

Damers News



July
2024



Welcome

We introduce to you, Mrs Pratt, who will be joining us in September as a Year 1 teacher. We hope you enjoy your new job!



Important timings for Autumn term

Drop off and collection:
Year 1, 2 and 4 at the Lych Gate

Year 3 and Chalkhill 2 at Liscombe Street gate

	Drop off	Collect
Grayling -	8.30	3.00
Meadow -	8.40	3.10
Skipper -	8.50	3.20
Chalkhill	8.50	3.20

Your child's teacher will be there to meet each class every day. Please continue to line up to help the children's arrival to school as smooth as possible.

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of Summer term always means that we say Goodbye to our Year 4s. I can honestly say that they have been an absolute pleasure to get to know over the short time I have been here and are a real credit to their families. A highlight was watching them perform in the Year 4 production of Sinbad - a tribute to their confidence and budding talents. It takes guts to stand on that stage and be so amazing - I have no doubt you will have spotted our next West End stars! They have truly shown the Damers values when learning and at play and are great role models for the younger children who will be stepping into their shoes in the future. I wish them the best of luck and send the warmest wishes from us all as they embark on their next journey to middle school. We look forward to hearing of their next adventures very soon.

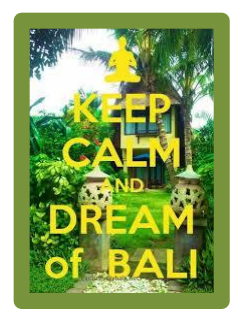
Thank you so much for your continued support over the year, we would not be the school we are without our fantastic families. I hope you have a wonderful summer break, that the sun shines and you get to enjoy precious time together.

We look forward to seeing you on 3rd September.

With warm wishes

Mrs Louise
Greenham
Head of School





We are very sad to say that our Eco Supremo and Year 1 teacher Mr Moore will be leaving us at the end of the academic year.

He has been a valued member of our team for 12 years and has made Damers a name to know in the eco community. He has won awards personally and with the school for outstanding eco work and contributions. Teacher of the Year - Radio Star- Passionate Eco warrior. He has put Damers on the map as far as Eco status is concerned, and is so well known in this field, never taking no for an answer, and making the change needed for the environment.

To list just a few of his achievements:

Green Flag for schools

Dorset Refill, getting businesses in Poundbury and Dorchester to support this

Ridan Composter

Winning ' The Fiver Challenge' 'Waxtastic no Plastic' 'Garden Grenades' and 'Spick and Span'

Boomerang Bags

Working with Delphis Eco on cleaning products, which resulted in a trip to the House of Commons and Tea at Clarence House

Encouraging so many children to gain their 'Green' Blue Peter Badge and the driving force for Damers Meadow on the Great Field. He will leave a lasting legacy. He has been such an inspiration to pupils and colleagues and has certainly embedded our need to care for each other and our environment in our everyday values and practice.

His legacy will live on through our curriculum, school grounds and local community for many years to come.

It is not surprising that Mr Moore is undertaking his next adventure in life further afield. He is bringing his magic to the lives of children from across the world in Bali, Indonesia. His challenge is to innovate their learning community and ignite the excitement and passion of children to make a difference to our world.

Bon Voyage Mr Moore. We have learned so much from you and we wish you much luck and happiness in your new role. Good Luck in your new adventure. You will be sorely missed Mr Moore.

GOODBYE!

Message from Mr Moore – “Thank you for all your support with our sustainability work over the last 12 years. It has been phenomenal but now it is up to you all to take the environmental work forwards. I hope you all have a great summer!”

It is with a heavy heart we are bidding farewell to our very own National Treasure Sandra Scott.

Sandra joined us in 2001 and worked her magic to support the lives and successes of our very youngest children in Foundation. Many of whom she is still sharing her words of wisdom with as they drop off their own children now at the Damers' gates.

In addition to this Sandra was seen in her happy place teaching 1000s of our water babies to swim, face their fears and become confident, independent swimmers.

Over the years Damers have been so fortunate to have had the support of parents who worked creatively and tirelessly to raise funds for our Damers children. Every penny enhancing the experiences and education of our young people. At most events, activities, sponsorships you would see the smiling Mrs Scott modelling her PTA t- shirt persuading you all to part with those precious pounds to support our children.

What we all love about Damers is that we have a diverse, happy, colourful and vibrant community. However, we all experience tricky times in our lives for a whole host of reasons.

