

Damers News



May
2024



We are very sad to say that our wonderful Year 3 TA Miss Dell'Oca is leaving us at May half term. She has been with us since September and has been a much loved member of Skipper 3 as well as working closely with the Base team too. She is a glowing ray of sunshine and we hope to welcome her back to Damers in the future.

GOODBYE



Welcome

Welcome Mrs Hayes
You may have noticed a new face in the office. Mrs Hayes, welcome to Damers, we hope you will enjoy your new job.



Dear Parents and Carers

The first summer half term has whizzed by! It has been lovely being able to get out into the grounds of the school and appreciate the beauty around us and finally see the sunshine for a change. We try to get outside and use the equipment, our outdoor classroom, the field, bird hide and pond area as much as we can. Our fantastic volunteers are keeping the gardens looking their best so outdoors is the place to be this term!

Healthy Week starts our last half term of the year. Mrs Holdsworth and Miss Baker have been busy planning some great activities for everyone (including staff!) like archery, dance and the Smoothie Bike. Watch out for some new additions this year! It is a chance to really think about starting out with healthy habits which hopefully impact our whole life. You will have seen an email from the PTA about the forthcoming Fayre on the 21st June which asks for help in each class. Thank you in advance for supporting this big event and one that hopefully raises funds to help your child in school. Fingers crossed for some fine warm weather.

I hope you and your child have enjoyed all the extra things we do in addition to daily teaching and learning. It has been wonderful to see so many of you at our Stay and... sessions - thank you for your support. Our year 4 Leeson House trip is definitely one of the highlights of the Damers journey and this year, the Year 4s did us proud. The children represent our school on these trips as well as making life long memories and they were truly wonderful. Activities included evening walks to Dancing Ledge with some spellbinding stories from Mr Rothman, orienteering, pond dipping and of course - making their own beds! Thank you parents for the essential homework of putting a duvet cover on a duvet!

I wish you and your families a restful half term holiday week, hopefully full of warm sunshine. Thank you again for all your support, it makes such a difference.

Mrs Louise Greenham
Head of School

Staying safe over half term online:

[Essential online information for parents](#)

[Online safety top tips for parents](#)



Foundation

Foundation have been enjoying two stories about plants - The Tiny Seed and The Curious Gardener. They have been enjoying finding out about different seeds and what they need to grow. We wondered, do the biggest seeds grow into the biggest plants? Have a look at our seed collection and see what you think...

Do you know how to look after a plant? The children have been writing instructions such as "Keep it wet, put it in the sun and do not pick flowers!"



Year 1

Year 1 went on a welly walk around Poundbury looking at the different buildings and landmarks. There are loads of similarities with London that include Strathmore House based on Buckingham Palace, Royal Pavilion Arch taken from Marble Arch. We ended our Welly Walk with a trip to Poundbury Garden Centre to take part in a mural of a tree. The children used their hand prints to decorate the tree with leaves. The tree will be put up inside the garden centre near the exit.



Year 2

This term we have loved learning all about the importance of bees! We have enjoyed a visit from a local beekeeper, explored our school grounds to identify which areas we could make more bee-friendly and created some beautiful drawings of bees.



We have been learning about plants and adaptation in our science sessions. Each class is growing broad beans under different conditions and monitoring the growth each week. We also have a Venus fly trap in each classroom and have enjoyed learning about how they work. We are now waiting patiently for them to catch their dinner!

Year 3

This half term, year 3 had a visit from the Weymouth and West Dorset beach lifeguards from the RNLI. We learnt some important tips to help us stay safe if we visit the beach including what the different flags mean that the lifeguards can use. They also shared some great safety advice to help us remember:

1. Stop and think- is it a safe place to swim? Can you see the lifeguard and the flags?
2. Stay together- always stay close to our friends and family.
3. FLOAT- if you get into trouble or feel tired in the water, FLOAT like a starfish until you feel calm.
4. Call 999- ask for the coastguard if you see someone who needs help.



Year 4

Year 4 have been lucky enough to have expert music tuition from a samba teacher this term. Samba is a Brazilian rhythm which we have been playing on lots of different types of drums and other percussion instruments, including Agogo bells, Surdo drums and Ganzas. We have really enjoyed trying out the different instruments and practising different rhythms. We will be creating our own rhythms and playing different layers in the music to create a fabulous Samba rhythm!



We've had a wonderful time learning to play these instruments and others.



•CAIXA

Played with a 'normal' drumstick with the drum resting on the floor.



•AGOGO BELLS

•Held in the palm of your hand with finger and thumb to support. Strike with a wooden stick.



•GUIRO

Rub the stick across the springs or grooves

Leeson House

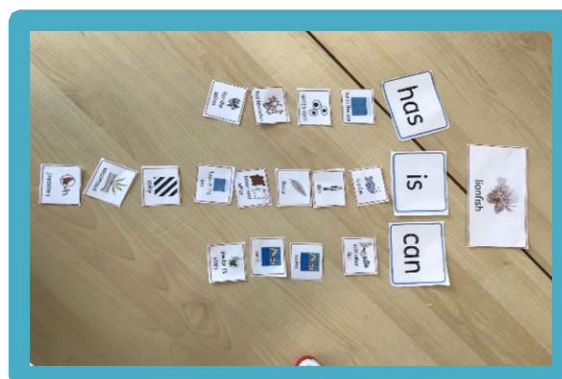
By the time you read this, we will be back from our residential Leeson House trip! We are all in a haze of excitement and we can't wait to share all of our stories and photos with our families.

Base News

We have been enjoying stories all about the ocean this half term. We have been investigating our question **'What wondrous creatures live under the sea?'**

So far, we have learnt about Sea Stars, Jonah Crabs, Sea Anemones, Lionfish and Bristleworms to name a few. We have enjoyed sequencing the stories and organising interesting facts about them.

We will be writing our own sea adventures at the end this term.



READING ROCKS

On Wednesday 20th March, a few selected children from Year 4 made their way over to the Thomas Hardy School for a Wessex MAT collaborative writing event. This involved children from the first schools, middle schools and Thomas Hardy students from lower school and the sixth form. The children worked in mixed age groups to write their own stories, but they had a few challenges to consider whilst they wrote their exciting stories. The finished book is available as a PDF if you would be interested in reading the stories please email reading@damers.dorset.sch.uk. There is a collaborative illustration event happening in July with a comic book illustrator, which our Year 3s will be attending. We can't wait to see what they produce!



In your group you need to work together to write a story

Title: A Journey to a Another Land

Your story must be set in a fictional land that is different to this country and must contain a book character. During the course of your story you must go on an adventure with your character and experience something special about your new land such as the language, clothes, food, customs - the choice is yours.

Rules:

- No more than 500 words
- Start with the words "I first realised something was different when ..."
- Must include the words "I don't understand what you're saying."

BOAT WORM

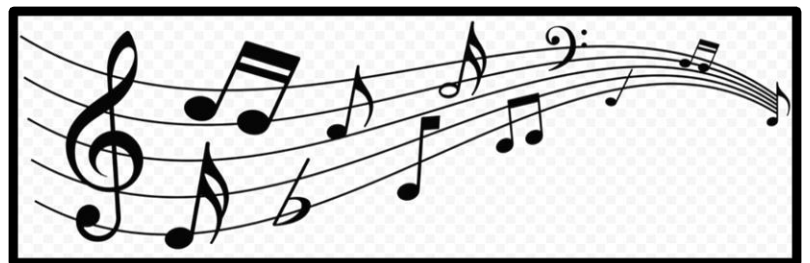


Songs of the Term

This term we have been singing:

[I Belong](#)

Click on the link and have a sing-a-long!



Super Spotters

Swifts, swallows and house martins have migrated all the way from Africa to spend the summer in our country. Over our school, The Great Field and the rooftops of Poundbury there are lots of these birds swooping around catching insects to feed their chicks but they all look very similar! Can you be a super spotter and see if you can identify them? Let us know at superspotters@damers.dorset.sch.uk

Swift



- Dark, sooty brown, swifts may appear black against the sky as they swoop and glide
- Wide, crescent-shaped wings.
- Short forked tail.
- Body to 16cm long.
- Wingspan 40cm.
- Often spotted flying very high in the sky.

Swallow

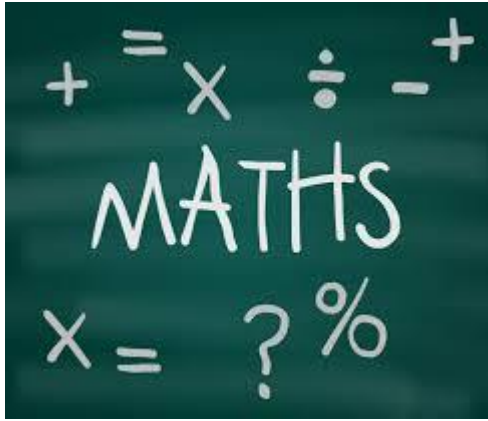


- Swallows are glossy, dark blue-black on top with a white underside and a red throat.
- Scythe-shaped wings with smaller wingspan than swift.
- Long, forked tail.
- Body 15 to 20cm long.
- Wingspan 32cm.
- Often spotted flying low to the ground or at tree height in darting and gliding motions or perching on telegraph wires and aerials.
- Swallows tend to make their presence known by tweeting and chirruping.

House Martin



- House martins have a blue/black back, head and wings.
- White underside and rump.
- Small forked tail.
- Body 13cm long.
- Wingspan 26cm to 29cm (smaller than swifts and swallows).



Finally that **time** has arrived and the sun is shining and the evenings are becoming lighter. Now is a perfect time to help your child learn about time. Why not:

- Make a clock out of natural resources.
- Have a go at making a sundial.
- Look at the 12 and 24hr clock.
- Go on a clock hunt. How many different clocks can you see?
- Time yourself completing a task eg. brushing your teeth
- Look at a calendar and plan some fun activities.
- Learn to tell the time



RE themes

Year 1 will be finding out about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and asking why it is important to Jewish children.

Year 2 will be investigating Haj and asking does completing Haj make a person a better Muslim

Year 3 will be looking at Hinduism and the pilgrimage to the River Ganges

Year 4 Year 4 will be studying prayer and worship in the Christian church. Do people need to go to Church to show they are Christians?

Jigsaw PSHE for next half term will be "Changing me."

Children will explore and find out how our body changes as we grow. Please see what we teach in our Personal, Social, Health and Economic lessons: [PSHE lessons](#)

Eco News

Damers First School Environmental projects appeared in the April DfE Climate in Education Snapshot related to DfE Sustainability Climate Change Strategy that all schools across England have to follow. The article highlighted our work with Energy Sparks to help reduce our energy consumption, using refillable gluesticks to reduce our waste, identifying wildflowers in our school grounds and community using a nature journal

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/IX0HX9i7AbWTAOoo?ref=Link&loc=play>



Matthew Piles, Director of Corporate at Dorset Council and Giles Watts, Dorchester Transport Action Group came to meet with Damers Eco Crew about the Dorchester to Poundbury Cycle Campaign. Matthew listened to the children's points and he promised to have a conversation with the Head of Highways to see what could be possible. He also came up with some ideas to help reduce the amount of cars parking around the school when dropping off and picking up. The Eco Crew are looking into this with Sustrans. Matthew has promised to get back to the children before the end of term on their points.



Well done to all the children for taking part in our Miles for Mosaic running event. In total, we ran 575 miles... that's 22 marathons! Mosaic support bereaved children and have helped many families in our school so thank you all for raising over £1000!



Bikeability

A massive thank you to Holly for running the free Bikeability sessions to our Year 4 children, allowing them to gain more skills and confidence when out cycling.



Football Tournament

Well done to our Year 4 footballers who competed against local schools at the Dorchester Town FC tournament this week. They had some wins, draws and losses and an overall great time in the sunshine! A big thank you to Dorchester Town Football Club for running this event!

Attendance matters!

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.45am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival. Check out the handy NHS advice [Is my child too ill for school](#)
- Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit to see if we can help.

We have seen more requests for term time holiday recently. We do appreciate that it is often much more affordable to book holidays during the term a time when budgets are tight. I would however like to remind all parents and carers of the disruptive effect time off school can have on children, sometimes missing out on whole units of work that aren't revisited or simply missing out on friendships and other important experiences. We can only authorise absences in truly exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support.

F –
95.1%

3 –
95.5%

2 –
94.8%

1 –
95.6%

4 –
95.2%

*Dates for
your diary*

Back to school - Monday, June 3
Healthy Week - June 3 – 7 (Please wear P.E. kits all week)
SF Gore Farm trip - Monday, June 3
GF Gore Farm trip - Tuesday, June 4
MF Gore Farm trip - Thursday, June 6
M4 & S4 Dorchester Museum trip - Thursday, June 6
G4 Dorchester Museum trip - Friday, June 7
Sustrans - Learn to ride – Foundation - Monday, June 10 and
Tuesday, 11 June
New Foundation open evening 7pm - Wednesday, June 12
Sustrans - Cycle skills – Foundation - Thursday, June 13 and
Friday, 14 June
PTA Non Uniform Day - Friday, June 14
Y4 Sports Day - Monday, June 17
Class photos - Wednesday, June 19
Y1 Sports day - Thursday, June 20
Summer Fayre date – Friday, 21st June, 3.30-5.30
Y3 Lulworth trip - Tuesday, June 25
Y2 Stay and sketch - Tuesday, June 25
Y2 Sports Day - Wednesday, June 26
Y2 Virtual author visit - Thursday, June 27
Y3 Sports Day - Thursday, June 27
Y2 Virtual author visit - Thursday, June 27
Foundation Sports Day - Friday, June 28
Y4 Production @ THS - Tuesday, July 2
Y4 Production @THS - Wednesday, July 3
Transfer day - Thursday, July 4
Y3 Stay and sketch - Friday, July 5
Y4 Leavers Picnic - Tuesday, July 16
New Foundation picnic - Wednesday, July 17
Y4 Leavers Day – BBQ - Thursday, July 18
LAST DAY OF TERM - Friday, July 19