

Damers News

April 2025



School has been bursting with creativity as always this term. We have loved seeing all the song, dance, art, D&T and all the learning that makes Damers what it is. I really enjoyed seeing our strand sharing assemblies which saw firework dances, art work and even some “BBC newsreaders” to share scientific facts about octopuses! Our Year 4s sang beautifully at the Wessex Singing Festival and represented our school so confidently - we are very proud of you!



Year 3 families will now have had the chance to see the year group production of Wizard of Oz. The children have been amazing learning their lines, songs and dance routines - we really do have some stars in the making! I am always astounded at the children’s confidence and never underestimate the value that these events hold - well done Year 3 team and a huge thank you to families for your incredible help with scenery and costumes. What a wonderful performance!



Wishing you all a wonderful, restful and hopefully warm and sunny Easter break,
Warmest wishes from
Mrs Greenham
Head of School



FOUNDATION

Foundation have been revisiting work on seasons as we move into spring. We have been noticing changes around the grounds such as trees coming into bud and in particular the flowering of the daffodils in our outdoor area. Over the coming weeks children will be learning more about how to look after plants. We have started by getting tomato seeds underway on our classroom window sills. Other seeds will be sown soon including the sunflower seeds the children collected themselves from the dead flowers in the autumn. This is a great opportunity for them to experience the full cycle of the life of a plant. Children learn a lot from gardening and not just about plants: where our food comes from and the physical skills of digging and planting are just as important. If you are gardening over Easter and have any surplus seeds or plants at home please do send them in next term.



YEAR 1



Year 1 had a fabulous trip to The Sea Life Centre in Weymouth. It was brilliant to see all the amazing sea creatures that we have been studying this term - especially the octopus!

We also welcomed Oly Rush into school from Project Planet Earth. He spoke to us about the impact of rubbish littering our beaches and how plastic can be devastating to wildlife. He spoke to the children about what they can do to help and invited them join him on a beach clean at Ringstead Bay.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have loved learning all about the Great Fire of London. We were lucky enough to visit the Poundbury Fire Station and watch the hoses in action! We created our own fire engines in DT, learning all about wheels and axles. The children have also produced some brilliant writing inspired all their history learning.



YEAR 3



This half term, Year 3 have worked extraordinarily hard on their production of the Wizard of Oz. Not only have we been busy learning lines and class dances, but we've also been creating some beautiful Wizard of Oz-inspired artwork based on the work of artist Radosveta Zhelyazkova. We are so proud of all the children and really hope you enjoyed the production as much as we did.



YEAR 4

Year 4 have had an extremely busy couple of weeks performing in the Wessex Mat Year 4 singing concert, the strand sharings and creating their A2 size posters about India and the book "When the Mountains Roared," by Jess Butterworth. Throughout the concert and the rehearsals, their singing was brilliant, their manners and behaviour impeccable and everyone stood proudly, singing their hearts out in our school uniform. Well done Year 4 we were all immensely proud of you.

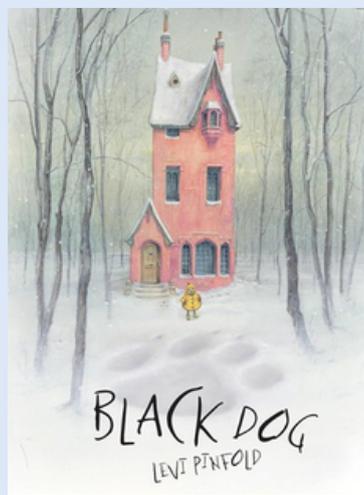


BASE NEWS

We have had a great half term learning all about stories from Kenya and Tanzania. We have learnt to count in Tanzanian and sing songs in their language. We have ordered and sequenced the stories and re-told them to our friends. We have also made some fact books for the library about animals from Africa. Happy Easter everyone.



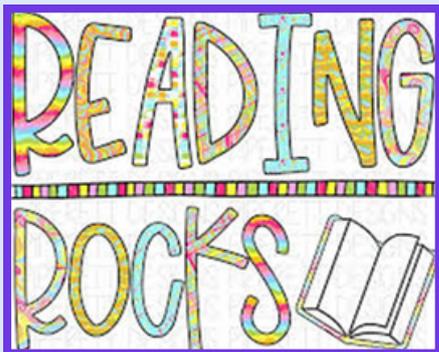
In Year 3 this half term we've been looking at the text 'Black Dog' by Levi Pinfold.



It's an excellent story to introduce the idea of suspense in our writing. It's the perfect text to do alongside our show. During the sequence of learning we think about how to 'show and not tell' emotions in our writing.

