

# DAMERS NEWS

March 2026



Wow Year 3 - your show "A Tale as Old as Time" was fantastic! We loved seeing how confident you were with the singing, lines, dancing and some comedy moments too. Thank you so much to the Year 3 team who work so hard to make sure everyone had the chance to play their part and of course to our Year 3 families for supporting them and joining in, especially with the dancing at the end! The children absolutely loved it.

We are delighted to announce that our brand new school nursery will be opening in September this year! We will be working hard to prepare for this over the summer term as well as making improvements around the grounds - news and updates coming soon! We are very excited.

Good luck Mr Bracey running your marathon on 12<sup>th</sup> April. We are all rooting for you to get your best time and are so proud of you for doing this in memory of friends and family. If you would like to donate to support Tom for Macmillan Cancer Support, here is the [Justgiving link](#). Thank you to all who entered the art competition to have their design on Mr B's running top (we may see it on TV!) and joined in with our running day. Thank you - go Tom!

Wishing everyone a fantastic Easter break whatever you are doing - let's hope the sun shines and that it warms up a bit for those days out!

Warmest wishes  
Louise Greenham  
Head of School

Your paragraph text

# FOUNDATION



Our Foundation children have enjoyed learning about shapes. They have become excellent spotters and we have loved all the photos being sent in. They've been practising new vocabulary whilst they have been out and about such as the names cylinder, sphere, cuboid, cone and pyramid. They can describe shapes by talking about the number of faces, corners and sides. We love how they think about their learning even when they're not at school. Great work Foundation!



# YEAR 1

In science, we have been learning all about the human body. The children have been exploring body parts inside and outside, and they especially enjoyed drawing around their own bodies and labelling the different parts. We also learned about the heart, brain, lungs and stomach, and talked about what each of them does to keep us alive and healthy. We are now beginning to explore the five senses, and the children are enjoying developing their investigation skills through a range of hands-on activities.

In literacy, we have loved reading Yeti and the Bird in class. The children were thrilled to discover a mysterious Yeti footprint in the classroom and came up with some brilliant advice on how the Yeti might make new friends. We are now finishing off our own versions of the story, and the children are very excited to share them soon.

We also enjoyed a fantastic live lesson organised by the National Farmers' Union. During this session, the children went on exciting 'question quests' to find out all about different animals that live on farms. They learned fascinating facts about how these animals are looked after and what their roles are on the farm. The children were also very interested in discovering what tractors do and how they help farmers with their daily work. It was a brilliant experience that sparked lots of curiosity and discussion. We've had a wonderful time learning together and can't wait for what's next!



# YEAR 2

Year 2 have loved learning about the Great Fire of London this term. We've found out all about the causes of the Great Fire and how people put the fire out in 1666. After this, we were such experts that we used our research to create our own nonfiction books about the Fire of London. We also thoroughly enjoyed a trip to the fire station where we looked at the tools that firefighters use to fight fires now and even got to look inside the fire engine and to squirt water from the hose too.

After our visit to the fire station, we designed our own fire engines which we then built in D.T.



# YEAR 3



It's been a wonderfully busy and exciting half term for Year 3 as we prepared for our Spring performance, *A Tale As Old As Time*. The children threw themselves into rehearsals with fantastic enthusiasm, and we're so proud of the dedication and creativity they showed.



Over the past few weeks, Year 3 had been:

*Learning their lines* - Children worked hard to memorise their parts, practising expression, projection, and confidence on stage.

*Exploring stage directions* - From where to stand to how to move, pupils developed real performance skills and became increasingly aware of how a scene comes to life.

*Mastering the dances* - Our rehearsals involved plenty of energy and teamwork as the children learnt the choreography for our big musical moments. The excitement in the hall was infectious!

*Singing their hearts out* - Whether they rehearsed as a class or joined together as a whole year group, their singing grew stronger each week.

*Working together as a cast* - One of the most wonderful parts of this process was seeing how well the children supported one another—encouraging classmates, practising together, and celebrating each other's progress.

The children shone on stage, and it was a truly memorable show.



