

Damers News

February
2025



Our Newsletter wouldn't be the same without some superheroes! Foundation class photos say it all with their Superhero Obstacle course they designed themselves. A chance to be outside and enjoy our gardens and challenge themselves as part of our EYFS curriculum. They came up with stepping over obstacles whilst carrying something and balancing something else on their heads as they moved! It was great fun and the learning - incalculable.



Thank you for supporting our Number Day. We had some fantastic representations of number. One of my personal favourites: a simple set of "deely-boppers" with a dice placed on the band in the middle - brilliant! We raised £267.10 This month we ran our first parent workshops on how to help support your child's maths learning. Thanks all for attending, it was a chance to see how children learn now and gain a deeper understanding of how Maths really works. Lots of you agreed, it was different to how it was taught in the past and perhaps felt it wasn't a subject you liked - we want to make sure that our pupils really love maths!

Thank you for your fantastic support with our Year 3 Eco poster designs as part of our Eco Top Ten topics towards our Green Flag Status this year - they were such high quality!



We are always trying to improve how we work with parents through our Stay and... sessions, parent evenings, phonics, Maths, SRE and Digital Skills workshops and "Let's talk about SEND" afternoons. Please let us know how we can help you more - email office@damers.dorset.sch.uk.

Finally, you will know that we had our long awaited Ofsted Visit just this week. Thank you so much for your support, it is truly appreciated. The inspector really enjoyed visiting our lovely school and had a very positive visit. The report will be out after half term and I will be delighted to share it with you all then.

Warmest wishes for a lovely half term
Louise Greenham
Head of School

NEW STAFF

Welcome Mrs Williamson

Mrs Williamson has joined our Foundation Team
The children all look forward to working with you.
Welcome to the 'Damers Family'



Welcome Mr Dennis-Andrews (Mr DA to the children)

You will notice a new face in the office, Mr Dennis- Andrews has joined the team. His role will be to focus on Attendance, so any Absence /Attendance queries, Leave of Absence Requests will be monitored by him.

Mr DA will continue to be a class Teaching Assistant part time, so the children will still see him.

Welcome to the Damers Office



Spring

FOUNDATION

The Foundation classes have started the new term by looking at the story book 'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson.

This has really captured the children's imaginations and they have enjoyed learning a little more about China and the Lunar New Year. During independent learning time we have seen some super Duplo models of pagodas and The Great Wall of China as well as blossom printing with bottles and making snakes from paper and playdough. The literacy learning culminated in the children making up their own versions of the story and having a Chinese celebration with moon biscuits, lanterns and music.



YEAR 1



This half term, the Year 1 children have been exploring the question "How can we make our oceans stay amazing?"

We have observed the different textures, patterns and colours found under the sea and used a variety of techniques including printing and painting to create our own colourful collages.

In geography, we have used atlases and globes to locate the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world and learnt about their similarities and differences.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have loved learning all about living things and their habitats. We discovered some mysterious animal footprints and have learned all about the dodo and why it became extinct and how we can help protect the habitats of animals living today, such as the polar bear and orangutan.

We enjoyed a welly walk to the Transition Town community farm where we looked at different habitats and identified the living things that lived there. These included geese, chickens and winter cabbages.



YEAR 3



An archaeological dig!
This half term Year 3 has been finding out about the Romans!
We started our new topic by exploring what it was all about with a very exciting dig. We found pottery, cloth and some old maps of Italy and paintings of volcanoes. We started to think about what the different exhibits and artefacts might mean and how they link to our new book... Escape from Pompeii.

MAURITIUS



Have you ever heard of the dodo birds? They are fluffy, medium birds that live on the island of Mauritius. These birds could not fly because they were called flightless.

Appearance They were larger birds with grey feathers and a long tail. They had a hooked beak with an orange tip. Their wings were small and stubby.

Diet The dodo bird ate softish nuts and fruit.

