

Damers News



Young Artist and Young Writer

Congratulations!
We are so proud of Emma and Emily who both entered the Rotary Club's Young Artist and Young Writer competitions. The judges were so impressed they were awarded special commended certificates for their amazing efforts. Rowland Cornell presented the girls with their certificates on behalf of The Rotary Club in assembly. Well done Emma and Emily.



Dear Parents and Carers

Spring is definitely sprung after what seems like the longest, darkest, wettest term on record! We have really enjoyed getting outside and using our wonderful grounds to play and learn together. We will be installing our new sensory trail shortly, this will be sited near the vegetable garden - this will benefit many children. We are also going to be re-designing our Courtyard playground into zones to help our younger children in their play. This will take place in the summer term and we welcome any willing outdoor designers/landscapers to help the children plan their space!

We hope you have found our tweaks to communication useful - we were delighted to receive your feedback and have acted so far in our social media platforms, sharing the fantastic work the children are so proud of. We have also introduced the weekly news round up with diary dates we hope helps busy families. We will endeavour to plan events a term in advance to help you plan your diaries, setting out the "Stay and..." events to give everyone a chance to attend. After the Easter holidays, our website will be changing to sit in line with other Wessex MAT schools. We will let you know the date of the launch but it will be designed with you in mind to make sure information is easily available. Please do get in contact at any time with any concerns or queries you may have, we are there to help. We have been taking a different approach to writing across the school this year and some wonderful progress has been seen as a result. The children are thoroughly enjoying the work and we are now confident that they are building up to high standards ready for their next steps. I hope you have managed to see some writing at recent "Stay and ..." write sessions. Have a look on our class blogs for some fantastic examples. Also, selected from the Class Blogs is Chalkhill's natural paintbrush session check out the blogs.

We wish you a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back to begin our Summer term on Monday April 15th.



This term we are saying a fond farewell to the majestic and magnificent Mrs Dursley. Mrs Dursley has been with us for just two years but she has thrown herself into absolutely everything in school, from helping out with school performances to working on special projects and even getting back to nature at Leeson House. She has been a fantastic teaching assistant and has made a huge difference to those children who have been lucky enough to work with her. Although we will miss Mrs Dursley always brightening up our days with her amazing fashion creations, we wish her the best of luck as she takes the next step in the world of education! Mrs Dursley is taking what she has learnt here at Damers to work with older children at an outdoor education centre for children who find mainstream schooling challenging. Good luck Mrs Dursley and we will miss you!



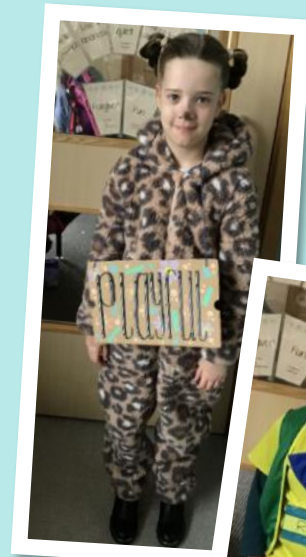
Reading ROCKS!

World Book Day



What a busy time we've had recently thinking about books, words and doing some extreme reading! We had a huge turn out for the World Book Day Book Bonanza and the PTA did an incredible job of organising the second hand book sale. 'Dress as a Word' day was a huge success with so many children showing off amazing vocabulary for their costumes.

Our competition winners for the 'Design a Book Cover' competition were revealed in Waterstones on World Book Day and stayed for the whole weekend. We hope you had a chance to see them!



Foundation

Patterns!

Foundation have loved exploring and representing patterns in their recent Maths learning. They have noticed patterns, continued patterns, spotted errors, created their own and thought about ways to record them.



Year 1

On their most recent Welly Walk Year 1 were excited to take part in Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean. The children walked around the Great Field and Poundbury picking up litter with their litter pickers making their community look tidy. The children made sure they had bags for rubbish and bags that had items that could be recycled. A huge thank you to Hillbrush in Mere, Wilshire who donated a litter picker to every child in Year 1 so they could go litter picking in their own time. They also donated 10 bin hoops to the school too so we could have our own on site litter picking kit.



Super Spotters

Year 2

This term we have loved learning all about the Great Fires of London and Dorchester. The children have produced some brilliant writing, beautiful artwork and become real historians as they've looked at different sources of evidence. We also loved our trip to Shire Hall, to find out about life in the 17th century and how Dorchester was also affected by a large fire, only a few years before the more famous fire in London.



Down at the pond the frog spawn has started to hatch out and we've seen our first tadpoles of the season. We have also made an exciting discovery and found caddisfly larvae who are a master of disguise.



Caddisfly larvae live underwater, where they make cases by spinning together stones, sand, leaves and twigs with a silk they secrete from glands around the mouth. Most larvae live in these shelters, which can either be fixed or transportable, though a few species are free-swimming and only construct shelters when they're ready to pupate.



Year 3

Roman Town House Visit

This half term, Year 3 has been learning all about the Romans and exploring what life would have been like during this period of time. We went to visit the Roman Town house in Dorchester and had a great time exploring. (One class even braved a rainy day to go down!). We were lucky enough to be there at the same time as one of the mosaic restorers who was cleaning the mosaics very carefully. It is amazing to think that this is the best preserved roman townhouse with mosaics in the country! What else will we discover about the Romans in Dorchester!

Adults can be found during the day on vegetation near to the water's edge, or flying in swarms over the water. Caddisflies are an important food source for all kinds of predators.

If you make any exciting discoveries, let us know at superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk

Year 4

We've been busy with our printing in Year 4! We've tested out different designs, paint and techniques to help us create a design inspired by some Indian designs such as lotus flowers and paisley leaves.



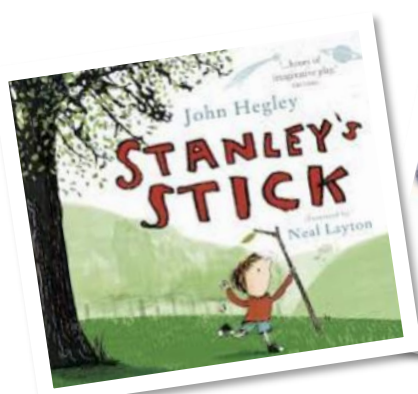
We also dazzled, wowed and impressed our grownups during an evening of Year 4 singing! We teamed up with some other local schools to work together on a series of powerful songs from the theatre and musicals. Thanks to everyone who supported the children to be able to perform at Thomas Hardy's theatre!

Base News

The Base have been thinking about Pets this half term. We have been sharing stories all about pets and thinking about how they help us and what we need to do to help them and care for them. We have particularly enjoyed this story about a Hospital Dog.



We have written our own stories about helpful pets which we will publish on our blog soon. We also really enjoyed World Book day where we dressed up as a word and celebrated by borrowing some books from the Base to share at home. Here are some of our favourite books we have enjoyed over the year.



News From the PTA

For World Book Day this year, the PTA held a Book Bonanza in the main hall on Thursday 7th March. This event was very well attended. Thank you to everyone for all of the donations of books, which were then sold on the day in various age categories. The cake sale was a sell out, again thank you to our baking team, they looked brilliant. There were various activities to also do around the hall including a scavenger hunt (to guess the book titles), and a lucky dip. The PTA teamed up with the school to exhibit the photographs from The Extreme Book Reading Challenge, as well as the incredible book cover entries from the children. The whole event raised an amazing £406.38.

We held our second Eco-Uniform shop at school on Thursday 14th March. This time was a grey uniform sale, which equalled the grey and rainy day, raising £80. These are all items of uniform which are donated to the school, which can then be sold on for donations. If you have any further donations of any uniform, we'd greatly appreciate them for future events.

The school Easter Bingo was held on Thursday 21st March, thank you for all of the donations of chocolate, in exchange for a non-uniform day. This event was a huge success and raised £886.80. A tombola was available to take part on the evening, as well as popcorn. Thank you to all who helped organise this event and to all who came along to support it.

