

# Damers News

July 2025



I think the pictures say it all, summing up such a fabulous year group!  
The children, with your fantastic support, have ALL contributed something wonderful in their own unique ways.

We have been so proud of their achievements including everything from academic highs to wonderful friendships to the incredible Year 4 show!

We will be so sad to see our Year 4s leave this week – each and every one of them, I know will be a great asset to their new school – they are so lucky to have them!



Wishing everyone an enjoyable and relaxing summer break!  
Warmest wishes from  
Mrs Greenham  
Head of School

# FOUNDATION



Foundation have been learning about lifecycles and exploring how different plants and creatures change as they grow. They have experienced this first hand in the classroom: planting seeds and watching the roots and shoots grow and more recently observing caterpillars grow at an alarming rate. They formed chrysalises and hatched into butterflies in the classroom which was very exciting for everyone. Keep your eyes open for Painted Lady butterflies around Poundbury!

## YEAR 1

It's been a wonderfully creative and curious half term in Year 1! In science, we've been exploring the fascinating world of plants, learning to identify different flowers and trees, and discovering what makes them so special.

In art, we've taken inspiration from the natural world around us. The children have been busy collecting colours from nature, using them to sketch and paint beautiful artwork. We also took a closer look at the work of Vincent van Gogh, especially his iconic sunflower paintings. Inspired by his bold style and vibrant colours, the children created their own stunning sunflower artworks — and they are truly something to be proud of!

It's been a half term full of discovery, creativity, and sunshine — both in the classroom and on the canvas!



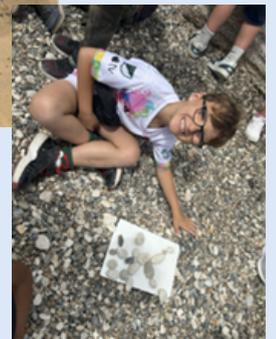
# YEAR 2



Year 2 produced some amazing entries for our Year 2 Village Show. Our judges were incredibly impressed with the effort that had been put in and the creativity, originality and deliciousness! Congratulations to all our winners.

# YEAR 3

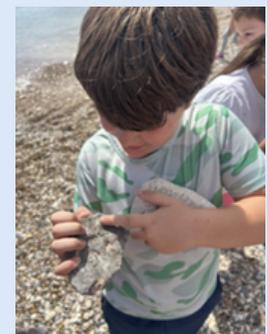
After we had to cancel the trip previously because of the weather we had all our fingers crossed for our Year 3 trip to Lulworth, and it was worth the wait! We arrived in Lulworth and set to our exploration. We visited three areas in Lulworth and had plenty to see and do in each.



We explored the Lulworth Visitor Centre, and uncovered fossils, did some rubbings and measured ourselves against the heights of dinosaurs! It's well worth a visit if you go.



We spent some time on the cove's beach. We looked at the different types of stones you can find on the beach and tried to classify them. Then we enjoyed making some pebble art.



# YEAR 4

As we approach the end of an exciting year, we want to take a moment to celebrate our wonderful Year 4 children!

## *Fagin's Place - A Show to Remember!*

A huge congratulations to all the children for their fantastic performance in Fagin's Place inspired by Oliver Twist. Their energy, confidence, and teamwork on stage were truly impressive; what a way to shine!

Photos from the show are still available to buy from Matt Round Photography using the QR code in the programme.

## *Transfer Day Triumph*

We were so proud of how well the children handled Transfer Day. They met their new Year 5 teachers with enthusiasm and maturity, showing they're more than ready for the next step in their journey.

We wish all our Year 4 pupils the very best as they move into Year 5. Thank you for your continued support, it's been a fantastic year!