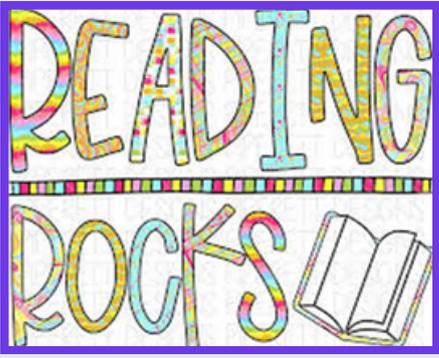
Habitat They lived in green leafy forest and built nests on the ground.

Did you know? Settlers came with their animals and ate the same food as the dodo therefore there was not enough food for all of them. Did you know? Dodos were easy prey because they were curious birds.

DODO



Year 2 have been using the book 'The Journey Home' as our writing inspiration. We have found out all about the dodo and written some fact files about these unusual birds. We have considered other animals that face extinction and begun to write some persuasive posters to encourage people to care for these species.



We want to turn our beautiful Shepherd's Hut into a reading den and quiet space for the children to use at break and lunch times. Do you have any of the following that could be donated to the space?

- Blankets and cushions
- Quality books suitable for years 2-4
- Baskets for storage
- Clean small soft toys, for children to cuddle while they're reading
- Unused packets of crayons and pens
- Unused notebooks and colouring books

Please bring any donations to the school office for the attention of Mrs Hardisty, who is working on this project with the School Council.



Now that the Foundation have covered numbers 0-10 we have moved on to exploring strategies to support our early addition and subtraction skills. The children are now super whizzy at using number lines and ten-frames to support their learning. We will continue to use these skills now to solve simple number problems.



If you would like to support your child in their early addition skills please have a look at the link below. I'm sure your child will surprise you with their mathematical knowledge!

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/addition/addition-to-10>



We really enjoyed having parent visitors come and talk to us about daily prayer for Muslims in Year 2 as part of their RE learning about the 5 pillars of Islam.



Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be "Relationships"

Children will learn how to build positive, healthy relationships

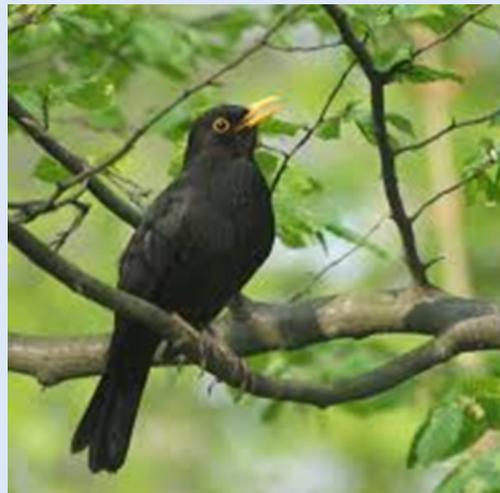
Please see what we teach in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic lessons: [PSHE lessons](#)



Super Spotters

Spring

Hopefully, in between the stormy weather, some of you took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch the other week. The Nature Club groups took part in the Big School Birdwatch. As well as seeing some beautiful birds up close from the bird hide it was also amazing to take a moment to sit quietly and tune into the sights and sounds of the birds that visit our school site. In a short space of time we spotted gulls, wagtails, crows, sparrows, blackbirds, wood pigeons, magpies, blue tits and our resident robin. Spot of the week was a male blackbird that landed right by one of the open windows as it couldn't see or hear us, magic stuff.



We have been looking for signs of spring and are keeping a close eye on the pond for the frogs to return and start releasing their eggs. It has definitely been colder this winter than previous years as we usually have frog spawn by now. With any luck spring will start springing into action soon.

If you want to share what birds you've spotted email
superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk



Meet our Eco Team for 2024/25! They have got to work straight away, discussing what is worrying us most about our environment and coming up with some exciting projects.



We have been very busy compiling questions for local supermarkets about single use plastic and are meeting them after half term. What is their sustainability policy and does it go far enough? What are they doing to reduce the low cost single use plastic products (especially lunch box items!)? Why is it so easy to buy single use plastic and why is it encouraged? We will see...

Our poster designs have gone off to Nick at Wallis Design and we will be visiting the studio in March to see how the poster will be made so we can share it around school.

The Eco Team is very keen to reduce our energy costs and use in school. They have been off on "missions" on Monday afternoons, checking that teachers aren't using unnecessary lighting and switching off charging stations for their Ipads and Chromebooks overnight. They have put red and green spots onto switches in classrooms - an effective way of instantly reminding everyone about how energy can be halved with a simple flick of a switch! Watch out at home...

Currently, we are 9th in our Energy Sparks rating out of 173 Southwest schools taking part. This is because of the proactive work we are doing as well as our work towards reducing our energy use overall this year. Well done Eco Team members but we have more work to do!



PTA NEWS

PTA Pledges & Funding:

Damers PTA is pleased to share that we have now donated an incredible £2000 towards the zoning of the year one playground area. We hope that this will enable the children to use the playground in new and imaginative ways and will support their outdoor learning and experiences. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting us and making it all possible through your kind donations.

We have continued to support school trips with a £5 donation per head. The PTA body has also recently pledged to fund the school gardeners with a monthly donation.

Thank you all for your kind uniform donations, they are very gratefully received. You can donate any good quality second hand uniform via the school office or clothes bins in the main corridor. It was great to see so many of you at the PTA second hand uniform sale on Thursday 13th February.

We are busy planning and preparing our upcoming events which include World Book Day and Easter Bingo!

How can I help to support Damers?

It's simple. Volunteer at one of our events! Or...Feeling lucky? Damers Lucky Numbers is running again this year, if you would like the chance to win big each month, please email damerspta@gmail.com. We will provide you with all of the details you need to sign up. It is £2 a month to enter and all money raised is split 50/50 between the winner and Damers PTA.

You can also help us on our 'easyfundraising' page. Thanks to our current supporters Damers First School has raised over £780. All you have to do is sign up and a percentage of what you spend is donated by the retailer and no cost to you! Click on the link to sign up and help us!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/damersfirstpta/1id47j/s2s/FZ9Up2Ac/SE870/whatsapp>

If you would like to be involved in the PTA please drop us an email at damerspta@gmail.com or pop along to our next meeting on Tuesday 18th March from 6-8pm.

Upcoming PTA events:

6th March- World Book Day

14th March - Home Clothes for Chocolate Donations

18th March- PTA meeting 6-8pm

27th March- Easter Bingo

9th May- Damers Quiz Night

**EXTRA!
EXTRA!**

junior parkrun

What is The Great Field junior parkrun?

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds).

When is it?

It is held every Sunday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at The Great Field, St John Way, Dorchester, DT1 2FD.

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! But please register before you first come along. You only need to register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode. If you forget it, you won't get a time.

How fast do I have to be?

The aim is to have fun. Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

The Great Field Junior Parkrun needs you!

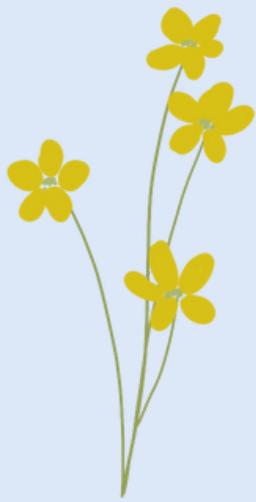
It is entirely organised by volunteers - email thegreatfieldjuniors@parkrun.com to help.

Safeguarding

Parkrun is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. For our full safeguarding processes and policies, including how to report a concern, please see our Safeguarding Hub.

We're friendly!

Every week we grab a post parkrun coffee at PiP (Pavilion in the Park) which opens at 9:30 - please come and join us!