The PTA have been talking to the school, trying to work out the best way to use the funds raised from various events held by the PTA, which best benefit all the pupils in our school. Our library has had a real boost with fabulous new books to appeal to all of our readers and broaden our reading experience. We have been delighted to purchase some iPads for SEND students to use, in order to replace some that were really on their last legs! We have been able to update our food tech resources supporting our volunteer cooks who run our D&T sessions in the kitchen. We have also been able to purchase some overdue playground resources (with more on the way!) so that pupils can enjoy some traditional games outdoors. As usual, we are helping to subsidise the costs of school trips which the students go on throughout the year.

Upcoming events...Save the Date

- Story Night 23rd May; Where the children can move around the school, listening to stories read by different teachers, with a break for hot chocolate.
- Sponsored Reading Challenge TBC
- School Summer Fayre 21st June



MATHS MANIA!

Even though it may not seem like it in the wake of all this stormy weather, spring is still breaking through and giving lots of different opportunities for maths learning! Why not try these ideas

- Measure things that grow and change in size, like plants.
- Find the lines of symmetry that are present in nature and the outdoors.
- Look for angles between the trunks of trees and the branches they send up, and between the leaves and twigs they are growing from.
- 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.



RE themes

Year 1 will be finding out about Shabbat and asking why it is important to Jewish children.

Year 2 will be investigating community and belonging and finding out if going to the Mosque helps Muslim children to feel they belong.

Year 3 will be looking at Hinduism and exploring how Brahman can be everywhere and in everything.

Year 4 will be studying Islam and finding out about Muslim prayers and how praying helps Muslims in their everyday life.

Jigsaw for next half term will be "Changing me"

Children will explore and find out how our body changes as we grow .

Songs Of the term

1 2 3

eco news

Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Awards

Damers Eco Crew had a meeting with Chris Peck, Head of Highways, Cllr Ray Bryan Executive for Highways, Travel and Environment, Jon Thompson, Sustrans, Richard Biggs, Dorset Council Councillor for Dorchester Poundbury, Dorset Council Stella Jones Dorchester East Councillor. The children spoke to them all about their Cycle Campaign and having a safe route/lane from Dorchester War Memorial to Damers First School. The children have had support from Sustrans and Dorchester Transport Action Group (DTAG) They explained that the lane would be used by other schools like Dorchester Middle Schools, St Osmunds and The Thomas Hardy School. It would be used by members of the public especially if they worked at County Hall and the Hospital, reduce short car journeys to the town, and improve air quality. Finally it would link up with a lot of existing routes making it more accessible to cycle around Dorchester safely. Chris has promised the children a timeline of when things will happen. There is potential that phase one of the route could be done in the next 2 years which goes from the War Memorial to Dorchester West Bridge. Chris has challenged the children to speak to as many community groups and residents as possible to get them on side so it can go to a public consultation.



Emma in Meadow 4 was delighted to receive the prize for the best scarecrow in the Dewflock Farm competition this year! See Emma's Damers-inspired design. The school received a voucher for £150 and Meadow 4 will be deciding what they would like to spend the money on for the school.

Please remember to input your Big Plastic Count data by Sunday 31st March using your classes unique link. Then we can calculate your classes' plastic footprint but also the schools. The date will go towards a report on single use plastic that will be presented to the government by Greenpeace and Everyday Plastics. There are eco prizes to be won for the most amount of children in a class that record their results.



*Dates for
your diary*

15th April	Start of term
6th May	Bank holiday
7th May	Year 3/4 Football Festival / Stay and sing Year 2
13th May	Stay and country dance Year 3
Mon 13th - Fri 17th May	Leeson House Year 4
Tue 14th May	Stay and den build Year 1
Thu 23rd May	Story night / Stay and look at leeson photos Year 4
Fri 24th May	Last day of term

Attendance matters!

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.45am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. Check out the handy NHS advice [Is my child too ill for school](#)
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit to see if we can help.

F - 95.1%

1 - 95.6%

2 - 94.9%

3 - 95.7%

4 - 95.4%