# YEAR 4

Year 4 shone brightly at the recent singing concert at the Thomas Hardy School theatre, filling the stage with confidence, joy, and fantastic teamwork. Together with other schools, the children performed songs from much-loved musicals and films including *The Lion King*, *Paddington*, *Matilda*, and *Finding Neverland*. Damer's performance of *How Far I'll Go* from *Moana* was a real highlight, showcasing their beautiful singing and enthusiasm. It was a wonderful celebration of music, and we are incredibly proud of every child who took part. Well done everybody!



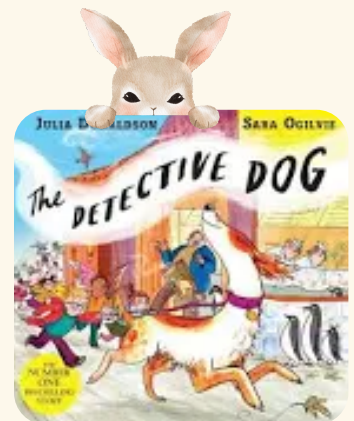
## COPPER BASE



This half term, the children in Copper Base have been enjoying stories all about pets. We have created our own pet fact files, learned how to care for different kinds of animals, and even written exciting stories about a detective dog!

After half term, we will be publishing our fact files in the school library for everyone to enjoy.

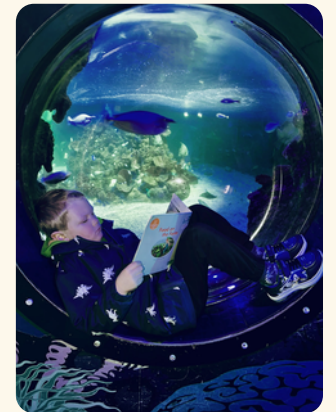
We have also had great fun outside, learning to ride on the new cars, bikes and scooters that were recently delivered. The children have absolutely loved exploring them and developing their confidence on wheels!



# READING ROCKS

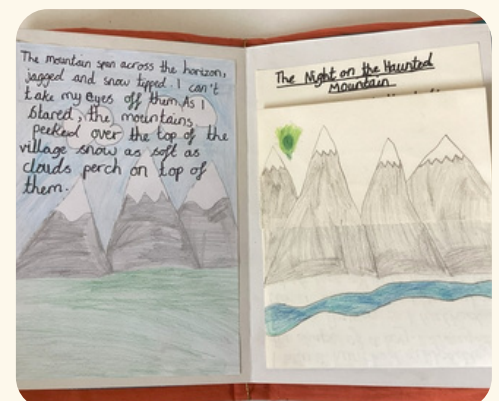
What a wonderful time we had celebrating World Book Day this term. We had some lovely entries for our 'My Book and Me' photo competition, a huge number of incredibly creative book covers, some of which are now on display in Waterstones and in the school and our sponsored read has raised over £700 to buy new books for our classrooms and school library.

Not to mention the wonderful 'book-themed' costumes on the day.



## WRITERS' CORNER

Year 4 have been busy creating an exciting collection of writing inspired by *When the Mountains Roared* by Jess Butterworth. After exploring the dramatic events and vivid settings in the story, the children have produced letters, animal fact files, poems, and some wonderfully spooky stories. They are now working on turning their favourite pieces into their very own handmade books, complete with colourful batik artwork, ready to share with families soon.



# MATHS

## Marvellous Mathematicians!

This half term, Year 1 has been developing their confidence and reasoning skills in Maths. We have been comparing numbers, using key vocabulary- greatest, smallest, more than and less than to help us identify and sort different numbers. We have also been exploring some more within addition and subtraction, using different strategies including number lines and dienes to help us solve different equations. During our independent learning time in 'busy bees', we have been using our reasoning skills and problem solving to relate our Maths learning to the real world!

# R.E.



In March and April, our school community marks several special celebrations, including Easter, which highlights themes of hope, renewal, and togetherness; and important celebration for many Christians. This season also brings Holi, the joyful Hindu festival of colours, and Ramadan, an important month of reflection and kindness for many Muslims. These events offer a wonderful reminder of the rich diversity of traditions celebrated by families across our community. Will you be taking part in any of these, or other special events?



# JIGSAW



Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be Relationships. Building positive, healthy relationships with everyone.

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



# SUPER SPOTTERS

The tadpoles have begun to emerge from the frogspawn and are starting to explore the pond. Newly hatched tadpoles often consume the jelly from their own eggs for nutrients during their first few days. Small tadpoles feed on algae, moss, and soft plant matter, often scraping it off rocks or pond weeds. As legs develop, they need more protein, eating mosquito larvae, small insects and water creatures. We will keep you posted with how they are developing over the coming months.



## Super Spotters

We have had a special visitor in the school grounds, a female (or possibly juvenile) sparrowhawk! She was spotted by some Year 3 children at breaktime on the fence by the chicken coop. She was quite happy to be watched by the children from a distance. I hope you'll agree that she's magnificent. You can find out more about these amazing birds [here](#). Keep your eyes peeled around the school and Great Field for this beautiful bird of prey.



There was huge news last week, an unprecedented first down at the Damers pond. On Wednesday in the glorious spring sunshine, we found a newt!! He has been named by Riley and Theo in Year 3 who witnessed this amazing event. Meet Gary Beaut the Damers newt!

With ponds you tend to have one amphibian or the other, we very much have a frog pond at Damers. Pond frogs and newts can coexist, but they typically maintain a "boom-bust" relationship where they compete for resources and eat each other's young.

There are certainly lots of tadpoles for Gary, so hopefully he'll hang around and where there's one newt there surely must be others. Maybe it's the dawn of a new newt era at Damers?



# ECO NEWS



We have been looking at Biodiversity in schools which refers to the variety of plant and animal life within school grounds and the educational activities used to protect and study it. Increasing biodiversity on site is a key climate action that directly benefits both the local environment and pupil well-being.

We are lucky at Damers to have a bug hotel, two ponds, a wild flower meadow and a bird hide to help us understand this.

We also have raised beds in which a variety of produce is being grown and we compost all fruit remains.

Earth Hour Saturday 28th March (TOMORROW) 8.30pm to 9.30pm.

It's a global movement where individuals, businesses, communities, governments and iconic landmarks go dark to highlight the importance of sustainability to commit to a healthier planet, highlighting that everyone who makes a small action can drive significant impact.

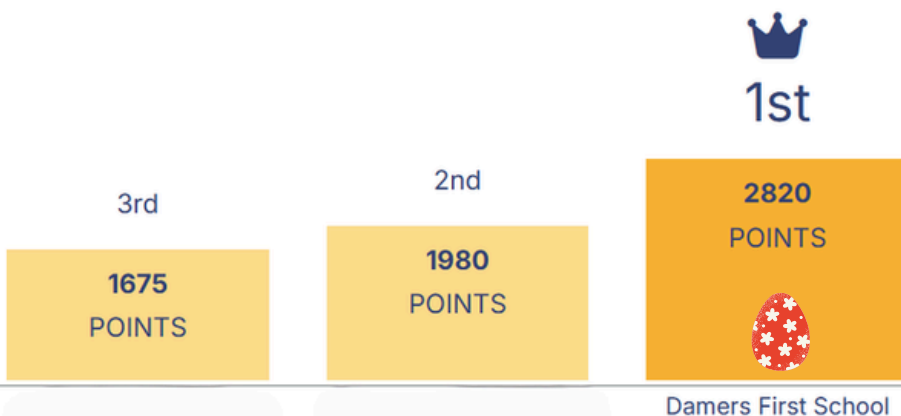
The whole world joins in and goes dark for a whole hour in their country. So for a whole 24 hours somewhere in the world is contributing to sustainability.

Will you be joining in and switching off your lights for that hour and what meaningful thing will you do during that hour?

<https://www.earthhour.org/>



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



# GOVERNORS

There's a different feel around school at this time of year. The days are getting longer, the weather's (mostly!) kinder, and there's a real sense of energy building as we head towards the end of term.

We've been really pleased to see how the children have settled and grown since September – not just in their learning, but in their confidence, friendships, and how they go about their day. It's those small, steady steps that really add up.

A quick mention as well for the behaviour workshop. It was great to see parents engaging with these. When school, home, and the children are all pulling in the same direction, things tend to click that bit more easily – so thank you to everyone who's been involved.

From a governor perspective, we've been busy behind the scenes – attending workshops, spending time in school looking at writing and maths, and continuing our oversight of safeguarding, which remains a key priority. That includes supporting the reminders shared by the school and the Duchy around parking near the Foundation Gate. It's an easy one to forget after a sunny weekend, but from the first Monday back please allow a little extra time, park a bit further away if you can, and walk in – it all helps keep the children safe at the busiest times of day.



