

DAMERS NEWS



As another wonderful school year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to say a very fond farewell to our fantastic Year 4 pupils. They have truly done us proud throughout their time at Damers, and it has been a joy to watch them grow into such confident, capable and caring young people. Their brilliant production of 'Cherry Tree Lane' was a fitting finale to their time with us, showcasing their talent, teamwork and enthusiasm. We were delighted to join families at their Awards Afternoon Picnic this week to celebrate all they have achieved. We wish every one of them the very best as they begin their next adventure.

A huge thank you must also go to our incredible PTA. Their hard work and dedication culminated in a hugely successful Summer Fayre, raising an amazing £5,000 for the school. This money makes a real difference to our children, helping to subsidise trips, purchase new books and provide valuable resources and experiences. As some of our longstanding PTA members move on, the PTA is now looking for new parents and carers to get involved. Without continued support from volunteers, it will become increasingly difficult to maintain the level of fundraising that benefits all of our pupils. If you have a little time to offer, please do consider joining - the difference you can make is enormous.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of our wonderful families. Your support, kindness and encouragement throughout the year have been truly appreciated. The strong partnership between home and school is a huge part of what makes Damers such a special place, and we know we simply would not be the school we are without you all.

Have a wonderful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

With warmest wishes

Louise Greenham - Head of School

FOUNDATION



Foundation Classes had a lovely time visiting the Science Department at The Thomas Hardy School for the 'Whizz Bang Workshop'. We imagined ourselves going on a trip through space and watched as the adults showed us different chemicals and their reactions. How exciting!

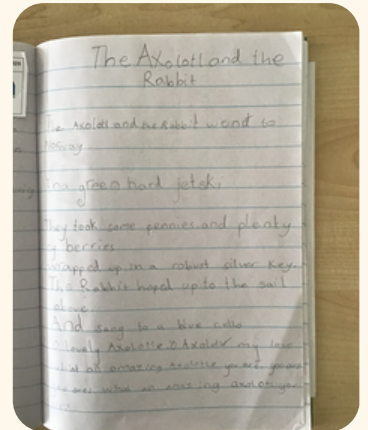
YEAR 1

Our Year 1 children shone at Sports Day, showing enthusiasm, teamwork and determination. They demonstrated school values of resilience by persevering, courage by trying new challenges, and kindness by supporting and cheering one another. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitudes and fantastic efforts.



YEAR 2

Year 2 have enjoyed learning all about special journeys this term. In history, we learned all about the Windrush generation and their experience of moving to Britain. In RE, we learned all about the pilgrimage Hajj; one of the five pillars of Islam. Finally, in literacy we have read two wonderful 'journey' themed books – The Owl and the Pussycat and Where the Ocean Meets the Sky, creating our own poems and fantasy land journeys based on the books. Now we have finished our Year 2 journey, ready to arrive in Year 3!



YEAR 3



Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Lulworth Cove. Although the recent hot weather meant we shortened our visit to the morning, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits - in fact, a lovely sea breeze made it all the more enjoyable! The children sketched the cove, studied the rock formations, carried out a grassland observation, and even had the chance to search for shark teeth on the floor of the visitor centre. Of course, perhaps the most memorable highlight for many was a well-earned ice cream!

The children were a credit to the school throughout the trip, behaving beautifully - even during the very warm coach journeys. All in all, it was a truly successful and happy morning of learning and exploration.



YEAR 4

Our wonderful Year 4s have had a truly memorable end to their time with us. With exciting events including the Leavers' BBQ and Leavers' Picnic, there was so much for them to enjoy as they celebrated their final term at Damers.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm they showed while rehearsing for their Year 4 production of *Cherry Tree Lane*, inspired by *Mary Poppins*. Their hard work shone brightly across all three performances on the big stage, and every pupil should feel proud of what they achieved.

A heartfelt thank-you to all parents, carers and staff for your support with costumes, lines, rehearsals and encouragement; it truly made a difference.

