

DAMERS NEWS

December 2025



As we come to the end of a very festive few weeks, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements of all of our pupils.

We are immensely proud of the progress they have made in their learning—every classroom has been filled with curiosity, creativity, and determination. The shows for Foundation, Y1 and Y2 were just brilliant too!

Beyond the classroom and school, our pupils have demonstrated exemplary behaviour during school trips and events. Their respect, kindness, and enthusiasm have been noticed not only by staff but also by members of the wider community, which speaks volumes about the values we uphold as a school - again we are so proud! From a walk to the Post Office to post a card for Foundation; our choir singing at local care homes and the Royal Opera House visit to see The Nutcracker at Covent Garden for some Year 4s, we have been delighted to show the children off!

We hope all our families find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the festive break together. Thank you for your incredible support throughout this term—it has made such a difference. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

With my warmest wishes - Louise Greenham (Head of School)

FOUNDATION



Many of you will have enjoyed our Foundation Christmas shows last week. It is amazing to think those little people only walked through the gate and up the wiggly path three months ago. Many of them didn't know more than a handful of other children, some none, but 64 school days later and they're on the stage singing and remembering the words to a learnt story! The skills involved go way beyond performing. Children have to be able to listen, follow instructions, work together, be brave.

We are delighted with their progress and a lot of it comes down to the 'have a go' attitudes we try and instil from day 1.

YEAR 1

It's been a busy and exciting half term in Year 1! In History, we've been learning all about toys from the past. The children were fascinated to discover how toys have changed over time and loved comparing them to the ones they play with today. A real highlight was welcoming a very special visitor into our classroom – a teddy bear restorer! She shared her incredible collection of old bears and explained how she brings them back to life. The children asked brilliant questions and were inspired by her unique job.



Preparing for our Christmas play has been a focus this half term. The children worked hard making props, learning lines, and practicing songs and dances. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were wonderful to see. When the big day arrived, they truly lit up the stage! Performing in front of an audience helped them develop so many important skills, including confidence, resilience, and self-esteem. We are so proud of everything Year 1 has achieved this term and can't wait to see what the next one brings! Thank you for your continued support throughout this busy term. Your encouragement at home makes such a difference to the children's learning and confidence. We wish you all a joyful festive season!

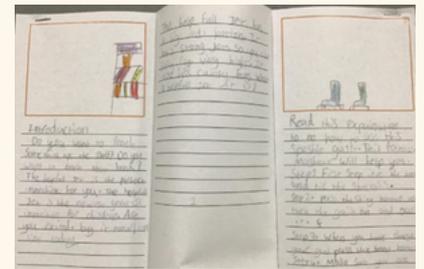
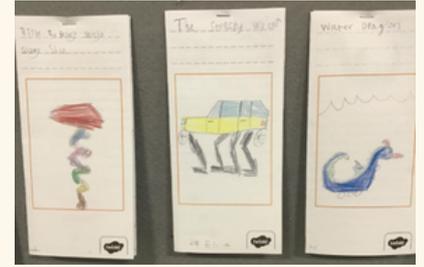


YEAR 2

We have loved learning all about engineering and the Victorians this term. Our class book has been 'Rosie Revere, Engineer' and the children produced some fantastic inventions and information leaflets about everything from rocket boosters, to sweet dispensers to jet boats and flying cars!

We learned all about the famous Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and some of his achievements, including the Great Western Railway, Clifton Suspension Bridge and the SS Great Britain. We made brilliant Victorian tunnel books all about his Box Tunnel.

The children also wowed us with their brilliant performance of the classic Victorian story 'A Christmas Carol' and are still singing the songs....! We finished the term with a wonderful Victorian Day where we made delicious traditional treats and learned all about how the Victorians invented so many of our Christmas traditions.



YEAR 3



Our Year 3 classes have had an exciting journey back in time with the interactive 'Now Press Play' Stone Age experience! Equipped with headphones, the children were immersed in a dramatic audio adventure that brought the Stone Age to life. They hunted for food, discovered how early humans survived, and even imagined what it was like to live in a cave! This activity sparked lots of curiosity and discussion, helping the children deepen their understanding of life thousands of years ago. What an amazing way to make history unforgettable!



YEAR 4



From cracking codes like they did during WW2 at Bletchley Park, to visiting the Tank Museum, we've been surrounded by history! We've learnt lots about life during WW2 for many people, especially evacuees, thought about rationing and researched how parts of Dorset helped prepare for D-Day.

We had a wonderful time enriching our World War II learning at the Bovington Tank Museum. What a fascinating day!



Thank you for all involved in learning lines and songs for our wonderful Carol Concert too. For all those able to join us, we hope you enjoyed listening to the children sing and recite their lines. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

COPPER BASE

This half term has been full of creativity and fun! We've explored stories about the changing seasons, finishing with some wonderful winter tales. Two of our favourites have been The Leaf Thief and The Snow Thief—delightful stories where animals take centre stage and do all the talking!

The children have loved writing their own speech bubbles and bringing the stories to life through role play. Alongside our reading adventures, we've been getting into the festive spirit by crafting Christmas decorations for our trees and making colourful paper chains to brighten up the classroom.

It's been a fantastic half term filled with imagination, laughter, and plenty of festive cheer!



READING ROCKS

Our new Reading Ambassadors have been busy thinking about their favourite authors and why they have chosen them:

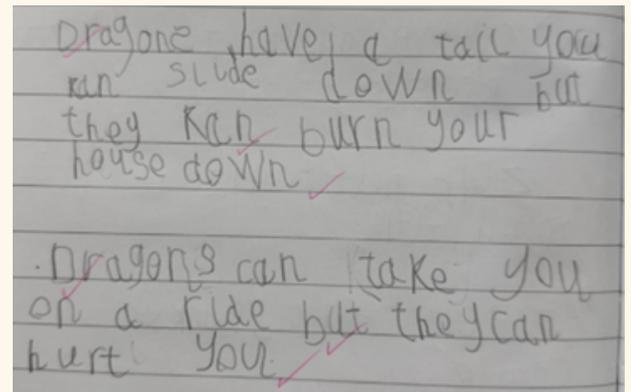
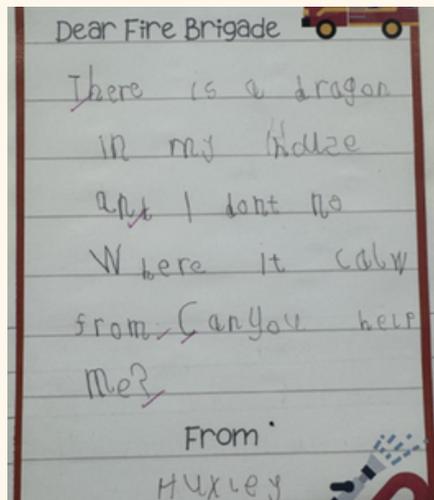
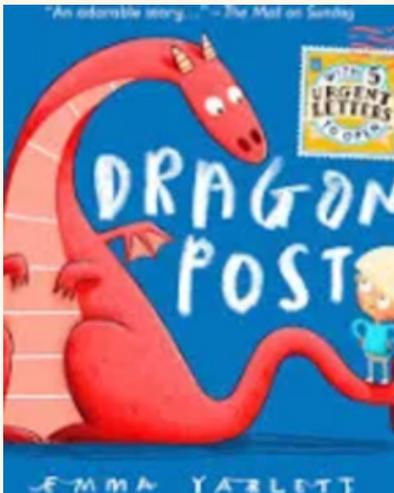
David Walliams – because he is quite funny and his stories always have a funny character. My favourite is the Demon Dentist because it is a life lesson as well!

Roald Dahl – because his books have a lot of emotions you can really feel. It is like there's a different universe with imagination and creativity. If you haven't read books by this author, I highly recommend them.

Michael Morpurgo – The Dancing Bear is one of the best books I have ever read.



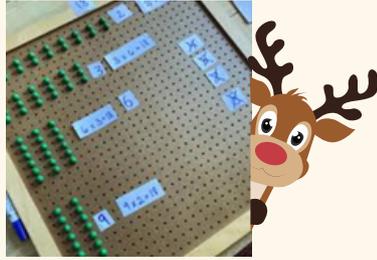
WRITERS CORNER



In Year 1, we've been having lots of fun exploring the book Dragon Post! The children have loved discussing the advantages and disadvantages of having a dragon as a pet, which led to some brilliant ideas and debates. Building on this, we are now creating our very own "Dragon Guides" to explain how to look after a dragon. Our literacy focus has been on writing in full sentences, using conjunctions, and adding exciting adjectives to make our writing more descriptive and engaging. We can't wait to share these fantastic guides soon!



MATHS



Our Year 3 classes have been busy exploring the 8 times table in a hands-on way! Using peg boards and a variety of practical resources, the children have created colourful arrays to represent multiplication facts. This approach has helped them see the connection between repeated addition and multiplication, making the 8 times table come to life. The students have shown fantastic teamwork and creativity while building their arrays—well done, Year 3!

JIGSAW

Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be

Dreams and Goals.

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore aspirations, and how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this.

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



SUPER SPOTTERS

We've been getting ready for the winter months in Nature Club. The area down at the pond has had its annual 'hair cut' which looks drastic, but the wildflowers have dropped their seeds and will soon grow again in the spring.



Super
Spotters

Now the weather has turned colder there are lots of things we can do to help wildlife get through the winter months:

- For winter bird feeding, focus on high-fat, high-protein foods like suet (balls, cakes, pellets), peanuts (in mesh feeders), and sunflower hearts/black sunflower seeds for sustained energy, plus mealworms for protein
- Access to fresh, unfrozen water for drinking
- Making sure there are piles of leaves and sticks for mammals, amphibians and insects to keep warm in.

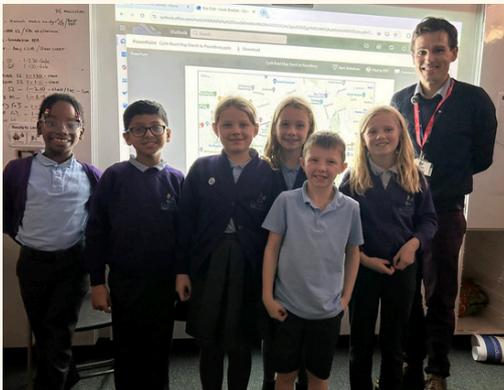
It's the time of year to harvest 'willow whips' from the tunnel down at the pond. Willow whips are long, flexible, one-year-old stems which can be cut in the winter and used for replanting or for weaving. We've been using them to make festive stars.



Hopefully you are winter ready as well and have a cozy time with your family and loved ones.



ECO NEWS



A few weeks ago, the Eco Team met with Christopher Peck who is the Principal Transport Planner at Dorset Council and Claire Lodge from the Comms team.

They had a meeting about the planning of the cycle route that they are hoping will be built in Dorchester. For many years, the Eco Club at Damers have been campaigning for a safer way to travel to school and around the town by bicycle and scooter. They are continuing the work of their predecessors and will be working closely with the Council. Watch this space for any developments.

Energy Sparks helps schools become more energy efficient through their online, school-specific energy analysis tool and energy education program. Damers is a part of this program and the Eco Team look at the site every week to see what other ideas we can use within the school and the community too. For every task, points are awarded. We are in a competition with primary and secondary schools from the South West and all across the country to be the best.

We are doing very well at the moment.



GOVERNORS



As we come to the end of a busy and vibrant term, it's a lovely moment to pause and appreciate all that our children, staff, and families have contributed to school life. At the time of writing, the Christmas performances are still to come, and we know they will, as always, celebrate the joy, creativity, and togetherness that make this school so special.

We are incredibly grateful to our staff for their hard work and dedication, and to our parents, carers, and our wonderful PTA for everything you do to support the school community.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, marking another festival, or simply enjoying a well-earned break, on behalf of the Governing Committee I wish you all a peaceful, restful, and happy holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.



Johnny Dunne
Chair of
School Governing Committee



EXTRA

Damers are proud to announce that as a community we raised money for the following charities and this is the amount collected.

Children In Need £399.56

Royal British Legion Poppy Sales £181.53

Thank you to everyone who donated money for these good causes.



Our school choir have done a fantastic job representing Damers at various events in the local area this Christmas season. They have sung at the Poundbury Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, for the residents of two local care homes and for the Discover and Connect Group's Christmas quiz event at Dorchester Community Church.



Christmas Quiz

1. Who helps Santa make toys?

- A. Elves
- B. Pixies
- C. Gnomes
- D. Fairies

2. What do you open on each day in December before Christmas?

- A. Presents
- B. Curtains
- C. Fridge door
- D. Advent calendar

3. What colour nose does Rudolph have?

- A. Blue
- B. White
- C. Red
- D. Black

4. What do children leave out for Santa?

- A. Milk and Cookies
- B. Brussel Sprouts
- C. Carrots
- D. Turkey

5. What's the name of the reindeer with the shiny red nose?

- A. Dancer
- B. Rudolph
- C. Blitzen
- D. Dasher

6. What do you pull at the Christmas dinner table?

- A. A Silly face
- B. Presents
- C. Crackers
- D. Turkey

7. Where does Santa live?

- A. Greenland
- B. The North Pole
- C. Dorchester
- D. The South Pole

8. What animal carried Mary to Bethlehem?

- A. Camel
- B. Elephant
- C. Donkey
- D. Horse

9. What colour suit does Santa wear?

- A. Black
- B. Red
- C. White
- D. Blue

10. How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?

- A. 5
- B. 8
- C. 6
- D. 9

Ask your grown ups at home for the answers



ATTENDANCE

Last term's Attendance percentage

Foundation - N/A

Year 1 - 95.7%

Year 2 - 97.2%

Year 3 - 96.7%

Year 4 - 96.7%

Be an Attendance Hero...



Here Every day Ready On time

Good attendance means our children will...

- Achieve well and be successful
- Know the value of hard work and efforts
- Be kind
- Dream Big!

Work hard. Be kind. Dream big



UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 18th December - Last Day of Term

Monday 5th January - Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January - Start of Term

Monday 12th January - After School clubs start this week

Monday 19th January - at 2.50pm Year 1 Stay and ...

Tuesday 20th January - at 8.45am Year 4 Stay and ...

Wednesday 21st January - at 2.55pm Foundation Stay and ...

Thursday 22nd January - at 8.45am Year 2 Stay and ...

Friday 6th February - Number Day

Tuesday 10th February - at 8.45am Year 3 Stay and ...

Friday 13th February - Last Day of term

Monday 23rd February - Start of Term

Merry
Christmas