We consider our school to be the lucky one as we have all benefitted from the love, support, friendship, experience and advice of our Mrs Scott.

To so many of us she has been our rock, friend, mother, grandmother, counsellor, fighter, advocate and colleague.

The time has come for her to sprinkle her Scottie sparkle on some other lucky families.

One thing is for sure. Her Damers family will always hold a very special place in her heart and she will in ours.

Thank you Mrs Scott - all of your Damers family will miss you .

*Message from Mrs Scott - “Just wanted to say a big Thanks to you all for the lovely gifts and kind words. I hope you all have a lovely summer with some well earned rest. You are amazing!”
Much love”*



Foundation

Foundation had a fantastic time at Thomas Hardy School learning about different experiments. We saw fire change colour, heard bangs and whooshes, smelt smoke, made slime and so much more! The children walked so sensibly to and from Hardyes and we were super lucky with the weather. The children looked so grown up in their safety goggles, sat on the high stools...like many of them will be doing in 10 years time! Thank you to Hardyes for inviting us and thank you to our family helpers



Year 1

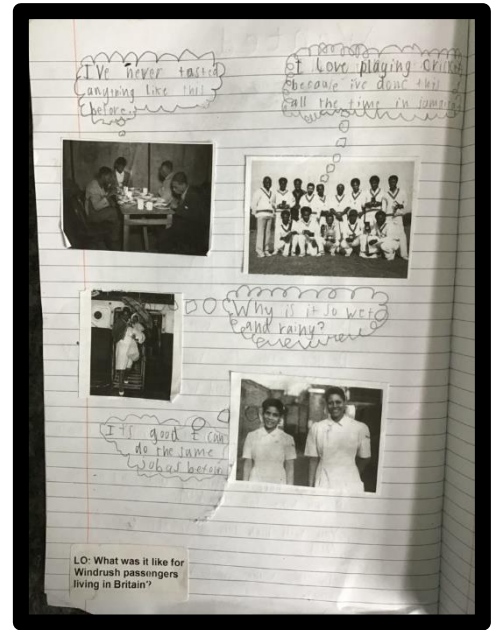
This half term Year 1 have enjoyed learning about plants. We have been growing beans in science and have watched them grow. In Art we have studied Vincent Van Gogh and were inspired to paint our own sunflower pictures. We also created our own Mandalas using natural materials that we found around the school grounds.



Year 2

Migration

Year 2 has loved learning all about migration and special journeys this term. We've learned about incredible animals, such as swallows and monarch butterflies, that travel thousands of miles each year across the globe and enjoyed a workshop from the Dorset Heaths Partnership about some of these animals. We've learned about the Hajj and why this pilgrimage is so special to Muslims. Finally, we've learned all about the Windrush Generation and their experiences of moving to and living in Britain.



Year 3



What an incredible visit we had to Lulworth to experience our Jurassic Coast topic first hand. We were so lucky that the weather was beautiful so we

got to enjoy Lulworth Cove in all her glory!

We had lots of activities to complete whilst we were there, which linked to our Geography work and Science topic. We identified types of rocks found on the beaches, looked at the human and physical features of the coast line and plotted our location on a map alongside the key features of the area. It was a brilliant day out! Thank you to the huge number of grown-ups who came to support us, we hope you all enjoyed the day as much as we did!



Year 4

Year 4 have worked incredibly hard this term on their amazing production of Sinbad! The children write their own scripts, help to make up their own dances and practise, practise, practise! They were completely amazing on stage and lots of people have commented on how happy they all looked when they were performing. Every single child made their families feel very proud, and everyone here at school too. You were all super stars!



Base News

Some of us have been looking at how we turn and the different turns we can make. Here we are doing quarter and half turns.



READING ROCKS

Dorchester Library - Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is all about creativity. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone. Children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite creative arts, and access free activities at the library.

Join at any Dorset, or Community Managed Library from Saturday 6 July until Saturday 14 September.

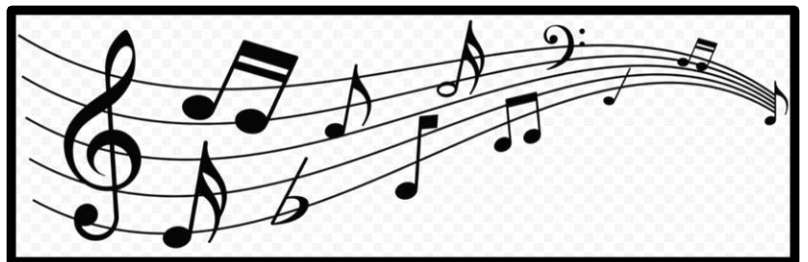
Get your free fold out poster and go on to collect six Marvellous Makers stickers as you read or listen to library books of your choice. Complete the Challenge to receive a certificate and medal. Keep an eye open for special Marvellous Makers events and activities at a library near you.



