

DAMERS NEWS

May 2026



I wanted to start with a proud Damers moment this half term and say how wonderful our Year 4 pupils were on the Leeson House residential. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, showed great resilience, and supported one another brilliantly throughout their stay. Their conduct was exemplary, and they were fantastic ambassadors for our school - a real credit to themselves, their families and our staff team. What more could you ask! A huge thank you to the team who gave their time to make this experience so memorable.

We are also delighted to share a further update on our new school-based nursery, which is progressing ahead of its planned opening. We have now successfully appointed a brand new staff team, and we are very much looking forward to introducing them to you in the coming weeks. We will be sharing dates for opportunities to meet the team, along with details of an open evening for families. Some work will start on the outside area (at the end of Grayling 1) in June with the rest being completed in July/August. We are also busy designing the new interior and of course our new EYFS curriculum. Exciting times! We look forward to welcoming our youngest learners soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish all of our families a lovely half term and enjoy the wonderful weather!

With warmest wishes

Louise Greenham - Head of School

FOUNDATION



This half term, Foundation have been fully immersed in their learning about where our food comes from. Each class enjoyed a wonderful visit to Gore Farm, where the children learned about the life cycle of eggs, held baby ducklings, interacted with calves and lambs, explored first-hand how crops grow and can be made into food, and even experienced a bumpy tractor and trailer ride!

Back at school, the children have continued their learning through imaginative play by creating their very own farm shop in the outdoor area. At the start of term, each class also received a family of baby caterpillars for them to look after and care for. The children (and adults!) have loved watching them transform into beautiful butterflies while learning all about metamorphosis.

We have also explored the life cycle of seeds and enjoyed growing our own sunflowers. What a busy and exciting half term it has been for Foundation!

YEAR 1

Year 1 enjoyed a delightful welly walk to Poundbury, led by Miles King, as part of their learning about plants and the natural world. The children collected buttercup seeds along the way and showed great care and enthusiasm for their surroundings. On returning to school, they scattered the seeds in the Great Field, hoping to encourage more wildflowers to grow for everyone to enjoy. It was such a lovely trip and perfectly timed, as we linked our learning to celebrating David Attenborough's 100th birthday in the same week, inspiring the children to think about how we can all help to care for our environment.

In art, the children have been focusing on circles and spirals, exploring how these shapes are so often found in nature, from flowers and seed heads to shells and patterns in plants. They have experimented with a wide range of media to create their own artworks, including drawing, painting and using natural materials. The children have shown great creativity and curiosity, producing thoughtful pieces inspired by the world around them.



YEAR 2

Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful welly walk around the Great Field as part of their learning about biodiversity in our local area. As they walked, the children mapped their route and recorded their observations, carefully noting the different plants and wildlife they spotted along the way. We visited Damers Field. The children were fascinated to see how much richer and more varied the plant life was here compared to the regularly mown areas of the Great Field.

The children have also been learning about life cycles in both Literacy and Science. They particularly enjoyed reading *The Tadpole's Promise* and visiting the pond to observe which stage of development the tadpoles. In addition, we have been closely observing painted lady caterpillars as they grow and develop, form their chrysalises, and emerge as butterflies. Once the butterflies emerged, the children carefully discussed the best place to release them, deciding that the garden area offered the greatest shelter and food sources.



YEAR 3

Year 3 pupils had an exciting and educational Rainforest Day, raising £109.90 for the Rainforest Trust by coming to school dressed in green to show their support for the world's rainforests.

The classrooms were filled with excitement as the children welcomed special animal visitors from Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre. Pupils were fascinated to meet a range of animals and learned interesting facts about how rainforest creatures survive in their natural habitats. Many children said this was the highlight of the day.

Year 3 were also fully immersed in a now-press-play rainforest experience, where sounds, stories and movement helped them feel as though they were deep in the jungle. The children listened carefully and used their imagination to explore the sights and sounds of the rainforest.

Later, pupils put their learning into action by creating eye-catching posters to encourage people to stop deforestation. Their posters were full of strong messages, bright pictures and thoughtful ideas about how we can protect rainforests and the animals that live there.

Rainforest Day was a huge success, helping Year 3 to learn more about the importance of rainforests while raising money for a very important cause. Well done, Year 3, for your enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork! 🌍💚



YEAR 4

Our Year 4 pupils returned from their Leeson House residential full of stories, smiles, and a real sense of achievement. It was a fantastic few days packed with adventure, teamwork, and plenty of memorable moments.