# ☀️ Healthy Week Highlights ☀️

What an incredible Healthy Week we had to kick start the half term! Across the school, pupils took part in a wide range of exciting, active, and educational experiences designed to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. Alongside our daily wake and shake sessions, here are just some of the amazing highlights:

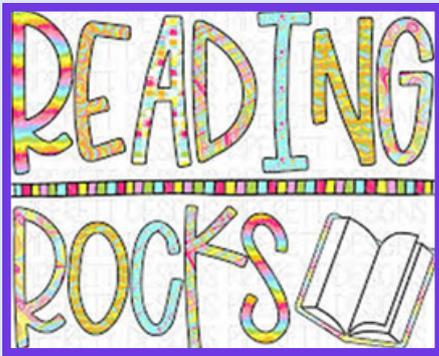
<p>A huge Thank you to Gav Daniels, Amy Symes and Tony Pearce who gave up their time to support our event. Year 2 with Gav loved the fast-paced games building on teamwork and challenges. Year 3 with Tony were building their Rugby skills with enthusiasm, whether dodging defenders or scoring tries they all had smiles! Our youngest children had a fantastic opportunity to meet Amy, a children's nurse, ask her questions, and explore her exciting medical kit!</p>	 <p>Year 2 took part in high-energy <i>basketball</i> sessions outside delivered by Luca Dronyk. They worked on developing their coordination, teamwork, and technique while having plenty of fun staying active!</p> <p><a href="https://dorsetbasketball.com/team/tigers/">https://dorsetbasketball.com/team/tigers/</a></p>	<p>With expert coaching from Giles and his team at Dorchester Tennis and Squash club Year 3 learnt the basics of the game —how to serve, return, and move around the court. A brilliant way to stay fit, focused, and have lots of fun!</p> <p><a href="https://www.dtsc.org.uk/squash+and+racketball">https://www.dtsc.org.uk/squash+and+racketball</a></p> 
 <p><i>Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire and Rescue</i> gave Foundation children a hands-on experience with fire safety — from hearing the siren to using the hose and learning how to call 999 and check smoke alarms at home. <a href="#">Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire Service   Education</a></p>	 <p>A big thank you to <i>Community Support Officer Jane Goodwin</i> and <i>PC Ryan Evans</i> for visiting our Foundation and Year 1 pupils. These visits helped take away the stigma of fear and reinforced that the police are here to help. <a href="#">Information for parents   Dorset Police</a></p>	 <p>Children from Copper Base had a wonderful session with <i>Libby Gower</i> from <i>Joey's Food</i> in Dorchester — tasting, mixing, and making delicious creations while learning about healthy food. <a href="#">Joey's Family Food – Joey's Family Food</a></p>
 <p><i>White Horse First Aid Training</i> delivered an inspiring sessions for Year 4 pupils, who learned the basics of CPR, the recovery position, bandaging, and what to do in an emergency. <a href="#">Whitehorse leaders in First aid and Woodland Training.</a></p>	 <p>Year 1 pupils explored an exciting range of <i>circus skills</i>, including juggling, poi spinning, hula hoops, object balancing and more — a fun way to build focus, balance, and coordination! <a href="#">About Simon Chainey   Circus Performer   Poole, Dorset</a></p>	 <p>Our Foundation children had a fantastic time at a dance workshop with Miss Emilie at The Studio Dorset! They explored rhythm and beat through music, learned an exciting dance routine. It was a lively, energetic session full of smiles, movement, and fun!</p> <p><a href="https://www.thestudiodorset.com/">https://www.thestudiodorset.com/</a></p>
 <p><i>Matti Hemmings</i>, 3x Guinness World Record-holding BMX rider from <i>Fusion Extreme</i>, wowed the school with his incredible tricks before leading Year 4 through BMX skills workshops — even getting staff involved! <a href="#">Fusion Extreme BMX Stunt Shows &amp; Workshops</a></p>	 <p>We were thrilled to welcome <i>SCARF Life Education Wessex</i>, who delivered wellbeing sessions for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 where they explored topics like feelings, friendships, and making healthy choices, with a special appearance from Harold the Giraffe! <a href="#">Pshe Scarf   Life Education Wessex &amp; Thames Valley   England</a></p>	 <p>Year 3 got stretching, breathing, and relaxing their way through some wonderful yoga sessions with Kim Mackie. The children learned calming breathing techniques, practiced balance and flexibility, and discovered how yoga can help both body and mind. A peaceful way to start the day—and lots of fun too!</p> <p><a href="https://www.km-yoga.com/blog">https://www.km-yoga.com/blog</a></p>

# ☀️ Healthy Week in Pictures ☀️



Trevor Senior's Football Club is held after school every Tuesday 3.15 - 4.30pm for Year 3 and 4 Damers pupils. Please contact Trevor Senior **direct** on 07771 903795 for further details.



