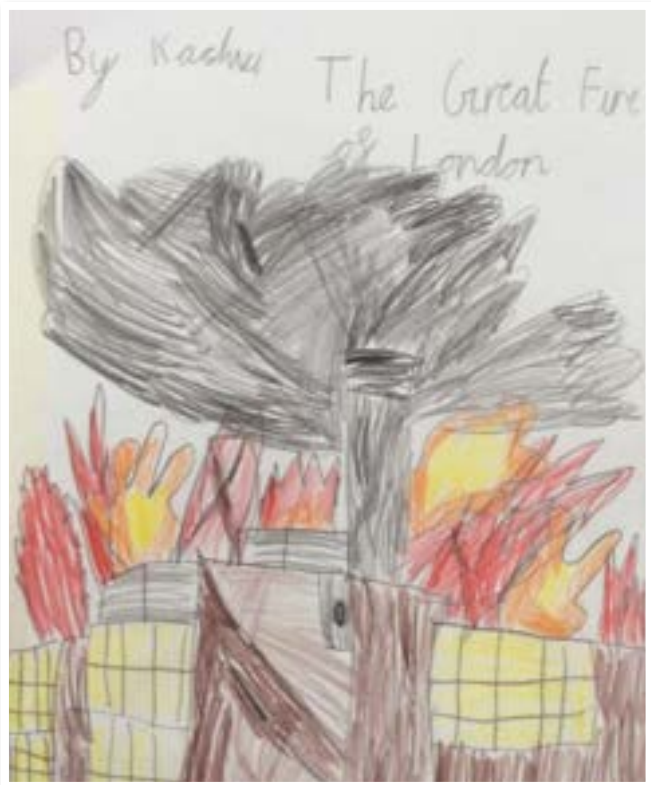


Don't forget to order your uniform for September online - <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/>
DamersFirstSchoolDT13DF

Butterflies, Moths and Great Fires!

Year 2 have enjoyed a visit from a volunteer for Butterfly Conservation. He used special equipment to catch a range of moths for the children to look at. They saw an Elephant Hawk Moth and a Privet Hawk Moth (the largest moth in the UK). There was also an Emerald Moth and a spotted tiger. The children enjoyed watching the moths 'shiver' their wings in preparation for flight!

Ask us about The Great Fire of London in 1666! We've been writing some explanation texts to share all we've learnt about it so far!



Year 3 Rugby

What an amazing Healthy Week we had. We tried many different sports and enjoyed making smoothies using a bike. One of the most enjoyable sessions was doing some rugby skills with Mr Pearce from Dorchester Rugby Club. We all had an amazing session and were keen to practice more rugby skills soon!





[Dorset Youth](#) is a new website which has been designed collaboratively with young people locally and holds a wealth of information about clubs, support and knowledge. There is also a [dedicated page for mental health](#) support and organisations which young people have put together based on their research and the sites they have found the most useful.

*Dates for
your diary*

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 21st June | Foundation Stay and ... 1:15 - 3:00pm - Year 3 Sports Day 7:00pm - New Foundation Parents Meeting |
| Thurs 22nd June | 1:45pm - Year 1 Sports Day |
| Fri 23rd June | PTA Summer Fair |
| Mon 26th June | Year 4 Stay and ... 1:30 - 3:00pm - Year 2 Sports Day |
| Tues 27th June | Year 3 Stay and ... |
| Wed 28th June | 6:30pm - Poundbury Residents' Association Meeting in the Main Hall |
| Thurs 29th June | Year 2 Stay and ... |
| Fri 30th June | 1:30 - 3:00pm - Foundation Sports Day DASP Collaborative Illustration Event at THS |
| Mon 3rd July | 3:30pm - New Foundation Skipper taster session |
| Wed 5th July | Year 1 Stay and ... 6:00pm - Year 4 Performance |
| Thurs 6th July | DASP Transfer Day 6:00pm - Year 4 Performance |
| Mon 10th July | 3:30pm - New Foundation Meadow taster session |
| Tues 11th July | 3:30pm - New Foundation Grayling taster session |
| Wed 12th July | 12:00pm - New Foundation Picnic on the Great Field |
| Thurs 13th July | 3:30pm - New Foundation Skipper taster session |
| Mon 17th July | 3:30pm - New Foundation Meadow taster session |
| Tues 18th July | 3:30pm - New Foundation Grayling taster session |
| Fri 21st July | Last day of term |



SAVE THE DATE

6.30pm on 28th June 2023

at Damers School Hall

Poundbury Residents' Association
invites everyone to our quarterly
Community Meeting



Starting with a presentation by
Damers School pupils from their
own Big Conversation with fellow
pupils, teachers and parents.

There will be updates on current local
topics including: build quality, The Big
Poundbury Conversation, 20mph proposal

www.lovepoundbury.org/events