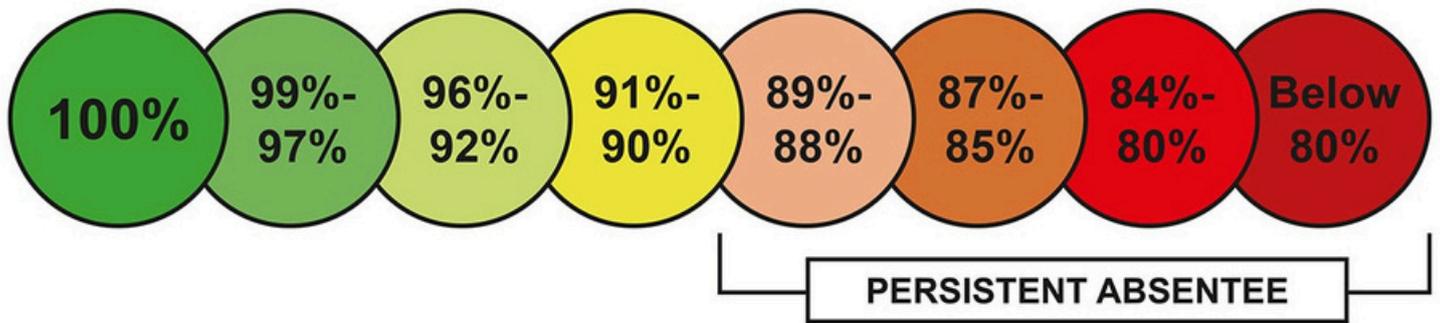


Have a look and follow our Instagram and Facebook pages!

Coming very soon - a new translate button for the website to help with the many languages of our Damers families.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

And remember: if your child is away, they may miss vital learning that may not be revisited - try to book holidays in holiday time if you can!

Here are the term dates to check

Year Foundation
95.1%

Year One
95.1%

Year Two
96.6%

Year Three
93.9%

Year Four
95.6%

GOVERNORS

The Damers community is the heart of our school, and as Governors we want to ensure all families feel welcomed, included, and respected. On school visits we have seen how diversity is celebrated through our broad curriculum, representing Britain's multicultural society, the achievements of people of all backgrounds, and a range of cultures and histories. Assemblies and events embrace our differences and similarities, for example highlighting Black History Month, religious celebrations, and values of kindness, respect, and tolerance. There are 17 languages spoken in the school, and some of our multilingual families shared their favourite stories with classes last year. The books in our Heart Space have been selected so that all children can find themselves represented, and to open a window into other lives and perspectives. We hope some of you have found drop-in sessions and coffee mornings useful and supportive ways to share in your child's learning. Governors often attend these events and welcome you coming to talk to us. Equally, we have been grateful for your opinions and feedback sought through parent questionnaires, which help shape and improve your child's school experience.

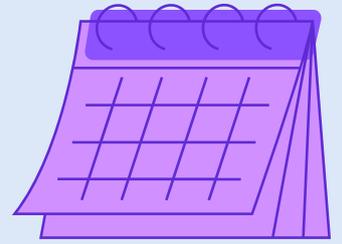
"The governing board plays a crucial role in shaping the direction of the school, and we recognise the importance of ensuring that our board reflects the diverse community we serve. To strengthen our commitment to inclusivity, we are keen to improve the diversity of our own team. If you are passionate about education and want to contribute to the success of our school, we would love to hear from you. We welcome expressions of interest from individuals of all backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives".

Please feel free to email the school office with 'FAO Governors' as the subject.

Jonathan Dunne
Chair of Governors



Upcoming Dates



- Friday 14th February - Last Day of Term
- Monday 24th February - First Day Back at School
- Monday 3rd March - M1 Sea Life Centre
- Tuesday 4th March - S1 Sea Life Centre
- Thursday 6th March - G1 Sea Life Centre
- Thursday 6th March - World Book Day
- Wednesday 12th March - Foundation Stay and ...
- Thursday 13th March - Year 1 Stay and ...
- Friday 14th March - Non-school uniform for Easter donations
- Monday 24th March - Year 2 Stay and ...
- March 24 – April 4 - Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event
- Thursday 27th March - Year 4 Stay and ...
- Thursday 27th March - Easter Bingo
- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd April - Year 3 Production
- Friday 4th April - Last Day of Term
- Wednesday 23rd April - First Day Back at School

Have a lovely half term!