One of the highlights was the night walk, where children bravely explored the local grounds as the sun was setting, listened carefully for wildlife and discovered how different the world feels at dusk. Their curiosity and confidence shone throughout.

Back at Leeson House, the children showed impressive independence as they organised their rooms, worked together to keep their spaces tidy, and supported one another through the routines of residential life. For many, this was a big step, and they handled it wonderfully.

A huge thank-you goes to all our parents and carers for helping prepare the children so well for the trip. Your support, packing, planning, and reassuring, made a real difference. We also want to express our appreciation to the staff team who organised the residential and generously gave up their time to make this experience possible. Their care, energy, and commitment ensured every child felt safe, supported, and ready for adventure.

We're incredibly proud of Year 4 and all they achieved during this unforgettable trip.



COPPER BASE

This week in Copper Base, we have been exploring the theme of oceans and sea creatures. We enjoyed reading and sharing books by Eric Carle, which inspired our learning. The children created a range of colourful sea creatures using different materials and techniques. We also investigated interesting facts about a variety of sea animals, helping to build our knowledge and curiosity about the underwater world.

Alongside this, we have been working on a range of number activities, including exploring fractions, solving simple word problems, and practising adding numbers up to 20, alongside our peers for investigations and practical problems.



READING ROCKS

Thank you to everyone who took part in our sponsored read. We raised just over £1000! We have loved choosing lots of lovely new books for all of our classrooms, including beautiful new picture books, graphic novels and books celebrating the wonderful diversity of our school.



WRITERS' CORNER

Year 3 have shown what brilliant young writers they are this year through their newspaper reports on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii. The standard of writing across the classes was something to be very proud of.

In their reports, the children demonstrated a strong understanding of newspaper features. They wrote eye-catching headlines, clear introductions and included key facts using the who, what, where, when and why of the event. Many pupils also used ambitious vocabulary and vivid descriptions to help the reader imagine the dramatic events unfolding.

We were particularly impressed by the way the children adopted a formal reporter style, writing in the past tense and including witness quotes to add realism. Their work showed care, focus and growing confidence in organising ideas and writing for an audience.

A fantastic effort from Year 3 – these reports were a wonderful example of the high-quality writing taking place in the classroom and a great stepping stone for the work still to come!



Masses of ash and dust cover Pompeii's blue skies.

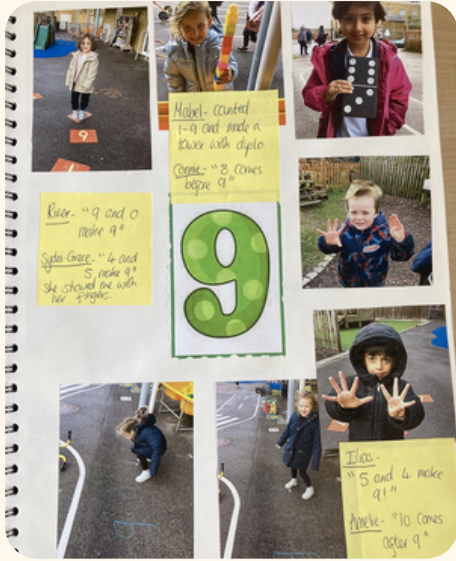
people and the calming scent of salty air. Later on, the streets began to rumble and groan but the Pompeians weren't bothered. "To start with, I wasn't too bothered because everyone thought it was another earthquake and we know how to shelter from it, but after a while, I began to realise it could be worse," commented a local baker.

Around lunch, the beautiful, blue skies of Pompeii were suddenly a murky, dark grey and filled with ash. "It was horrifying, we had no warning on this and began to dash to the

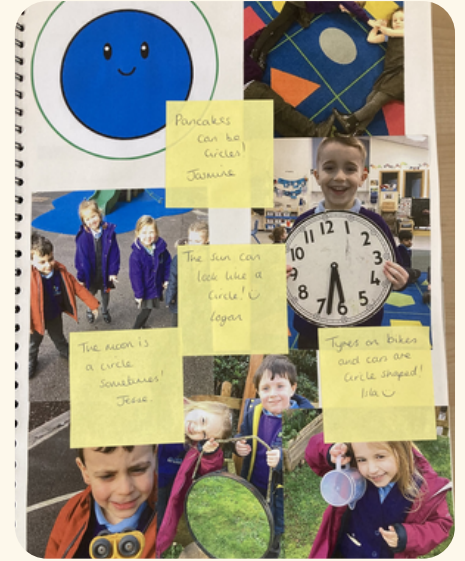
As the ash cleared, lava flowed down into Pompeii and lightning danced across the sky. "As we stumbled on the dust-covered ground we wondered if Pompeii would be seen again," exclaimed Tania, who also escaped the eruption.



MATHS



In Foundation, we love showing our maths outside and in! This term we've been exploring finding different shapes around the Foundation area and reading and making numbers to 10 in different ways, including building towers, dominoes, chalk writing and fingers.



R.E.

As we move into the summer months, there are some interesting and amazing religious celebrations happening around the world. Learning about different festivals helps us celebrate our wonderfully diverse local and global community and encourages children to be curious, respectful and proud of their own traditions.

Here are just a few celebrations coming up:

The Feast of St Peter and St Paul is a celebration observed by some Christians. It remembers two of Jesus' most important friends and leaders of the early Church.

Eid al-Adha is an important festival for many Muslims.

Asala / Dharma Day is a Buddhist festival marking the Buddha's first teaching.

Rath Yatra (or "Chariot Festival,") is an annual Hindu festival with towering wooden chariots

Are You Celebrating?

If your family will be marking any religious or cultural celebration in June or July, we would love to know! Sharing your traditions helps us celebrate the diversity of our school community. Please let your child's teacher or the school office know if you have something special coming up.

JIGSAW



Our Jigsaw PSHE theme for Summer 2 will be 'Changing Me'. Coping positively with change. Please see what we teach in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic lessons: [PSHE lessons](#)



SUPER SPOTTERS

Super Spotters

Damers is coming into bloom and is looking particularly beautiful down by the pond with the yellow flag iris, Turkish sage and columbine, giving pops of sunny yellows, rich pinks, mauves, indigos and Damers purple. Each flower has its own different shape, size and rainbow colour.



We've been pond dipping and life above and below the waterline is also looking wonderfully diverse with minute baby water boatman, whirligig beetles, hair worms and even a delicate large red damselfly flitting over the water. The tadpoles are starting to develop their back legs and look huge compared to when they first hatched.



News from the coop ...

The new chickens are settling into school life and after a few weeks of getting to know each other at a distance they have now been put together in the same coop and are getting on well. Can you spot all 6 hens in the photo, some are playing hide and seek!

It was wonderful to mark the 100th birthday of David Attenborough in school and see your joyous birthday cards to him. He has been so lucky to visit far-flung places all over the world and see up close amazing plants and wildlife. Sir David's love for the natural world started close to home when he was a young child. If you're interested in nature you don't need to go far to find all sorts of fascinating things. Look out of a window, under a rock, up at the sky, inbetween the blades of grass. Go on your own safari on the way to school, it could take you far!



ECO NEWS



The Eco Team have been looking at an event that is being held in June called **The Great Big Green Week**. Click on it for more information.

They have decided they like the idea of a plastic free picnic and have been looking at what they can bring to it. A plastic-free picnic relies on buying loose produce, using deli counters, and selecting items packaged in glass, metal, or paper.

Here are food items you can buy for a plastic-free picnic:

- Bread: Freshly baked baguettes, sourdough loaves, or focaccia, ideally placed directly into a paper bag.
 - Produce: Loose fruits and vegetables, such as apples, pears, grapes, bananas, and watermelon.
 - Cheese & Dairy: Hard cheeses (like cheddar or gouda) bought in large blocks, or brie/camembert wrapped in paper.
 - Drinks: Juices and water in glass bottles or aluminium cans.
 - Charcuterie: Salami, prosciutto, or ham, often available to be wrapped in paper or placed in your own container.
 - Savory Treats: Pork pies, scotch eggs, or quiches from the deli counter, brought in your own container.
 - Homemade anything: Eliminate packaging by using your own containers
- Tips for Success
- Bring Reusables: Use mesh bags for produce and take your own containers to deli/butcher counters.
 - Use Eco Friendly Wraps: Replace cling film with beeswax wraps, tea towels or foil to cover foods
 - Look for Foil: Margarine or butter is sometimes available in foil and greaseproof paper rather than plastic tubs.

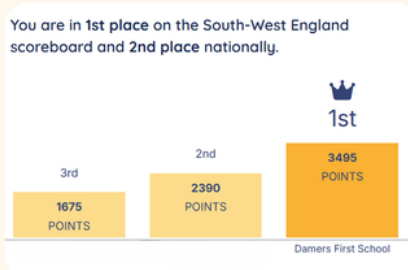
Why not have a go at having a plastic free picnic at home.

We have been talking about butterflies recently too, as it is the schools logo.

The Butterfly Conservation would like people to vote for their favourite British butterfly.

The voting closes on June 7th so have a look at the beautiful butterflies on the page and get voting.

<https://britainsfavouritebutterfly.co.uk/>



GOVERNORS

As Governors, one of the real joys of this time of year was seeing our Year 4 children head off to Leeson House for their residential visit.

Of course, school is about reading, writing and maths and we are rightly proud of the progress our children make in the classroom. But experiences like this remind us that education is also about something much bigger. It's about helping children grow in confidence, resilience independence and kindness.

For many of our children, the residential was their first real taste of being away from home with friends, trying new activities, facing small challenges and discovering that they were capable of more than they perhaps realised. Those moments matter. They helped shape their character.

We believe that what makes that growth possible is the culture and values that sit at the heart of our school community every day. The encouragement to be brave enough to try, caring enough to support one another and resilient enough to keep going when things feel unfamiliar or difficult. Those values didn't just appear at Leeson House, they are nurtured in classrooms, playgrounds and corridors throughout the year by our staff, families and children together.

We hope our Year 4 children returned with muddy trainers, tired legs, plenty of stories... and perhaps just a little taller in confidence than when they left.



Jonathan Dunne
Chair of Governors

EXTRA

We loved celebrating David Attenborough's 100th birthday this term. Not only has he inspired us with incredible scenes and stories from the natural world but he has also become a leading voice in protecting the planet. We have been learning a new song called 'Eco Warriors' which challenges us all to think about what we can give up to make a difference to our planet. Read the lyrics below and think about something you could do as a family.

Sing along with the song [here](#).

Eco (x 8)

*(Eco) Eco warriors (x3)
Ev'ryone must play their part,
One small change can be the start.*

It may feel overwhelming,
A global problem to overcome.
But each person makes a difference
When we join up to work as one;

(To be Eco) Eco warriors...

What would you give up to save our planet?
Flights abroad? A meat-based diet?
Taking the car just to drive down the road?
Using the washer for only half a load?
Leaving the lights on? Wasting lots of water?
Heating the house as much as you wanna?
Fast fashion and single-use plastic?
The time has come for some drastic action.

First task is to spread the message.
There's no time to relax
We must fight this climate crisis.
Stand up! Now it's time to act.

(To be Eco) Eco warriors...

No more coal. No more oil.
Keep that carbon in the soil.
Climate change is not a lie,
Do not let our planet die.
One, two, three, four,
Climate chaos at our door.
Five, six, seven, eight,
Planet Earth is at stake.

Whose planet? Our planet!
Whose future? Our future!
Whose planet? Our planet!
Whose future?

CLUBS

After school clubs for next half term went live on Arbor on Wednesday 20th May.
Please go onto Arbor to book a space.



ATTENDANCE

This half term's attendance percentage:

Foundation - 95.2%
Year 1 - 95%
Year 2 - 96.7%
Year 3 - 96.2%
Year 4 - 96.3%

Maintaining Good



Attendance



UPCOMING DATES

- Friday 22nd May - Last Day of Term
- Monday 1st June - Start of Term
- w/b 1st June Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)
- w/b 8th June Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)
- Wednesday 17th June - Year 3 Sports Day
- Thursday 18th June - Year 1 Sports Day 10am
- Tuesday 23rd June - Year 3 Lulworth Trip
- Wednesday 24th June - Year 1 Sea Life trip M1 & half G1
- Thursday 25th June - Year 1 Sea Life trip S1 & half G1
- Friday 26th June - PTA Summer Fair
- Tuesday 30th June - Year 4 Show
- Wednesday 1st July - Year 4 Show
- Thursday 2nd July - Year 4 Show
- Tuesday 7th July - Transfer Day
- Tuesday 7th July - Year 1 Stay and . . . 2.55pm
- Wednesday 8th July - Year 2 Stay and see our Village Show (9am)
- Wednesday 8th July - FS Stay and . . . (2.55pm)
- Thursday 9th July - Year 3 Stay and . . . (8.45am)
- Friday 10th July - Tee Shirts given to Year 4
- Tuesday 14th July - Leavers Picnic 3.30pm
- Thursday 16th Leavers BBQ
- Friday 17th July - Last Day of Term
- Tuesday 1st September - Inset Day
- Wednesday 2nd September - Start of Term