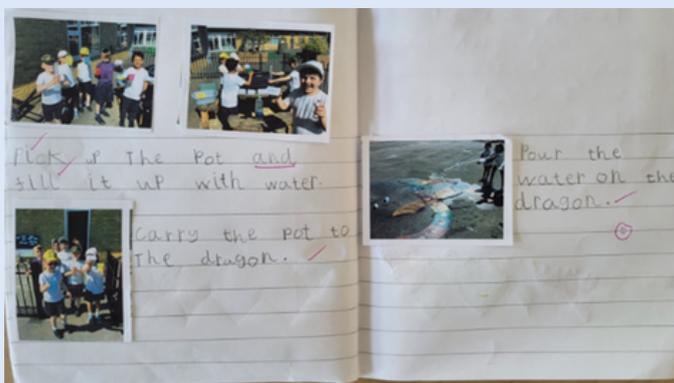
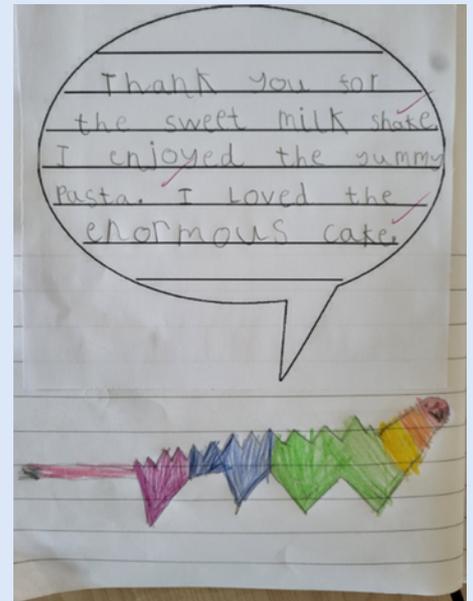


Taking part in a reading challenge is a great time to share and talk about books as a family and to celebrate your child's reading achievements. Sitting down with your own book, newspaper or magazine sets a good example to children – they will copy you – and reading together can really encourage a love of stories.

If you struggle to find time to read or lack confidence in reading, take a look at Quick Reads! These short stories by bestselling authors are easy to read, really enjoyable and only £1!



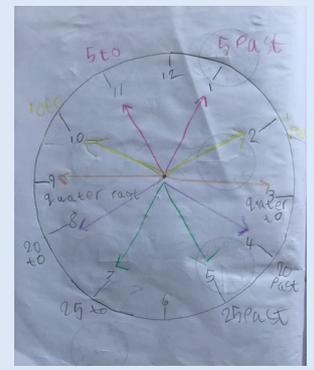
This term in Year 1, our writing lessons have been full of fire, fun, and a little bit of dragon magic! It all began when we discovered something very strange... a dragon's tail poking out of a classroom cupboard! Inspired by the brilliant book *Dragon Post* by Emma Yarlett, we've been learning all about how to care for our unexpected visitor. The book helped us discover exactly what dragons like to eat and how to stop them from bursting into flames—phew!



We used what we learned to write our own set of instructions called 'How to Douse a Dragon', just in case he began to overheat!! We also created a class menu full of dragon-approved dishes, and we pretended our scaly friend had tasted every bite. Let's just say he was very impressed!



This term in Year 2, we have been doing lots of very practical maths, including telling the time, naming and sorting 3D shapes and measuring volume.



## R.E.



A new RE syllabus for Dorset was launched earlier this year. We are working with other local schools to develop a new approach to teaching RE, which we will be rolling out next year. For further information please [click here](#).



Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be Being Me in My World 'Who am I and how do I fit?' Please see what we teach in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic lessons: [PSHE lessons](#)

Goodbye!  
& THANK YOU



This week we said au revoir to our much-loved Mrs Huelin. Jenny Huelin will have taught many of your children at the lower end of the school or taught them French further up the school. Having been at Damers for 32 years we worked out Jenny has taught nearly 1000 pupils which will include many parents and in fact one of the other teachers! She has decided it's time to hang up her school bag and get ready to settle into her upcoming 'nana era'. We will miss the kindness, love and care she has brought to the classroom; nurturing our youngest children through their first year, not to mention her endless creativity and fun activities.

In the words of one of Jenny's first pupils from 1993 "I remember absolutely loving her. I remember how gentle and kind she was... and she looked the same as she does now! I remember making a little book and feeling very proud because she made me feel it was something to be proud of".

Thank you, Jenny, for making every child feel special and creating lasting fond memories of Damers for them.

It is with great sadness that we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Gardiner, a truly valued member of the Damers team. Over the course of more than 20 years, she has worked with and supported a vast number of pupils, leaving a lasting and immeasurable impact on their lives. Her dedication, warmth, and unwavering commitment to the school community will be deeply missed. As she embarks on her well-earned retirement, we extend our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes. We hope she enjoys a restful break and the many joys of holidaying during term time!



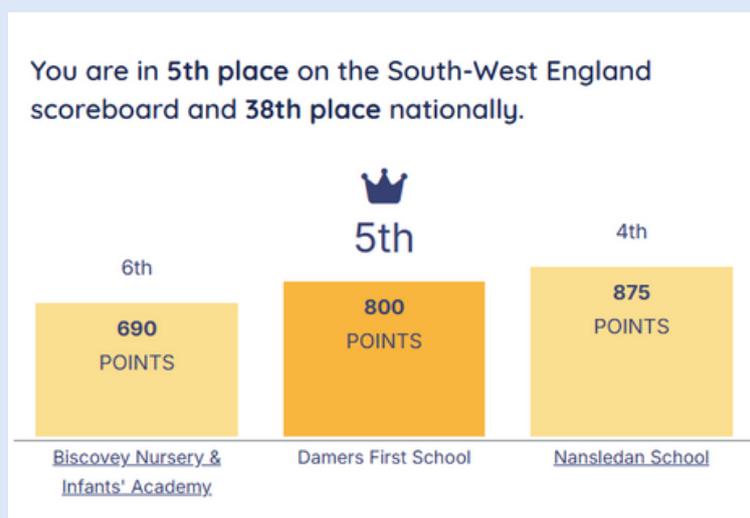


## Eco Team 2024/25



We are delighted to announce that we have once again been awarded the **Eco Green Flag with distinction!** Winning this award at a high level is a big achievement and represents lots of work undertaken by the Eco team and the wider school community. The Green Flag award this year was based on our work in three areas: Waste, Energy and Healthy Living. This included cutting down our electricity usage, encouraging children to use their bikes and walk more to school, throw away less food, drop less litter on beaches and so much more!

We have also been awarded **5<sup>th</sup> place in the whole of the South West schools by Energy Sparks** for our continued efforts towards reducing our carbon footprint - an amazing work everyone!



We hope this kind of action will stay with our wonderful Eco Team as they leave for their next school and be continued by our new team in Autumn term - thank you all!

We can still truly call ourselves an Eco School.

# Super Spotters



We also made another discovery, this time on the apple trees down by the pond which were covered in Harlequin Ladybird larva and pupa. Just like butterflies, moths, dragonflies and frogs they undergo an amazing process called metamorphosis where they transform their bodies as they grow with big differences in how they look and sometimes even how they live. Here are all the stages of their lifecycle:

Some Year 1 children were 'Super Spotters' in the Courtyard in June and found a pair of mating Eyed Hawkmoths! They love apple and willow trees, so Damers has the right mix of habitats to support them with the willow tunnel down at the pond and our apple orchard. You can find out more about these amazing creatures [here](#)



If you are looking for some fun outdoor activities to do over the summer holidays why not go on a nature scavenger hunt, you can find some excellent ideas [here](#). Or, if you are interested in butterflies, you can take part in the [Big Butterfly Count](#)

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

# GOVERNORS

As we approach the Summer holidays I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the year and to celebrate all the wonderful learning and events that have taken place recently.