To our Year 4 pupils: we wish you a warm and joyful farewell. May happiness follow you into Year 5 and beyond. Enjoy a wonderful summer holiday, and good luck in your new schools as you begin your next adventure!



COPPER BASE

This term in Copper Base, the children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of all they have achieved. They have shown determination, resilience and a positive attitude towards their learning, making wonderful progress across all areas of the curriculum. They have particularly enjoyed spending time outdoors, exploring, learning and developing their independence through a range of outdoor activities. One of the highlights of the term has been seeing friendships grow, with the children enjoying playing together, sharing experiences and supporting one another.

As we reach the end of the year, we say a fond goodbye to **Erin, Arthur, Evie, Henry and James** as they move on to their next adventure. We are so proud of everything they have achieved during their time in Copper Base and wish them the very best of luck for the future. They will be greatly missed by both staff and friends.



MATHS

Year 4 have really shown their maths magic this term, especially during the Multiplication Tables Check. Every pupil worked hard to build speed, accuracy and confidence; we are incredibly proud of the progress they've made. Well done, Year 4!

Times-tables knowledge is a powerful tool, so we encourage everyone to keep practicing over the summer to help them shine in Year 5 at their new school.

Thank you to our wonderful parents, carers and staff for all the encouragement, quizzes, chanting, skip-counting and support along the way.

Wishing all our Year 4 pupils the very best as they step into Year 5. May your learning multiply!

R.E.

We're excited to be launching our new RE scheme of work in September 2026, called Religion and Worldviews by Kapow. If you'd like to learn more, please visit our website [here](#).



SUPER SPOTTERS

It's a busy time of year both in school and out in the ground's nature areas. We now have lots tiny froglets in the ponds hopping over the lily pads, they are only the size of your fingertip and very cute.

We've also spotted Common Blue Damselflies over the big pond; they are so thin that they can be hard to see but when they zoom by you can see a flash of electric blue.

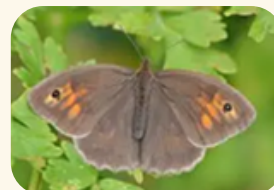


Super Spotters



The wildflowers are looking beautiful, and lots of different species of butterflies are enjoying them. Here are some of the different butterflies we've spotted.

Meadow Brown



Painted Lady



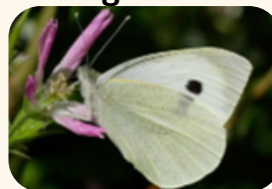
Red Admiral



Peacock



Large White



We have also spotted these fabulous caterpillars which are fuzzy and a whopping 7cm in length! They will turn into Buff-tip Moths who are a master of disguise. When resting, it perfectly mimics a broken birch or oak twig. Isn't nature amazing!



Our Year 4 Damers butterflies are now all grown and will be fluttering off to their new schools in September. We wish them all the best on their new adventures. Have a wonderful summer and keep those eyes peeled for the nature that is all around us.

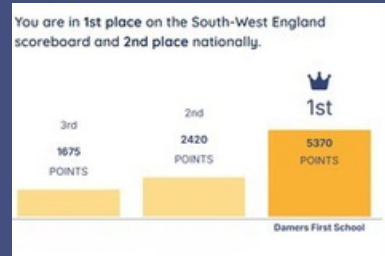


ECO NEWS



A huge congratulations to our Eco Team for their fantastic efforts in the recent Energy Sparks competition (see grids on the right). The team worked incredibly hard all year, showing great commitment to reducing energy use and promoting sustainability across our school. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination have been inspiring, and we are very proud of everything they have achieved. The Eco Team's dedication demonstrates how small actions can have a big impact, and we look forward to building on this success in the future.