We're also pleased to welcome two new members to the SGC, who will strengthen the team further.

We hope the Easter break gives everyone a chance to switch off a bit, get outside if you can, and enjoy some time together.

We'll see you back for the summer term, ready for the final run-in.

Have a great break.

The Governing Body



Jonathan Dunne  
Chair of Governors

# EXTRA



We are so proud of Max in Year 3 - and his family are too! After hearing about friends, family (and even Mr Bracey!) taking on charity runs, Max decided he wanted to make a difference as well.

He signed up for the RNLI Reindeer Run, which challenged him to complete 24 miles in December . . . but in true Max style, he didn't stop there! He pushed himself to an incredible 26.4 miles and raised over £350 for the RNLI - an amazing charity doing vital work along our coastline.

What an achievement, Max! Your determination, kindness and community spirit make us all incredibly proud here at Damers.



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
There are 20 Easter egg pictures hidden in this newsletter. Can you find them all?



**Free Event!**

**Monday 6th April 2026 from 9.30 -11.30am**

9:30 am - 10:30 am - Free egg decorating at PIP Cafe

9:30 am - 9:45 am - Quiet Egg Rolling and decoration judging (SEND)

10:00 am - 10:30 am - Egg themed games on The Great field

10:30 am - 11:30 am - Egg Rolling and best decorated egg competition for the following

age categories:

0-5 years, 5-10 years, 10-15 years, 15 years+, 60+ years

Prizes to be won for each category.

Bring your own decorated hard boiled egg or decorate for free at PIPs (no glitter please!)



# EXTRA



**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April, Mr Bracey, our SENDCO and Assistant Head, will be running the Brighton Marathon in add of Macmillan Cancer Support. Each class had the chance to run a short distance with him today, so over the day the whole school combined together ran a full marathon, 42.1km.

Thank you to everyone who supported this by sending in a donation.

You can find out more about his run at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/running-for-darren>

Instagram @runbraceyrun

# CLUBS

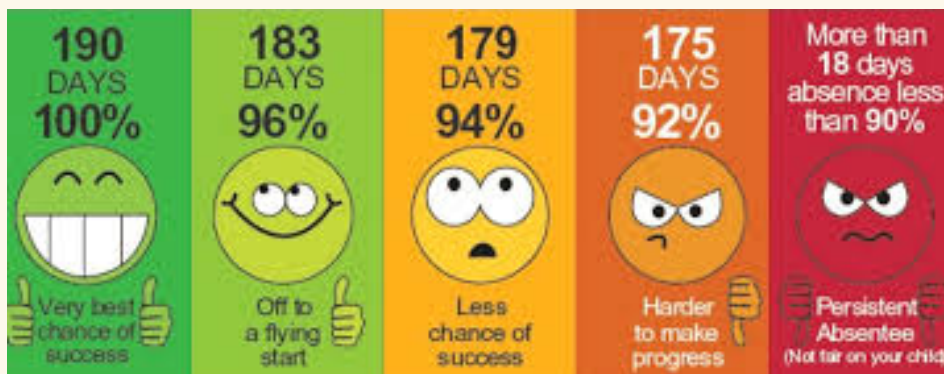
After school clubs for next half term went live on Arbor this morning. Please go onto Arbor to book a space.



# ATTENDANCE

This half term's attendance percentage:

Foundation - 95.1  
Year 1 - 94.9%  
Year 2 - 96.5%  
Year 3 - 96.2%  
Year 4 - 96.2%



# UPCOMING DATES

- Friday 27th March - Last Day of Term
- Monday 13th April - Inset Day
- Tuesday 14th April - Start of Term
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Bike Ability
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May - Inset Day
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - May Day Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May - SF Gore Farm Trip
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May - MF Gore farm Trip
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May - GF Gore Farm Trip
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Leeson House Week
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Yr1 Stay and ... (3pm)
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May - FS Stay and ... (2.55pm)
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Yr2 Stay and ... (8.45am)
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Yr3 Stay and ... (8.45am)
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Yr2 Sports Day (1.45pm)
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Yr4 Sports Day (9.15am)
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - PTA Quiz Night
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Yr4 Stay and ... (8.45am)
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - FS Sports Day (2pm)
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Last Day of Term
- Monday 1st June - Start of Term

HAPPY  
EASTER

