

Damers News



Goodbye to all our leavers!



Year 3 News

We had an amazing time on our trip to Lulworth Cove. We discovered different rock types on the beach that we have been learning about in Science, looked at how Stair Hole had been formed and did some fantastic field sketches. We all enjoyed our wonderful day out!



We are so pleased to announce that our Year 3 'Wear Green' day to raise money for the Rainforest Trust raised £127.70. Thank you all for your generous donations.



**RAINFOREST
TRUST**

Super Spotters

It's that time of year again where Damers is aflutter with butterflies down at the pond in the wild flower meadow. Butterflies are amazing creatures, did you know that ...

- Butterflies have four wings, not two as you may think.
- They can see colours that humans can't like ultraviolet.
- Butterflies need heat to be able to move. When you see them resting in the sunshine, they are warming up their wings so they can fly.
- They taste with their feet!
- Butterflies help pollinate plants and play a vital role in ecosystems. And the thing with ecosystems is that all animals and plants are connected - so if we want to live on a healthy planet we need to look after the butterflies - but also all the things above and below them in the food chain!



Chalkhill



Grayling



Meadow Brown



Large Skipper

If you are interested in butterflies you can take part in the Big Butterfly Count, you can find the details of how to take part in this newsletter

If you spot anything you think is super or interesting over the summer break email superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk

Have a wonderful summer break and good luck to all of our Year 4 Damers butterflies who are flying off to new pastures in September.





Forest School with Mrs P!

Year 2 have been having a lot of fun in Forest School with Mrs P!

She taught us how to make dens and we even whittled some magic wands out of wooden sticks! We had to work as a team to solve problems and keep on persevering even when our dens wobbled or fell down!



MATHS MANIA!

This Summer when you are enjoying a day out at the beach, don't forget to do some Maths!

Why not:

- Collect shells and count them one-by-one.
- Practise writing numbers or drawing shapes in the sand.
- Think about geometry and shape when you look at shells, sailboats or beach towels.
- Count the seconds in between waves crashing.
- Line up shells from smallest to largest or largest to smallest.
- Find pebbles that remind you of a shape.
- Find out what the weather will be like for the best day to go to the beach.
- Estimate how many people or stones in a certain area
- Make some multiplication arrays.



People Need Nature

Miles King, who through his charity People Need Nature has been developing the Poundbury Nature Project on the Great Field and elsewhere in Poundbury, is raising funds to help local people struggling with their mental health.

The Poundbury Nature for Wellbeing project is a pilot project, which will provide free nature-based activities on The Great Field, to improve the wellbeing and mental health of those who take part.

[This project has been selected to benefit from the Saving Our Wild Isles crowdfunder.](#) The project will help with the creation of the Damers School Wildflower Meadow on the Great Field, where this term children from Skipper 1, Meadow 1 and Grayling 1 sowed the wildflower seeds they collected from Poundbury Hillfort.

Reading ROCKS!

Illustration Collaboration



A small group of children from across Year 3 and 4 were chosen to take part in the DASP illustration collaboration event on Friday 30th June. The morning session was guided by Martin Brown, illustrator of the Horrible History books, who worked with children from schools across Dorchester to create some amazing pieces of illustration. The work will be displayed in the old Tui shopfront, opposite Boots, near White Stuff in Dorchester, so do have a look if you are in town.

News From the PTA

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Summer Fayre - together we raised an extraordinary £2925.60! Your contributions are so generous and we hope you had a fab afternoon.

Not only was a huge amount raised for the school, but the fayre was a shining example of true community spirit. Parents and helpers from every single class stepped forward to provide a stall or game - a huge team effort leading to loads more fun things for everyone to do. Thanks to Jonathon Austin for providing live music and a brilliant atmosphere, to the choir and Year 4's beautiful voices, Miss Baker's circus skills, Abbie Lawson's Pilates and Dorset Martial Arts entertaining us in the centre of the field. And thanks to our emergency services and tractors, we loved exploring your vehicles. Let's not forget our brilliant raffle - thank you to all the local businesses for your very generous prizes.

A shout out to our sponsors - thank you Zero C, we love our Eco Cups! The bouncy castle wouldn't have been possible without Rolls Landscaping's generous donation. Thank you to CB Reid Accounting for all our stall prizes, and to Dorchester Family Church for kindly lending us a BBQ.

Wishing you a brilliant summer!



We are the Champions!

Damers First School has become the Energy Sparks South West Regional and National Champions! We have won £1250 to go towards an energy saving improvement or sustainability project within the school. [Click here to see our page.](#)

Energy Sparks is an online, school-specific energy analysis tool, energy education programme. Schools score points by recording their activities to investigate their energy use, learning about energy, and taking energy saving actions around their school. Pupils worked on different activities and actions from September 2022 to June 2023 to reduce their energy consumption. By using this educational programme to analyse daily, weekly and monthly data they have reduced the schools energy consumption by 12% this academic year.

The key to Damers success was the children including as many people as possible in their sustainability activities, including governors, MAT trustees, kitchen staff, cleaners, lunchtime supervisors, our caretaker, parents and a local residents' group.

The children have run a Powerdown Day, sustainable travel days and worked closely with the caretaker, Mr Tims to action energy efficiency measures like changing heating times, temperatures and identifying inefficient lights that needed replacing.

Thanks to the DfE Energy Efficiency funding that all schools received at the end of last year, Damers has helped the boiler systems to work more efficiently saving the school at least 15%. All our lighting is now LED. More solar panels are being fitted to the school which will then generate 40% of the school's energy. Then some 'super sockets' will be installed combined with machine learning and software. This allows sockets to automatically identify devices plugged in, monitor their energy use, report real-time data and automatically turn devices on/off to avoid wasted energy. The sockets use a light to indicate if the energy is coming from the solar (green) or from the grid (red).



The Big Butterfly Count 14th July - 6th August

The Big Butterfly Count Starts 14th July and runs till 6th August. Find a sunny spot and count how many butterflies and moths you see in 15 minutes [using the ID chart](#). There is also a free app that can be downloaded too making it even easier. Then record your findings [on the website](#)



Thank you!

A huge thank you to Goulds Garden Centre in Weymouth who have donated 8 bags of multipurpose compost for the new raised beds in the Foundation outside area.

Spend 15 minutes in a sunny spot

Use this chart to note how many of each species you see



Small Tortoiseshell



Large White



Small White



Speckled Wood



Common Blue



Painted Lady



Comma



Holly Blue



Gatekeeper



Small Copper



Please note: Images not to scale. Males and females of some species vary and are not all illustrated on this chart. Please refer to the Big Butterfly Count app or website for more information on how to identify butterflies and moths correctly.

Submit your sightings at
www.bigbutterflycount.org

Or download our free app by scanning the QR code!



Peacock



Green Veined White



Red Admiral



Brimstone



Silver Y



Ringlet



Marbled White



Meadow Brown



Six-spot Burnet



Jersey Tiger

Club News

We hope your children have enjoyed the wide variety of after school clubs on offer this year. Huge thanks to the staff who go above and beyond to run these. We'll be in touch with a fresh menu of opportunities once the children have settled into their new classrooms and routines. Meanwhile, here are some beautiful swans made from paper plates by this term's craft club.



Back to
school Friday
1st Sept



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:

[Lean on Me](#)

Whizz Bang!

Year 1 had a fantastic time at the Thomas Hardy School going on a space mission!

They found out which planets samples had come from, looked at how rockets were powered, made slime, made our own popping rockets and found out how much energy is in a jelly baby!

What an exciting morning we all had. The staff from the Thomas Hardy School were out of this world!



Foundation Sports Day

Despite the rainy and windy conditions, Foundation had a great time at sports day! Everyone showed great team spirit and tried their best in each race. Special thanks to all the families for coming along to cheer them on!



GOVERNOR NEWS



with
Sophie Duke

After 10 incredible years, the time has finally come for Mrs Smith to close her chapter in the Damers story.

The journey she has taken Damers on has been nothing short of extraordinary - 1 school move, a global

pandemic, royal visits, 5 chickens, countless awards and accolades and approximately 1000 children who have sung, skipped, learnt and laughed with her over the years.

Her compassion, unwavering commitment to inclusion and her relentless drive to ensure that every child reaches their potential will leave an indelible mark on Damers' legacy.

Mrs Smith set the benchmark high from the outset and her achievements will be remembered for a long time, as a school we are deeply grateful for her tireless efforts and her heartfelt dedication - she will be greatly missed but we know that there will always be a special place for her in the very big heart of Damers.

We wish her all the best for her future role and hope that she enjoys many more sunny days in her garden.

We want to say a HUGE thank you to all our volunteers who have supported our children in various ways over the past academic year. We would be lost without you!



We are Scientists!

Damers has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark for the second time! Damers children, teachers and parents have shown that science is an important and valued part of our school life. Science teaching and learning is always improving and developing, children are enthusiastic about science and it is connected to our wider curriculum, outdoor learning, trips and visitors and the wider world. Thank you to all parents, children and teachers who have helped to make science special at Damers. We are really proud to still be 'Quality' at science.



Happy Summer Holidays!