First in the South West



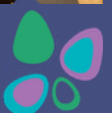
Second nationally

National Scoreboard



During the Great Big Green Week at the beginning of June, Eco Club held their plastic free picnic and learnt about plastic free foods. They brought in some delicious food and explained how it was plastic free. They also made eco friendly bunting for the picnic, using scrap paper and wool. Their families came along to enjoy it with them. We held an eco quiz to test their knowledge, and had a walk around the grounds to show the families what we are growing in the gardens at the moment and to visit the chickens.

Eco Club recently got hands-on with renewable energy by assembling a small wind turbine kit. Working together, they built the tower and attached the blades, bringing science to life in a fun and practical way. Once complete, the turbine was tested on the school field. The activity helped them understand how wind energy can be converted into electricity and sparked discussions about sustainable energy sources. It was a fantastic session combining teamwork, problem-solving, and environmental awareness.



GOVERNORS

As another year draws to a close, the governors would like to thank our children, families and staff for everything they have contributed to the life of Damers First School.

The final weeks of term have brought exceptionally hot weather, highlighting the need for resilience in the future. We are particularly grateful to staff for the care, flexibility and determination they showed in keeping the school operating safely.

Those same weeks have also brought superb end-of-year performances, a wonderful Sports Day and reports charting the progress made by every child. Together, they provide powerful evidence of how much has been achieved and prove that “practice makes better”.

We would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support, understanding and engagement throughout the year. Strong relationships between home and school remain central to helping every child learn, grow and thrive.

We wish all our families a safe, happy and restful summer break and look forward to working with you again in the new academic year.



Jonathan Dunne
Chair of Governors

EXTRA



Dorset Council

Are you the parent or carer of a 2-11 year old?

Parenting isn't easy
If you are finding yourself stuck then join us at **Dorchester Family Hub** for our eight week **Being a Parent** course.

Delivered **by parents for parents** this course will give you practical tools to make parenting more manageable

9th September - 11th November
10am- 12pm

 **EMPOWERING PARENTS
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

Scan here to sign up 

EXTRA

  **HEALTHY WEEK 2026**  

A Week Full of Energy, Smiles and New Experiences!

Thank you to all the businesses who have supported our event!

Healthy Week got our half term off to a fantastic start! Throughout the week, children across the school took part in a wide variety of exciting activities designed to promote healthy bodies, healthy minds and positive wellbeing.

Copper Base



Our Base children loved cooking alongside Libby, learning about healthy ingredients while tasting, mixing and creating a lovely salad. <https://www.joeysfamilyfood.com/> They also enjoyed Basketball and Circus skills workshops!

Year 2



Adventure4all provided and coached year 2 on the **climbing wall**. They all demonstrated fantastic determination! <https://adventure4all.co.uk/> They also took part in exciting **archery** sessions led by Premier Education where they developed focus, accuracy and confidence.

Foundation



Amy Robinson provided the opportunity to explore Nurse's equipment and learn how healthcare professionals help keep us healthy. Chelsi and Hayley from Little Robins

Gymnastics

Club led sessions, helping children build confidence, balance and coordination. <https://www.facebook.com/p/Little-Robins-Gymnastics-Club-61574240041495/>

Foundation and Year 1 also enjoyed an informative visit from Weymouth Swimming Pool, learning valuable **water safety skills**.

Year 1



Simon Chainy provided the children with action packed **circus skills** workshops. <https://www.circusworkshopparty.co.uk/about-simon-chainy>

They also enjoyed energetic **basketball** coaching with Luca Dronyk, developing teamwork and ball skills while having lots of fun! <https://dronykskillscoaching.setmore.com/>

Year 3



Tony Peace from Dorchester Rugby Club helped pupils develop their passing, dodging and teamwork skills with some **rugby** coaching. <https://dorchesterRFC.club/#carousel-70>

Children also enjoyed relaxing **yoga** sessions with Mrs Wray, learning breathing techniques and mindfulness too.

Year 4



Ross Baker helped Year 4 sharpen their **cricket** skills with fun coaching sessions. Three-time Guinness World Record holder **Matti Hemmings** amazed the whole school with an incredible **BMX stunt display** before leading exciting **BMX workshops** for Year 4 classes. <https://www.mattihemmings.com/>

Beat the Teacher!

