



October 2023

A Flying Start!

We have been delighted with how smoothly the transition to school has gone for our new Foundation children. They have really enjoyed continuing our work on Elmer following their summer holiday activities. The class elephants have been assembled from your family squares and we think you'll agree they look fantastic: each unique just like our 90 new friends! The theme of diversity has continued as we learn more about what makes each of us special.



Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to take over as Head of School here at Damers and begin a new year with you all.

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone into school this Autumn. We have had a great start to the year! We have run our usual "Stay and share" sessions, new clubs for this term, "Meet and greets", phonics meetings and also meet our new Foundation stage parents at our "Tea and Tissues" event. The first few weeks are so important for our settling in time but the children have taken everything in their stride and really made a great start to their learning.

As we begin our year, we look back at parent and staff questionnaires as part of our planning process and have already put things in place to make sure your child gets the best experience we can offer here at Damers.

Values are so important to all of us in school as they set out how we live and work. This term so far we have focused on Courage. So many children have shared with us their own story of courage whether it is about working on

something they were worried about or plucking up the courage to

use the slide at the water park! I am sure they will share these with you at home. We are starting to look at Equality in October and how we can make things fair for all in our work, play and friendships.

We have appointed our Year 4 Junior governors and they are ready to start work on behalf of all children at school. The

applications were so impressive - what a great start to the year!

Louise Greenham
Head of School

The value we are thinking about this month is:



Dorset COP Event

Two members of Damers Eco Crew represented the school at the Dorset COP event which was being held at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester on Saturday 9th September. Dorset Cop was a chance for organisations across Dorset to link together to promote Climate Action from the key stakeholders.

The children spoke passionately about our eco campaigns which included reducing the schools energy consumption by 12% over the last 12 months, winning Energy Sparks Regional/National Champions and our campaign for a safe cycle lane/route between Dorchester and Poundbury. The children got a standing ovation from over 200 people in the audience.



Dorchester to Poundbury Cycle Lane/Route



Damers Eco Crew have been working with Jon from Sustrans to look at the Air Quality around the school. The children have put up diffusion tubes that will monitor how good the air quality is outside the school, School Grounds and inside Classrooms. The tubes will be sent to a science lab to be analysed and the children will get the results at the beginning of November. The children have also been looking at lichen around the school grounds that can be found on trees. Places with clean air have more pollution sensitive bushy lichens, orange leafy lichen shows lots of nitrogen in the air, brown and green lichen shows quite clean air. The air quality evidence will be used as part of our Dorchester to Poundbury

cycle lane/route campaign and will be shared with Dorset Council.

Streets Alive Dorchester

Dorchester Transport Action Group (DTAG) with support from Dorchester Town Council and Sustrans organised a No Car Day Event at Acland Road Carpark on Friday 22nd September 2023. No Car Day was celebrated across the world to highlight the effects cars are having on climate change and air quality.

The Acland Road Carpark was closed off to cars and children took part in a range of activities which included street art, street football, King Ramp skateboarding, crazy cycle circus and other activities.



Bling Up Your Bike/Scooter Day

To help promote 'Streets Alive Dorchester' and celebrate International No Car Day, we chose to bling up our bikes and scooters in the theme of colour. It was amazing to see so many children making an active journey to school and enjoying showing off their decorated bikes and scooters to each other on our courtyard.

Benedetti Body Beats

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a brilliant body percussion workshop with two professional musicians from the Benedetti Foundation in October. We enjoyed listening to them perform on a vibraphone and cajon and learnt some really fun musical games and activities.



Jigsaw and RE Next Term



Our Jigsaw theme for next half term is Celebrating Diversity. We will be enjoying finding out what makes us all different and special!

In RE, Year 1 will be learning about the Christmas story. They will ask "What gift would I like to give Jesus if He had been born in my town?".

Year 2 will be finding out why Christians believe Jesus is a gift from God and asking why God gave Him to the world.

Year 3 are going to look at the true meaning of Christmas. They will try to answer the question, "Has Christmas lost its true meaning?".

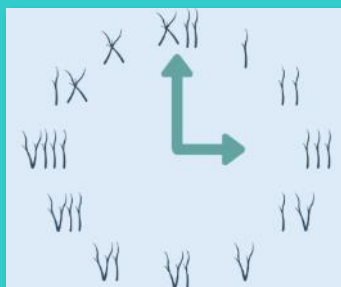
Finally, Year 4 will investigate the important parts of the Christmas story and ask which is the most important bit?



MATHS MANIA!

Autumn is a wonderful time of year to get outside and enjoy the autumnal colours and the odd warm day. While you are collecting conkers and swishing the leaves with your feet, try some of these math activities:

- Collect and count conkers
- Look for symmetry in nature
- Using any materials you find, create a shape picture
- Using sticks, make a clock face
- Sort leaves into different colours/shapes



Feeling Good in Year 1

Our enquiry this half term has been "How does being outside make us feel good?" We have spent lots of time outdoors in the grounds, the garden and our year one area. In science we have been learning about the seasons and have enjoyed spotting signs of Autumn all around us.



BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN this winter

We all work so hard to keep ourselves and others safe but what is going to change?

Tick tock, tick tock.

Yes the clocks are changing and you will notice the darkness setting in to our afternoons and evenings much earlier.

Unfortunately statistics show road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Some of these collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under the age of 16 are the most vulnerable. Visibility is a key issue all year round, all day round, whether children are walking or on their bike, scooter or skateboard.

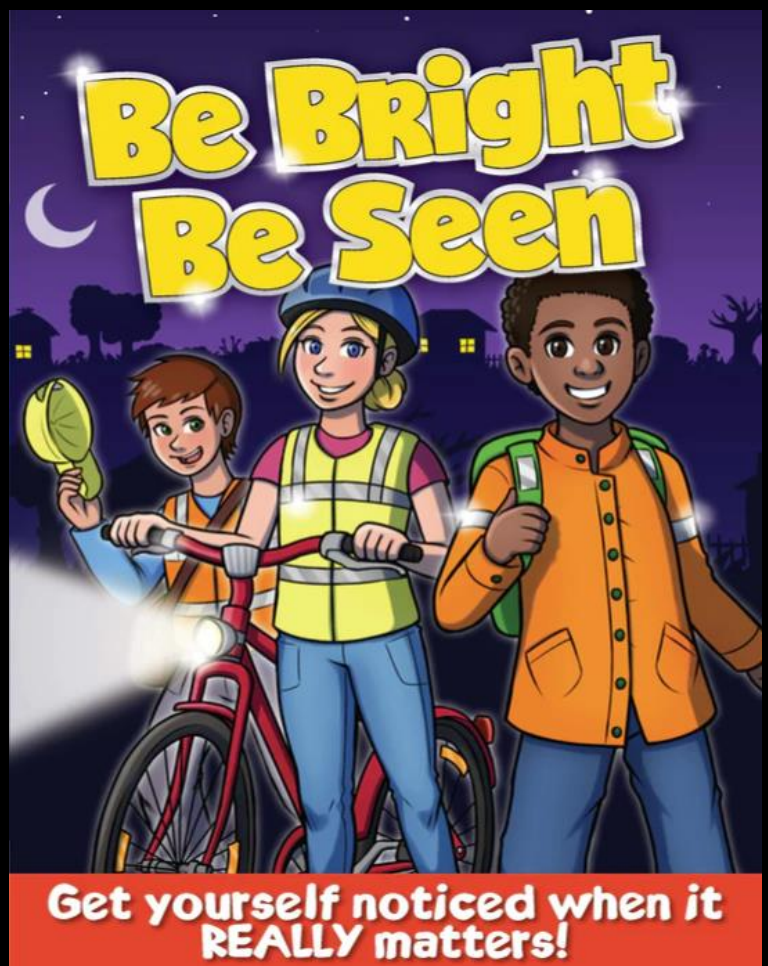
So how can we make sure we keep our children safe?



Take care everyone!

Be Bright. Be Seen.

Be SAFE.

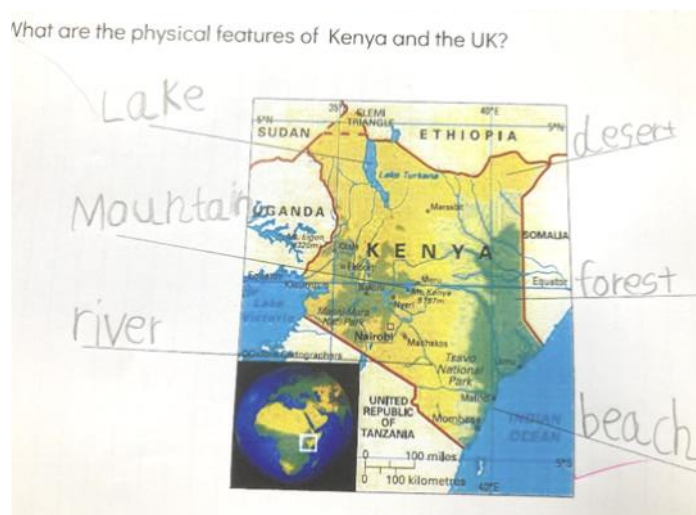


Kenya Learning

We have loved learning all about Kenya this term and finding out its similarities and differences to the UK. We've looked at maps of each country and found mountains, lakes and rivers (although Kenya's are much bigger!), enjoyed doing an African drumming workshop and tasted some Kenyan fruit and vegetables.



We have also done some incredible writing based on our book set in Kenya - Lila and the Secret of Rain and produced artwork based on the cloaks, shields and necklaces of the Maasai people.



This Half Term We Have Been Singing ...

[Let Love Shine Through](#)

[Power In the Music](#)



Super Spotters

Some children have sent in amazing photos of Super Spots they've made over the summer. Autumn spotted a beautiful Red Admiral Butterfly and a White Satin Moth.



