

Damers News



Scone Celebration

Last week Year 3 had an amazing day baking scones for our parents. We spent the morning mixing, stirring, rubbing and cutting and they all came out perfect.



Thank you to all the parents who attended our celebration and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did.



Dear Damers Families

Wow - where did that half term go?! I hope that you and your children have enjoyed an exciting start to the summer term, particularly the recent 'Stay and ...' sessions and year group events.

One of the highlights of this half term for me is always our Year 4 trip to Leeson House. This particular Year 4 cohort were exemplary ambassadors for our school and an absolute joy to spend this special time with. I know that through their walks, orienteering, pond dipping, camp fires and delicious dining experiences they will have created some magical memories that will stay with them for a lifetime. I'm just hoping that they will remember that Mr Rothman's spellbinding stories are fictional - particularly if they refer to Headteachers! As always I am incredibly grateful to our ever-patient, ever-smiling, organised, relentlessly good-humoured, kind and caring team who make this week so incredibly special for the children and for my final blissful nighttime walk to Dancing Ledge.

We will be starting next half term with Healthy Week and the whole school will be engaging enthusiastically in all things healthy. Our thanks go to Mrs Godfrey and Miss Baker who have ensured that there will be a range of favourite and new / alternative sporting experiences on offer across the school and to all staff and other professionals who will be donning their leg warmers and lycra to ensure that we all start each day with a dance, a smile and a spring in our step.

You will see later in the newsletter that our PTA are currently working hard behind the scenes, putting plans together for our Summer Fayre on the 23 June. This year, each class will be responsible for a stall and we thank you in advance if you are able to support your class's stall in any way. This may be in the planning, resourcing or running of the stall on the day. Please do let your class rep or the PTA know in advance if you are able to help.

After half term we will share with you our plans for September and who will be where but I did want to share with you the news of a very welcome addition to our teaching team, Mrs Lewis. Mrs Lewis is currently working alongside Mrs Keys in Grayling 1 but will join our team as a class teacher from September. We are all delighted to welcome Mrs Lewis into her new role and already know that she will make an incredibly valuable contribution to Team Damers.

I wish you and your families a relaxed half term, a chance to enjoy the outdoors and some long and happy days in the predicted warmth and sunshine.

Catherine Smith

Headteacher

Leeson House!

The time finally came after months of preparation, planning and excitement! We spent three glorious days at Leeson House and had unexpected sunshine! The children's highlights ranged from playing on the beach, organising their bedrooms, pond dipping, orienteering, bird watching, walking through the glorious meadows and listening to Mr. Rothman's interesting stories! The children all really made the most of every activity offered and had a wonderful time, making memories that will last for years to come.



MATHS MANIA!

Our school is full of children learning to count in different steps and learning their time tables. Memorising times tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. Moving beyond using their fingers to work out answers, they'll be able to use their knowledge to quickly solve any multiplication questions. Here are some fun ways to learn times tables.

- How far can we count in steps of 2 etc? (Play a game)
- Make up a song
- Play games eg. Roll two dice and multiply
- Look out for or make multiplication patterns
- Make a time table flower



PHSE and RE

We are excitedly looking forward to Healthy Week next half term and have lots of great activities planned! Also next half term we will be using the Changing Me unit and learning about how our bodies change as we grow. This unit includes sessions on sex education and we will be sending you more information about this after the holiday.

Discovery RE

This half term ...

Year 1 will be looking at Hanukkah and asking how this festival helps children feel closer to God.

Year 2 will be finding out about Hajj. Does completing this pilgrimage make someone a better Muslim.

Year 3 are learning more about Hindu life and looking at making a pilgrimage to the River Ganges and that this is very special to Hindu people.

Year 4 are asking how praying everyday helps Muslim people in their life.

Life Cycles

This half term Foundation have been exploring what lives outside our classroom. This has involved some hands-on work looking at both plants and animals. Seeds have been planted and watched carefully for signs of roots and shoots. These will be transplanted to our new garden area as soon as the beds are in place.

We have visited the pond and wildlife area where we were lucky enough to spot two stages of a life cycle: a frog and lots of big tadpoles. Again at the chicken coop we got hands on and the hens appreciated all the cuddles

after their flockdown. Another opportunity to think about cycles with chickens and eggs! As Max in Skipper put it so succinctly - "That's life: everything is a cycle. We are a cycle!"



Coronation Crown Winners

Well done to everyone who created a crown at home to celebrate the Coronation. School Council had a hard job picking the winners, but eventually decided on Elias, Tegen and Arina.



The winners all received a special packet of Coronation Wildflower seeds.

Super Spotters

Our Year 4s had a magical time at Leeson House spotting orchids, skylarks, deer, rabbits and even finding a robin who flew into one of the boys bedrooms! Whilst pond dipping there we found lots of amazing newts. Did you know that there are three species of newt native to the UK, and we found all of them at Leeson House. Here are some ways to help you identify the different types of newt ...

Smooth Newt

Look for the pale spotted throat.



- Size: Grows to around 10-11cm in length.
- Colour: Males brown/olive; females light brown. Belly is usually yellowy orange with black spots. The throat is pale with darker spots.
- Skin Texture: Smooth

Palmate Newt

Look for the pale throat without spots and a dark stripe through the eye



- Size: Grows to around 7-11cm; slightly smaller than the smooth newt.
- Colour: Males olive brown; females yellowish brown. The throat is white/pale pink and does not have spots or speckling. The eye has a dark stripe running horizontally through it.
- Skin Texture: Smooth

Great Crested Newt

Much larger than the smooth or palmate newt, the male has a large crest which is broken where the tail meets the body.