Songs of the Term

This term we have been singing:

[A Better Me](#)



Super Spotters

Damers has had an amazing few weeks of butterfly and moth spotting.

This beautiful Puss Moth was spotted outside of the Grayling 3 classroom and the caterpillar is just as amazing as its name. These caterpillars were spotted a few years ago chomping on the willow tunnel down by the pond, it's one of their favourite foods.



An Eyed Hawk-Moth was spotted on the playground and you can see how it got its name. These moths like hanging out in gardens, orchards and places where willows grow, so I'd say Damers has the perfect mix of habitats for these beautiful creatures.

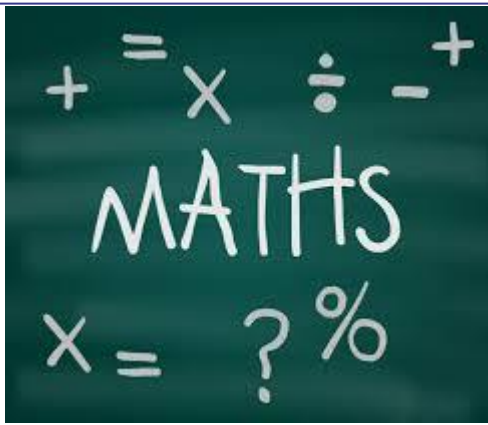


An eagle-eyed child in Year 1 made an amazing discovery on the music room door, a chrysalis of a Large White butterfly. The diversity of habitats within the Damers site have come up trumps as these butterflies love gardens with brassicas and this chrysalis is metres away from the school garden where kale and cabbages are growing.



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.



Creating positive memories of doing maths together as a family is an important step in building a confident, can-do attitude towards maths. Here are some ideas you can do over the summer holiday:

- Collect shells and sort them into different groups eg. shape, colour etc
- Create a scavenger hunt when going on a journey eg. find a number 5, a diagonal line etc
- Buy an ice-cream with the correct amount of money.
- Collect pebbles and make shapes on the beach.
- Make a sundial to tell the time
- Go on an angle hunt



Autumn Term RE

Year 1 will be looking at the Creation story in the Bible and asking if God wants Christians to look after the world.

Year 2 Will be finding out about what Jesus taught people and asking if its possible to be kind all the time.

Year 3 Will be finding out about the Hindu celebration of Diwali and asking if the celebration helps Hindu people to feel a sense of belonging to their community.

Year 4 Are looking at the Jewish religion and asking about the special relationship Jewish people have with God.

Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be

"Being me in my World."

Children will explore and find out how our body changes as we grow. Please see what we teach in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic lessons: [PSHE lessons](#)



Eco News

Dorchester Transport Action Group Conference

Damers Eco Crew gave a presentation to a room full of people from Dorchester and Dorset Councillors and members of the public about their Dorchester to Poundbury Cycle route/lane campaign. The audience asked the children questions about their preferred route and views on active travel around Dorchester. This was all part of the next stage in getting members of the community on board so their plans could go to public consultation so at least Phase 1 work could be started. This would be from Dorchester memorial, outside of Coffee 1 to Dorchester West Train Station Bridge.



Damers' Nature Information Board

The Damers' Information Board was put together by Skipper 2 children who last year took part in a National project run by The Harmony Project supported by the Aurora Trust for school to put together a project that would encourage children out into nature. The children learned the names of wildflowers and trees in the school grounds documenting these in a nature journal of their own using pictures and writing. The children went on a nature walk with Miles King from People Need nature picking seeds from wildflowers that were sown on a bare piece of land on the Great Field Poundbury. The land became a beautiful wildflower meadow in August. The children gave teachers, children, CPRE Dorset, Dorset Gardens Trust tours of the school grounds sharing their knowledge of wildflowers.

The children then wanted to share their knowledge in the community and came up with the idea of having a Nature Information Board in the area they had rewilded and named Damers' Meadow. The children worked with Nick Morris Wallis Agency to design and put the nature board together that has a QR code with identification sheets and apps. Swift Signs in Weymouth made the solid oak Nature Board.