The White Satin Moth has its name because of the glossy surface of its wings. It can be found around England and Wales but is most common here in the South of England.

Eddie and Benji spotted this beautiful Adder in the muddy bank of the pond in Thorncombe woods.



Although they have a reputation for being mean and venomous, Adders are really very timid. Adders can sometimes be seen basking on warm sunny days, and it is really important that they are left alone, so if you see an Adder just stop and then carefully walk around it. Did you know that they like to eat field voles and mice, and even lizards - but they don't eat very often, maybe just 6-10 times in a year!

If you spot anything in nature you'd like to share please email superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk



Reading ROCKS!

We're on the hunt!

We are investing in improving our books on offer in the heart space library and would like your help!

Do you have any good quality picture books, non-fiction fact books and fiction books that can be donated to the school library? We will be collecting these throughout the year and any that don't go to the school library will be divided between book corners in classrooms and put towards the PTA second hand book sale in March.

Please can you bring them into the office in a bag labelled 'heart space donations'.



New Barn Trip

Year 3 recently visited New Barn where we had such an incredible time learning all about life in the Stone Age. We had a go at making butter, carving illustrations onto chalk, grinding flour using querns and we also got to go inside a replica of a Stone Age roundhouse. It was great to immerse ourselves into Stone Age life!



Copper Base News

The Copper Base children have been busy reading the book Growing Vegetable Soup - we made our own soup and then wrote some instructions. It was delicious!



Year 4 News

After the arrival of our mysterious dragon eggs in Year 4, we have been busy learning about dragons and even created our own 'Dragonologist' reports!



In art, we've been looking at work by Angie Lewin.

We've created our own natural environment and mixed media paintings (using water colours, oil pastels, sketching pencils and ink) to create our own artwork inspired by Angie Lewin's work.



On behalf of his Skipper 2021-22 class, this gift is to honour and remember Mr Oram, a kind and gentle man who will remain in the hearts and minds of all the children he taught. He was a fantastic teacher and a gentle giant whose legacy will remain at Damers always.

Bird box lovingly handcrafted by Owen Gower.



News From the PTA

It was lovely to see some new faces at our PTA meeting on Monday evening. Owen Gower is staying on as Chair, and we are welcoming Laura Evans as our new Treasurer and Pippa Hutchings as our new Secretary for the year ahead. Thank you to all those who volunteered to take on extra responsibilities throughout the year.

We have some really lovely events in the pipeline for the second half of our Autumn term. Please check the dates below and email damerspta@gmail.com if you are able to help out with either of these events (children are more than welcome to come along with you and help too!).

Diary Dates

- **Pumpkin Parade, Tuesday 31st October @ Damers School Main Entrance:** we would love a little help between **8.20 - 8.45am**, getting the pumpkins into position in the morning as children drop them off. Alternatively, you could help out after school **3-4pm** with some of the activities going on. Children can always be dropped off at the main entrance or brought round to you at the end of the day if you are helping out. Please let us know in advance so we can arrange this.
- **Poundbury Christmas Market, 10-4pm on Saturday 2nd December @ Crown Square:** please let us know if you can spare **30 minutes** to help run our Damers Stall at the Poundbury Christmas Market. Everything will be set up for you, and you will be helping on the stall with somebody else too. There is usually Splat the Elf, a lucky dip, a little craft activity, and a lot of festive cheer.

*Dates for
your Diary*

Thurs 19th Oct	Last day of the half term
Fri 20th & Mon 30th Oct	INSET Training - school closed
Tues 31st Oct	School starts Flu Immunisations
Mon 6th to Fri 10th Nov	Parent Consultations
Mon 13th to Fri 17th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Tues 14th Nov	Individual Photos
Fri 17th Nov	Children in Need Day
Tues 21 & Wed 22nd Nov	Year 3 Museum trip
Tues 12th Dec	13:15 & 18:00 - KS2 Carol Service
Wed 13th Dec	Christmas lunch day
Fri 15th Dec	Last day of term
Tues 2nd Jan	Start of term

*Check the website
calendar for more
dates to come!*



*Please remember to encourage children to
step off bikes and scooters when they are
near our queues at the beginning and end
of the school day. Thank you for your
support in supervising those on wheels
within these areas and keeping our
community safe.*

Children Starting a New School

For children starting school for the first time or moving to Middle School in September 2024, the application dates are as follows:

Children eligible to start school for the first time in September 2023

Date of Birth	Application Type	Closing Date	Offer Date
1 Sept 2019 - 31 Aug 2020	Starting School Sept 2024	15 January 2024	16 April 2024

Children due to start Middle school in September 2023

Date of Birth	Application Type	Closing Date	Offer Date
1 Sept 2014 - 31 Aug 2015	Starting Middle School	15 January 2024	16 April 2024

Apply online at [Dorset School Admissions](#)