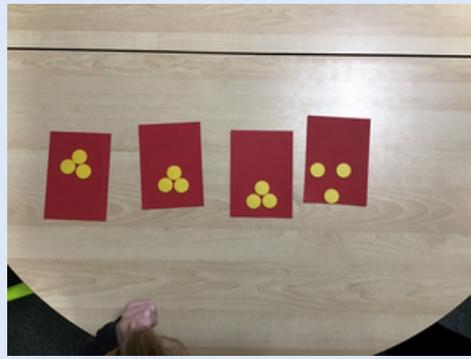
As you can see it's so much more interesting to read and really elevates our writing as authors. It's been incredibly useful to do this alongside our performance and we hope you spot some excellent 'showing not telling' when you watch our Wizard of Oz show!

Tell	Show
The boy cried. 	He howled in pain as tears poured down his cheeks.



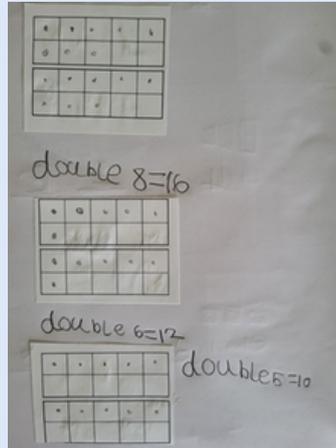
Thank you to everyone who contributed to a brilliant World Book Day again this year. We had some brilliant book cover designs, some awesome extreme reading entries and wonderfully ingenious vocabulary costumes. Thank you to the PTA too, who organised a fantastic book swap and reading fair as well as our sponsored read.





Year 1, we have been busy learning how to make equal groups of a set of objects. We noticed that doubling is the same as saying two groups of the same amount.

We created an identical number to the one we started with. The children are now super whizzy at using ten frames to work out their doubles.



Why not have a go at practising your doubling at home?

<https://uk.ixl.com/maths/year-1/add-doubles-with-models>

R.E.

We wish all our families who have been marking Ramadan this month, a time of community and joy as they celebrate Eid.



In our RE lessons this half-term, we have been looking at the Christian festival of Easter. There are many different ways that different Christian traditions mark this special time of year as well as many other local Easter activities to get involved in.

Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be "Healthy Me"

Children will learn how to be and keep safe and healthy.

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



Super Spotters

It is definitely feeling like springtime down at the pond. Since the last newsletter, big clumps of frogspawn have been laid. It has now started to hatch and we have hundreds of wriggling tadpoles.



Newly hatched tadpoles are herbivorous and feed on the algae that grows on pond plants or on rocks in the pond, particularly those exposed to the sun. As the tadpoles develop they become omnivorous, feeding on decaying matter in the pond and tiny creatures such as water fleas.

In Nature Club we are always looking for evidence, investigating mysteries and asking questions. The grass on the field has been cut which makes it much easier to spot scat which is another word for wild animal poop. One of the questions we were asking this week was 'who did this poo'?



Can you identify it using this helpful [link](#)? We may not get to see the creatures but we can find evidence that they visit school.

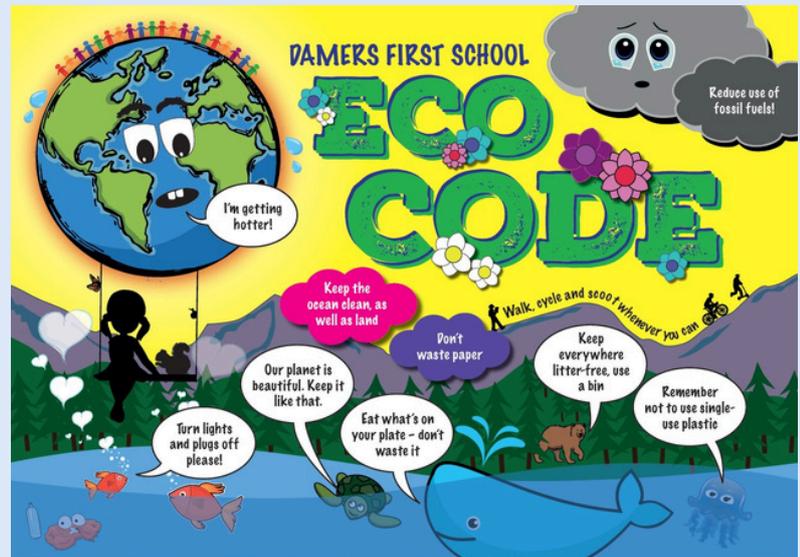
If you have any super spots please email superspotter@dammers.dorset.sch.uk



Eco Team 2024/25



This half term we have been so busy again, working away at different projects to try and make a difference at school and for our community. We are very proud of our new Eco Code poster for school which shares some important messages for us all. We hope that our pupils and families read what the animals are saying! Our thanks to Nick of wallisagency.co.uk in Poundbury for putting our ideas into action and making our poster look so smart!



Eco Team have also been working with Matilda from the PTA to redesign the PTA Eco cup! The children did a brilliant job of renewing the cup with some new ideas - it will be ready to unveil soon!