Following a very successful transition day last week all the children are now feeling confident about moving to their new classes in September. Our Year 4 pupils are certainly on a high after visits to their new schools and their wonderful performances of Fagin's Place which I had the privilege to watch. They acted, sang and danced with skill beyond their years and made us laugh and cry with joy. Well done superstars! Your parents must be as proud as we are. Though we are sad to see you move on from Damers your teachers have prepared you well and you are certainly ready for new adventures and challenges.

Meanwhile, all the children have taken part in wonderful sports days, displaying competitiveness balanced with good sportsmanship and enjoyment. This is a testament to the strength of the Damers vision and values which are firmly rooted in every aspect of school life. It was a pleasure to see so many of you parents and carers join us for these special events.

A special thank you goes to all the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to make these events so successful. Your devotion ensures that families will cherish these memories for years to come.

Thank you also to our brilliant PTA for all their hard work at this busy time of the year, in particular the hugely successful Summer Fayre. Your support is greatly appreciated and enables many enrichment activities to take place that otherwise would not be possible.

Reflecting on the year as a whole, as governors we are particularly proud that Ofsted inspected us in February and recognised all the fabulous work that goes on at our school and the fact that this is because of the efforts and commitment of everyone in our school community.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Body, I wish every family in our Damers community a thoroughly enjoyable summer holiday. Whether you are staying in beautiful Dorset or travelling further afield please stay safe and well. We look forward to seeing most of you in September ready for more learning adventures and fun. To our departing Year 4s we say farewell and wish you happiness, success and the courage to chase your dreams. Remember, you are brave, unique, caring and kind. The world is waiting for you!

JACKIE SONNER  
VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



# **P.T.A.**

## **A Fantastic School Fayre – Thank You!**

**What a brilliant day we had at our annual School Fayre! This much-loved event once again brought our wonderful Damers community together, raising over £3,000 for the PTA – an incredible achievement that will go a long way in supporting exciting projects next year, including new playground equipment, books, and school trip funding.**

**We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made it possible – incredible volunteers, talented bakers, energetic entertainers, and BBQ chefs! A special shout-out to the children in Grayling 4 who worked together to run a hugely successful bracelet stall, and to the Flaming Cactus Band for providing a fantastic musical backdrop to the day. A big thank you also goes to our sponsors, Places for People, EBIT, CB Reid, 100 Giggles, Dorchester NFU Mutual and Peppina Sicilian Bakery.**

## **We Need You!**

**Events like the Fayre truly show the power of community – and we couldn't do it without you. If you've never volunteered before, we'd love for you to get involved, even one event a year makes a big difference. Many hands really do make light (and fun!) work.**

**The Damers PTA Team  
Damers First School PTA**

**EXTRA!  
EXTRA!**



Does your child  
want to learn an  
instrument at  
school in  
September?

Apply here for in-school  
lessons.

Deadline is 27th June.

Sign up now!

[music.wessex.ac](https://music.wessex.ac)

To view the Wessex Schools Music Summer newsletter,  
[please click this link.](#)



## ATTENDANCE LAST TERM

**F - 93.9%**

**YEAR 1 - 96.1%**

**YEAR 2 - 95.7%**

**YEAR 3 - 95.9%**

**YEAR 4 - 95.6%**

## ATTENDANCE THIS YEAR

**F - 95.0%**

**YEAR 1 - 96.2%**

**YEAR 2 - 96.0%**

**YEAR 3 - 95.9%**

**YEAR 4 - 94.4%**



Stay safe online this summer by  
clicking this [link](#) for information.

# UPCOMING DATES



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Last Day of Term  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - First Day of Term  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Last day of Half Term  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Inset Day  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Inset Day  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October - Inset Day  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - First Day of Half Term

## Meet the teacher sessions @ 2.45pm

15<sup>th</sup> September - Y4  
16<sup>th</sup> September - Y3  
17<sup>th</sup> September - Y1  
18<sup>th</sup> September - Y2  
24<sup>th</sup> September - FS

*Please remember the new start and finish times for September.*