The Nature Information Board was unveiled by Dorchester Town Mayor Robin Potter in front of organisations, businesses, Dorchester and Dorset Councillors, Damers Staff, children and parents. The Board has been dedicated to Jane Goodall's 90th Birthday.

A huge thank you to the organisations who contributed to the board include: Dorset Gardens Trust, CPRE Dorset, Poundbury Community Trust, Mansel Pleydell Trust, Poundbury Rotary, Pengillys Solicitors in Poundbury, Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Programme. Thank you also to Morrish Homes for installing the board on the Great Field too.



Damers First School came second in the Energy Sparks South West Schools Scoreboard Competition. We also came forth Nationally overall. The School has won £750 to go towards energy saving devices or a sustainability project within the school. The school had to complete many different energy saving projects and challenges throughout the year which included implementing timers on projectors, turning the temperature down when the heating was on. Making sure everything was turned off during the school holidays.

Having the extra array of 40 solar panels on the roof has certainly helped the school reduce its energy consumption by 20% this year compared to 10% last year. The school has saved £2000 this year on their energy.



Damers First School have been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction. The whole school has contributed through the work they have done in their classrooms as part of the Harmony Curriculum. Projects have included learning about Amazon Rainforest and deforestation, our oceans and the environment affects, animals in Indian, rewilding an area of the great Field with a Nature Information Board, natural art sculptures and the Dorchester to Poundbury Cycle route campaign.

Healthy Week

The sun was shining and everyone had a fantastic time trying out new sports, creating healthy snacks, keeping our bodies and minds active!

We want to say a massive thank you to all the staff and the following organisations for making the week extra special...



1 bikeability
2 bikeability
3 bikeability

FREE!

St Osmunds Sports Centre
 Monday 12 August: 11am-1pm
 Level 1 for Year 5+
 Includes riders starting Year 5 in September

Tuesday 13 August: 9am-midday
 Level 2 for Year 5+
 Includes riders starting Year 5 in September
 who have completed Level 1

Level 3 for Year 6+: dates by arrangement
 For riders who have completed Level 2

Certified instructor Holly Harris 1st4sport

For booking or more information:
 07942 387717
dorsetsafecycling@gmail.com

www.bikeability.org.uk

Tesco Blue Tokens

From now until the beginning of September, we are one of the fundraising options at Tesco Dorchester.

'We would like to build an outdoor sensory garden and gym for our children to enjoy and support their amazing learning.'

Next time you shop in Tesco, please think of us. Thank You.

Message from the PTA:

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2024 Summer Fayre! What an amazing turn out, with so many families coming together to support our school community. Thank you to all the classes who put in such a lot of time and effort into organising their stalls, they were all so brilliant and provided a huge range of activities (and delicious food!). We hope you managed to get a turn at one of the bubble workshops, provided with support from Zero C, and at a Relax Kids yoga session. Our talented performers deserve a special mention too... our fabulous Damers Choir, dance performances from The Studio, martial arts display from ForFit Fitness and thanks also to Joggan and AI for getting us all up and dancing with their fabulous live music. Congratulations to all our raffle winners, and to the local businesses who generously donated some really great prizes. We saw so many happy faces on the day, and we hope to use the £4000 raised to bring some more smiles to children's faces in the near future.

If you were one of our lucky raffle winners and have not yet collected your prize, please head to the School Office with your email confirmation.

A very big thank you from Damers goes to the following for donating to the Year 4 leavers BBQ:

Brace of Butchers Poundbury for supplying the burgers and sausages and for the use of their BBQ

Natalie community Dorchester at Tesco Dorchester for their donation of the bread rolls

D K Eastment plant hire Ltd for their monetary donation

Eastment Windows for their monetary donations

Stockley Builders Ltd for their monetary donation.

And the year 4 parents, Sophie, Anna, Lauren, Pippa, Alice, Dan and Ben for their help in organising this event.

Dates so far...

*Dates for
your diary*

Monday 2nd September - Inset day

Tuesday 3rd September - Start of Term (children in school)

Monday 16th Sept - Y4 Meet and Greet

Tuesday 17th Sept - Y2 Meet and Greet

Wednesday 18th Sept - Y3 Meet and Greet

Thursday 19th Sept - Y1 Meet and Greet

Wednesday 25th Sept - FS Meet and Greet

Thursday 24th Oct - Inset day

Friday 25th Oct - Inset day