- Size: Up to 15cm in length. Females may be even larger than this.
- Colour: Dark brown or black with white/silver dots on sides. Underside is orange with black spots. Pale throat.
- Skin Texture: Warty

If you have any super spots email them to superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk.



Year 1 Welly Walk

Year 1 went on a welly walk around Poundbury looking at the different shapes and patterns in the buildings and landmarks. We also compared the buildings on Poundbury with London and found some similarities. These included Strathmore House that looks like Buckingham Palace, Duchess of Cornwall Pub looking like The Ritz and the arch way of the Royal Pavilion being like Marble Arch.



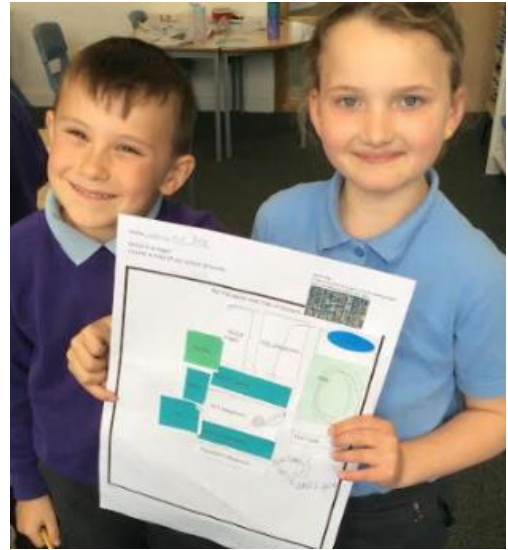
School Uniform for September

Please ensure you allow plenty of time for the delivery of school uniform orders with SchoolTrends over summer, ideally place your order by the end of June.

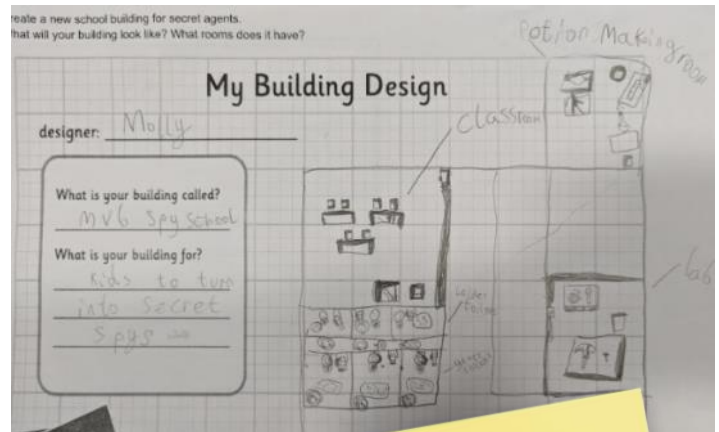
Details of our school uniform policy and a link to order directly with School Trends [can be found here](#). Alternatively please order through the school office as we currently have most items in stock.

Secret Agents

Year 2 have been incredibly busy. We've been learning about maps and creating one of our school grounds. We've added extra detail that we thought was appropriate and have worked carefully to create aerial views of our local area.



We've also been working extremely hard with our Secret Agent Training. We have created and designed a new Secret Agent school using our map skills, whilst creating a Secret Agent uniform and coming up with clever gadgets as well as completing some maths and reading challenges. Good job Secret Agents!



Just a gentle reminder to please complete an absence request form if your child will not be in school for any reason. Forms are available through the school office.

Turning Off

The Eco Crew have worked with Nick Morris, graphic designer to put together a turn off poster for the school to help children and staff turn everything off before they go home to help reduce electricity and also save the school money.

30 Days Wild

Take part in 30 Days Wild run by The Wildlife Trusts. It is an annual challenge where they ask everyone to do one wild thing a day throughout the month of June. Here is the link to sign up and access free activity ideas, a free bee poster and a packet of wildflower seeds too. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild>



News From the PTA

Keep your diaries free for the Summer Fair on **Friday 23rd June, 3.30-5.30**. This year we're asking for everyone to be involved, with each class responsible for a stall or activity. Please chat to your class teacher, or email damerspta@gmail.com to find out which stall you'll be helping to run.

A big thank you to everyone involved in our Coronation celebrations. Thankfully the sun came out and we were all able to enjoy a cake on the field - raising a huge £350 which has funded the upcoming healthy week activities. We'd like to extend an extra special thank you to Philippa Thorniley, a local resident who very kindly donated, along with the Poundbury Residents Association, the coronation badges that the children wore with such pride.

The latest Lucky Numbers winner was from Meadow Foundation - congratulations! If you'd like to be included in the next draw, email damerspta@gmail.com.



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
Mon 5th - Fri 9th June	Healthy Week
Mon 12th June	1:30 - 3:00pm - Year 4 Sports Day
Mon 19th June	Class photos
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 ...
Thurs 29th June	Year 2 Stay and ...
Fri 30th June	1:30 - 3:00pm - Foundation Sports Day
Wed 5th July	Year 1 Stay and ...
Fri 21st July	Last day of term



This Month We Have Been Singing ...

Sing for the King! We loved learning this song for the Coronation and the school choir did Damers proud singing it at the Dorchester Council's beacon lighting event.

[Sing for the King](#)

Our Value of the Month is:

