

# DAMERS NEWS

February 2026



Welcome to 2026 at Damers – we seem to have packed so much in already this year! The Year 4 Reading Ambassadors have launched the National Year of Reading with their visits to Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 to read to the younger children and to listen to them read. They then shared their favourite books in a whole-school assembly, getting us all talking about books! They will be interviewing staff this week about their favourite reads. A huge thank you to the PTA for supporting us so brilliantly with the Story Night this year - great fun!

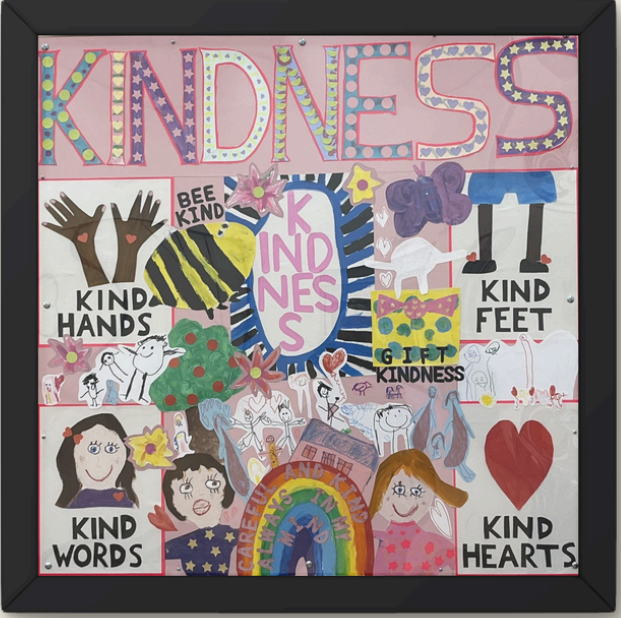
Since the beginning of term, the whole school has been working in family strands on a literacy project based on the book 'The Lights that Dance in the Night'. The children were so excited to perform their art, dance and poetry inspired by the book at their strand assemblies, allowing siblings to share their work within their families – they were so proud to do this! We have devoted a whole page in the newsletter to show off the amazing work that has come from this whole-school project.

A wonderful addition to our school this year has been the installation of our new values display. The children all worked on the project last summer with our lovely Mrs Rothman, and their creations have been brought together in the styles of various artists. It has really brought the main hall to life and provided a rich, colourful focal point for the children. We hope that some of you will have had the chance to see the display at recent parent consultations.

Wishing everyone a lovely half term break with hopefully not too much rain!

Warmest wishes to all our Damers families  
Louise Greenham  
Head of School

We love our new school values display!



# FOUNDATION



Foundation have been in awe of Aurora Borealis this term. The children worked hard to learn a dance to the count of eight which they then performed in our sharing assemblies. Each term they surprise us as they mature and show us how much they are capable of in terms of performance.

They have also been producing some lovely art using paint and chucks to create the Northern Lights. Paintbrushes have been rolled, twisted, flicked and smudged to create the effect of the lights.

# YEAR 1

This half term, Year 1 have been on an exciting journey through the animal kingdom! We've been learning all about mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, and fish, discovering the fascinating features that make each group unique. The children have loved comparing different animals, spotting similarities and differences, and growing their confidence in sorting and classifying them.

To round off our learning, we'll also be carrying out a fun investigation into animal poo to help us find out whether different animals are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores - all through careful scientific observation.

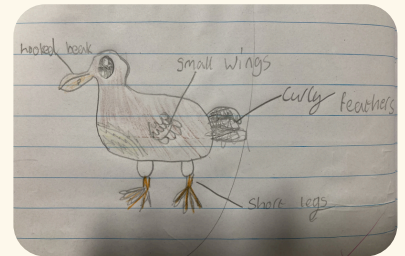
It's been a brilliant half term full of curiosity, excitement, and wonderful scientific thinking. Well done, Year 1!



# YEAR 2

Year 2 have loved learning about the Polar regions and habitats this term. We've explored habitats in our school grounds and thought about what they provide for living things in our science lessons. We explored how polar animals keep warm in freezing weather with a brilliant experiment involving ice and blubber!

We've learned about endangered animals like the panda, due to habitat loss, through the book 'The Journey Home' and considered the impact of climate change on the polar regions and their precious animals. We've also learned all about the dodo and why this unusual creature became extinct. The children wrote their own stories about other animals facing extinction, such as the rhino and gorilla.



# YEAR 3



Year 3 have launched their new literacy unit with an exciting mini archaeological dig! The children carefully uncovered and examined a range of intriguing artefacts: including pieces of pottery, newspaper reports, paintings and fragments of cloth. By working like real archaeologists, they pieced together clues to discover their new class text, *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit.

Following their discoveries, the children shared what they already knew about Pompeii and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and generated thoughtful questions about what they would like to find out next. This hands-on experience has sparked their curiosity for some rich historical learning and imaginative writing in the weeks ahead.





# READING ROCKS

Did you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading? Bringing together parents, schools, libraries, businesses and literacy experts, the campaign aims to foster a love of reading for pleasure in children and young people, ensuring all children get the best start in life.

At Damers, our Year 4 Reading Ambassadors launched the campaign in January with a fantastic assembly all about their favourite books. This was followed by our brilliant Storynight and the launch of our sponsored read event. Next half-term, we will have lots of lovely activities and events planned for World Book Day.

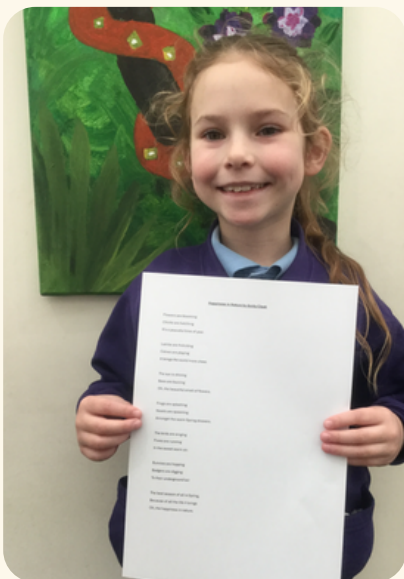
For more information on how to get involved visit:  
<https://goallin.org.uk/get-involved/families/>



# WRITERS' CORNER

We are delighted to announce that Amity in Year 3 has come 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Annual Poundbury Rotary Club's Writing Competition!

What a beautiful poem we're so proud of you Amity!



Happiness in Nature  
by Amity

Flowers are blooming  
Chicks are hatching  
It's a peaceful time of year.

Lambs are frolicking  
Calves are playing  
It brings the world more cheer.

The sun is shining  
Bees are buzzing  
Oh, the beautiful smell of flowers.

Frogs are splashing  
Newts are spawning  
Amongst the warm Spring showers.

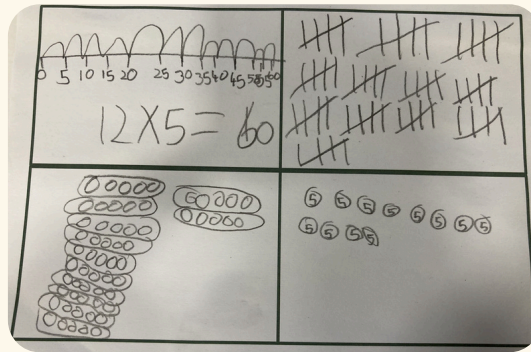
The birds are singing  
Foxes are running  
In the sweet warm air.

Bunnies are hopping  
Badgers are digging  
To their underground lair.

The best season of all is Spring,  
Because of all the life it brings  
Oh, the happiness in nature.



# MATHS



Year 2 have been excited to start learning our multiplication times tables. We've been skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, using coins and towers of cubes to multiply and representing the times table facts in pictures.

# R.E.

Over the next few weeks, there will be a wonderful mix of festivals and special days celebrated by different faiths around the world. February brings the Lunar New Year, a joyful time marked in many Asian cultures with bright colours, family gatherings, and hopes for good fortune. Shrove Tuesday (17th Feb), is a time when many people enjoy pancakes before the season of Lent begins for some Christians.

In March, Holi, the Hindu festival of colours that celebrates friendship, spring, and new beginnings takes place. Ramadan, a special month for Muslims, focusing on kindness, gratitude, and caring for others. The exact dates of Ramadan change every year. This is because Islam uses a calendar based on the cycles of the Moon. We'll explore the story of Easter (April 5th), learning about themes of hope and new life in Christianity.

Will you or your family be celebrating any of these events, or others not mentioned? Please let your child's teacher know!

# JIGSAW



Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be Healthy Me. Learning how to be, and how to keep safe and healthy.

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



# WHOLE SCHOOL LITERACY PROJECT

We started January 2026 with a bang with a brilliant whole-school project, all based on the book 'The Lights that Dance in the Night'. Every year group started the project by visiting 'The North' - experiencing the sounds, colours and lights of the Northern Lights in a specially erected tent in our music room!

We then went on to learn how the Northern Lights are created and read about the different animals that live in the Arctic and enjoy the 'painted skies and snow'. Finally, we produced some wonderful artwork, poetry and dances, which we shared together in Strand Assemblies at the end of the month.

Foundation



Year 1



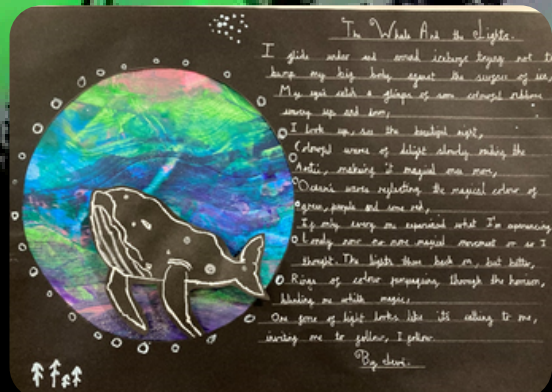
Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



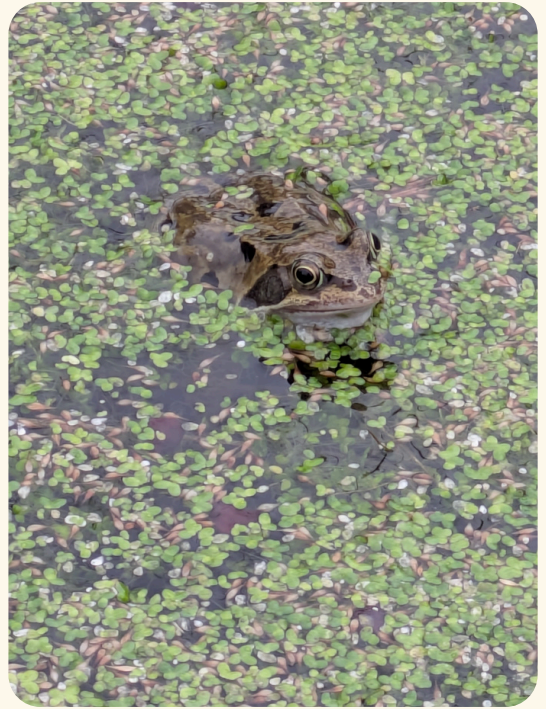
## The Whale And the Lights

I glide under the moon's embrace trying not to bang my big belly against the surface of ice.  
My eyes catch a glimpse of some coloured ribbon swirling up and down.  
I look up, see the beautiful night,  
I always seem to delight already making the Arctic, making it magical one more,  
I dream of seeing reflecting the magical colour of green, purple and blue red,  
It's only every one experienced what I'm experiencing  
I only see one one magical moment or as I thought the lights then back on, but better,  
Rivers of colour permeating through the horizon, making me with magic,  
One piece of light looks like it's calling to me,  
waiting me to follow, I follow.  
By Alex

# SUPER SPOTTERS

This half term has seen all sorts of weather from winter sun, ice, gales, lots of rain and flooding! It was chilly in January and the ponds froze over with ice that was 5cm thick.

Things can change quickly though and last week the frogs returned to the pond to start spawning which is a welcome sign of spring in between all the rain. We now have our first clumps of frogspawn! Click on this [link](#) to see life down at the pond. If you listen really carefully you can hear the frogs croaking.



## Super Spotters



Big Schools'  
Birdwatch

Last month Nature Club took part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch. Despite the high winds and rain, we saw an impressive number of birds and the usual suspects made an appearance so we could count them including starlings, herring gulls, black-headed gulls, carrion crows, house sparrows, woodpigeons, blackbirds, wagtails, dunnocks, blue tits and our resident robin.

Highlights included seeing a huge flock of gulls soaring in the wind, over 50 starlings flocking on the rooftops and watching sparrows up-close on the birdfeeders. It just goes to show that even in the grimmest weather there is always something interesting and magical to see.



# ECO NEWS

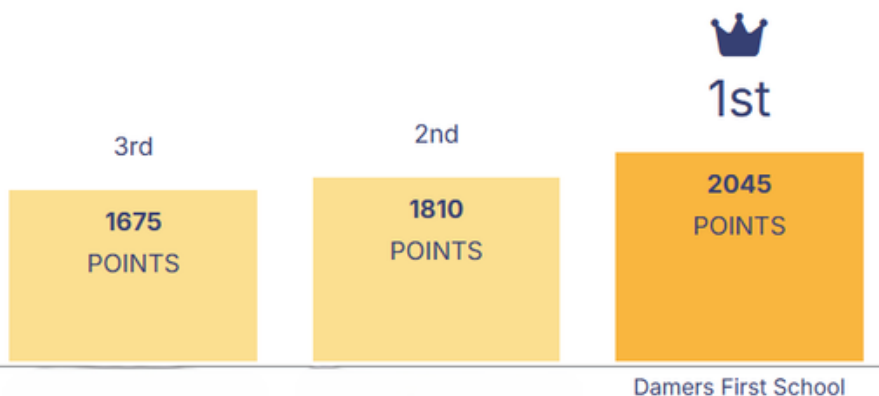


We are extremely proud to announce that Damers First School has won the Energy Sparks Winter Heat Saver prize draw this year. We competed in the 'Smart schools stay at 18 degrees' programme and we won a £100 prize!

We will be using this prize money and any money saved from Power Down Day to buy a garden pot, compost and produce for the lucky winner(s) of power down day and best eco idea so they can carry on with the 'Grow your own produce' at home with their families.

See next page for details about power down day and the garden project.

You are in 1st place on the South-West England scoreboard and 3rd place nationally.



We are doing incredibly well at present with the Energy sparks work. We hope to keep these positions and even get to 1<sup>st</sup> place nationally.



# ECO NEWS

On Tuesday 24th March we are having a Power Down Day. We are making sure that anything electrical that isn't being used is switched off completely. We will be looking at lights, computers, white boards, ipads, chromebooks etc. We are going to see how much money we can save in one day by thinking ECO.



We have also been talking about Earth Hour in the hopes that the children will be able to join in at home or let their grown ups at home know about it. This is happening worldwide on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 8.30pm-9.30pm in your local time zone. <https://www.earthhour.org/>

The Eco Team had a meeting with our volunteer gardeners a few weeks back to discuss starting the 'Grow your own produce project'.

We talked about produce that would be readily available during term time and that could be used in simple but delicious recipes. Then each class could use the food tech room to cook something wonderful.

We have decided to grow potatoes, onions, carrots, leeks, peppers, sweetcorn, cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, radishes and a variety of fruits.

We are also going to be making a recipe book for the children to use. Watch this space for the book!



# JOIN OUR PTA

DAMERS FIRST SCHOOL



Help out in any  
way you can—  
everyone welcome!

[damerspta@gmail.com](mailto:damerspta@gmail.com)

The PTA is proud to support the school by organising a wide range of events for pupils and families. Here are some of the upcoming dates that show just a small part of what the PTA does:

- Thursday 26 Feb - PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Main Hall
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Word Book Day Fair in the Main Hall
- Thursday 19 March - PTA Meeting (Everyone is welcome to attend the PTA meeting. After a little confusion last time, we'll be putting clear signs out, along with a PTA representative, so it's easy to find us.) We would love to see some new faces!
- Thursday 26 March - PTA Easter Bingo
- Thursday 7 May - PTA Quiz
- Friday 26 June - Summer Fayre

# EXTRA



We introduce to you, Mrs Osborne, who has joined us as a teaching assistant. We welcome her into the Damers family. We hope you enjoy your new job!

Emily runs our Forest School's sessions in school time.



## Half Term fun @HOB's

Thursday 19th February 2026

9am-3pm

Join us for a fresh new year at HOB's and explore your new inspiration on site!

Join Emily and Emma for general silliness, bushcraft, dens, critters up close and everything in between!

Book online at:

[www.hobsbottomforestschoo.co.uk](http://www.hobsbottomforestschoo.co.uk)



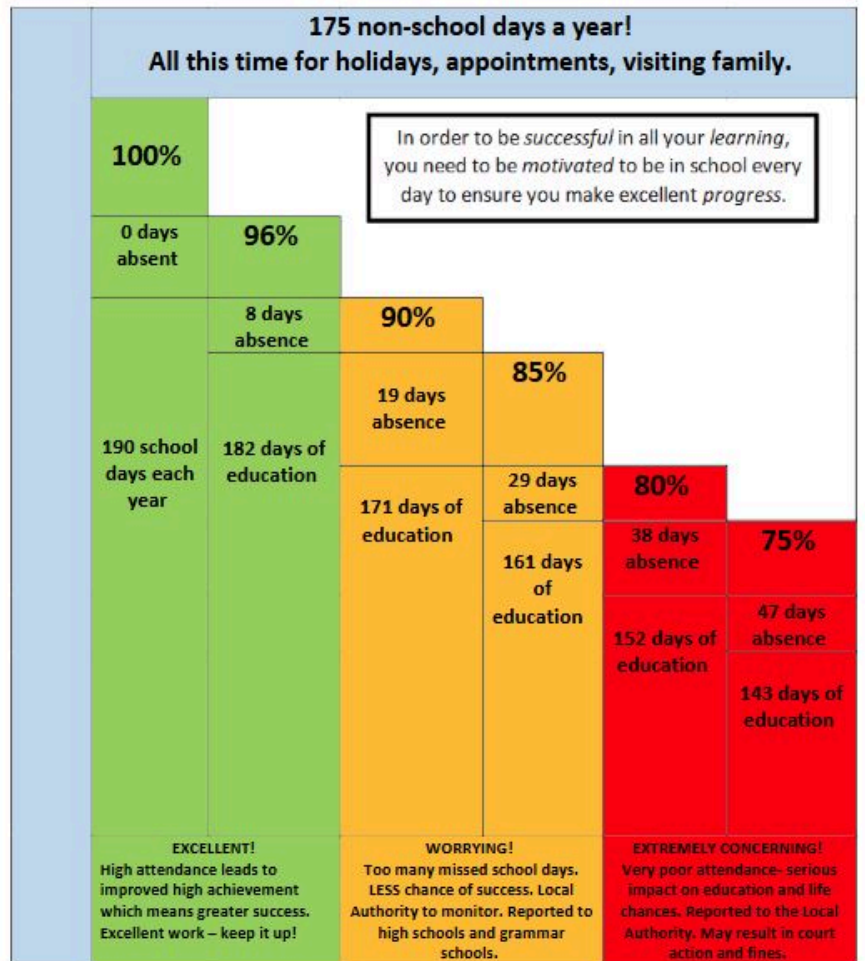
# ATTENDANCE

This half term's attendance percentage:

Foundation - N/A  
 Year 1 - 95%  
 Year 2 - 96.5%  
 Year 3 - 96.2%  
 Year 4 - 96.1%



## What your child's attendance means



# UPCOMING DATES

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Last Day of Term
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Start of Term
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Yr3 Roman Day
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Yr2 Stay and ..... 8.45am
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Class Photo Day
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Yr1 Stay and ..... 3pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Non-school uniform for Easter Bingo
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Yr4 Wessex MAT Singing Concert @ THS 6pm
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - FS Stay and ..... 2.55pm
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Yr4 Stay and ..... 8.45am
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Yr3 Production
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Yr3 Production
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Last Day of Term
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April - Inset Day
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April - Start of Term