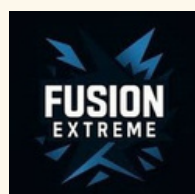
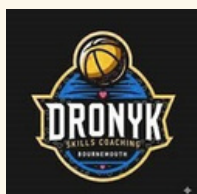
A huge thank you to Mr Bracey and Mrs Greenham for embracing the popular 'Beat the Teacher' challenges with our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils. There were plenty of laughs, friendly competition and some unforgettable memories made!

Wake and Shakers!

Every morning began with our fantastic Wake and Shake sessions, led by our wonderful staff. These energetic sessions got everyone moving, grooving, smiling and ready for a great day of learning.

Thank You!

Healthy Week was packed full of energy, learning, laughter and lasting memories. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the visitors, coaches and organisations who gave their time to provide such fantastic experiences for our children. Most importantly, well done to every pupil for taking part with such enthusiasm, determination, determination and positivity. We are incredibly proud of how everyone embraced the week and showed a real commitment to living healthy, active lifestyles. We can't wait for Healthy week next year!



FARWELL

At the end of this term, we will be saying a very sad goodbye to Mrs Blackaller and Miss Mansell.

Mrs Blackaller joined Damers in 1999 and has been a constant source of support, care and encouragement for many of our children and families - a true Damers rock! Throughout her time at Damers, she has worked with countless pupils, helping them to grow in confidence, develop their skills and create happy memories of their time at school. We know Mrs Blackaller will enjoy being able to spend more time with her family in her retirement.

Miss Mansel joined a little later in 2022! She has been a wonderful addition to our teaching staff and made a huge difference to both the Year 3 and 1 teams. We wish Mrs Manell all the best in her new career in Dorset & Wilts Fire Service! What a change!



ATTENDANCE

There are 190 days in a school year, which leaves 175 days to spend on whatever you choose.



190 DAYS
100%

Very best chance of success



183 DAYS
96%

Off to a flying start



179 DAYS
94%

Less chance of success



175 DAYS
92%

Harder to make progress



MORE THAN 19 DAYS' ABSENCE
LESS THAN 90%

Persistent absence, not good for your child

This half term's attendance percentage:

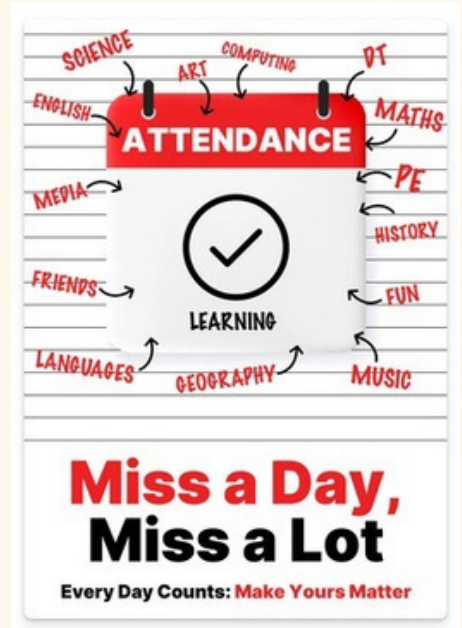
Foundation - 95.2%

Year 1 - 95%

Year 2 - 96.7%

Year 3 - 96.2%

Year 4 - 96.3%



UPCOMING DATES

- Friday 17th July - Last day of term
- Tuesday 1st September - Inset day
- Wednesday 2nd September - Start of term
- Friday 18th September - Foundation parent coffee morning 9am
- Tuesday 6th October - INDIVIDUAL PHOTO DAY
- Tuesday 13th October - Flu Vaccinations Day
- Tuesday 20th October - Last day of half term
- Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd October - INSET DAYS
- Monday 2nd November - Start of half term