Litter can sometimes be an issue at school with snack wrappers not always making it to the bin and also some rubbish that is blown over the fence, ending up in our grounds. The Eco Team have been out on litter picking missions to try and clean things up on a regular basis - we were astounded by the amount collected in one week...



PTA NEWS

Thank you all so much for supporting our recent World Book Day events, over £400 was raised on the day. If you helped out, baked, organised or attended, a huge thank you to you all, it would not be possible without your ongoing support! The hall was a buzz of activity and the children really enjoyed the crafts, book trail and lucky dip!

To all of our amazing sponsored readers- WOW! The range and breath of books read was astonishing with some of our young readers raising over £100 each! A huge well done for inspiring both your peers and wider community to pick up a book and enjoy reading! You raised £1512.31 and the Usborne book sales have topped it up meaning we now have £2,500 to spend on new books for the library! This is amazing news!

Bingo night was sold out and was such a fun event! We don't know who enjoyed it most, parents or children...!

Upcoming PTA events:

1st May - Uniform sale.

9th May- Damers Quiz Night

Date TBC- Summer Term Uniform Sale

27th June -Damers School Summer Fayre

One of our parents runs a small business called One of a Stitch. She has recently made a school memory bear for one of the parents in Year 4.

She was wondering if any other parents may like to place an order for a memory bear for their little ones. She will be more than happy to donate £10 from each order to the PTA. She has two daughters who attend Damers and she would love to keep supporting us. She is also offering £10 off of every order for parents. See the poster on the right.

one of a stitch

School Uniform Memory Bear

£10 off if you are local

Turn your children's uniform into a keepsake bear to treasure forever

My service

I will use your preschool, nursery or school clothes and turn them into a special keepsake teddy bear.

I am a small business based in Charminster. I fully handmade these bears carefully with lots of love.

If you are local to Dorchester, I am offering £10 off your order with the code: DORCHESTER. Also, £10 of each order will go to Damers PTA.

Order Now!



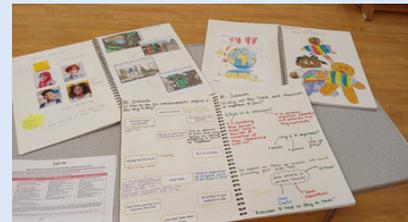
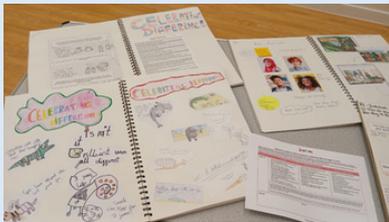
@oneofastitch

**EXTRA!
EXTRA!**



The School council have been busy redesigning our Shepherd's Hut, transforming it into a Reading Hut! This is for children who would like a quiet moment away from the playground, perhaps to look at a book or sit with friends.

Shepherds' Hut revamp!



Diversity, Equality and Inclusion at Damers

Thank you to those who visited our parent drop-in session last week. We hope you enjoyed the wonderful display of resources and children's work that represented this aspect of our curriculum. This week we have been celebrating and embracing all the different ways we are unique through stories. The children are so proud to be part of a community where everyone is welcomed and accepted.

"We can just be ourselves and be whatever we want to be." Yr 2 quote.
"It's all about love and being a family." Foundation quote.

Recently, Miss Mansell has been presented with a King's Coronation medal which was awarded to her alongside other emergency frontline services for her service as an RNLI Beach Lifeguard. During the Summer months, Miss Mansell helps the RNLI to keep people safe whilst they are visiting the beach and swimming in the sea. Keep your eyes out for Miss Mansell if you visit the beach in the Summer holidays!



A sign with the word 'EXTRA!' written twice in a bold, black, sans-serif font, one above the other, on a white background with a black border.

We have a sickness bug going around at the moment. In order to stop the spread, we follow NHS advice and ask that if your child experiences diarrhoea or vomiting you keep your child off of school for 48 hours after their last bout of illness. This way we can stop the spread between children and also decrease the risk of staff members becoming ill and being absent.

Many thanks for your help

Thank you so much for donating to our Red Nose Day. Your money will help to support people who are facing the toughest times of their lives, here in the UK.



We raised £218.05!
Well done!

GOVERNORS

A Well-Deserved Ofsted Outcome –
Thank You, Damers Community!

We are thrilled to celebrate the outcome of our recent Ofsted visit, which recognises the incredible work happening every day at Damers First School. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and passion of our entire school community - our exceptional staff, who go above and beyond to support and inspire; our wonderful pupils, who continue to embody the school's values with enthusiasm and resilience; and our families, whose ongoing support strengthens everything we do. We also want to extend a special thank you to the army of volunteers who contribute their time and energy, from the fantastic efforts of the PTA to the unwavering commitment of our School Governing Committee - your contributions help create the enriching and supportive environment that allows every child to thrive. Together, we make Damers a truly special place to learn and grow for all, thank you all!



JONATHAN DUNNE
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS