

DASP NEWS

**The Newsletter of the
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership**

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Working together to help DASP's Gifted & Talented Pupils.



The three DASP middle school's, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators, have arranged twelve G & T sessions for pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7. These are taking place between March and July 2006. They cover 10 different curriculum areas and specialist teachers from DASP schools have offered to run these sessions. 10 pupils from each middle school are selected for each session; the 30 pupils then meet at one of the middle schools or the upper school to spend a morning or an afternoon working together.

Three G & T sessions took place before the Easter holidays. One Modern Foreign Languages session was held on Thursday 23rd. March. It involved Year 6 pupils producing "le pique-nique" role plays. This was an opportunity for G & T MFL pupils from the partnership to learn language in a fun, engaging and creative way.

Two successful G & T sessions took place at The Dorchester Middle School on Saturday 25th. March, one for MFL and one for ICT. The ICT session involved pupils using a range of multimedia skills to present a report about a fictitious burglary. This proved to be an inspiring topic. Children used PowerPoint, digital cameras, sound recorders, graphics software, audio clips and scanners to make their exciting presentations.



THS Students visit The Prince of Wales First School

In March, some students came from Thomas Hardy to show their mimes. It was hysterical. We all laughed at them. I liked the first person, it was very funny.



On Wednesday 29th March, some Thomas Hardy Year Ten students came and did some miming to show us. It was so COOL! They had face paint on, they looked like clowns. When the clowns arrived they fell asleep so we had to wake them up! Their theme was trading or swapping. They were so funny. I can't wait till I go to Thomas Hardy School, it looks fun!

By Naomi Year 3

On 29th of March the Thomas Hardy's Year 10 class came to Prince of Wales school to do their plays. It was amazing. It was the most funniest thing I've seen. I saw lots of funny moments. It was great, I loved it. The little ones loved it too. I hope they come again. It looks great to go to Thomas Hardy School, I really want to go there.

By India Year 3

On Wednesday we had an exciting assembly. The Thomas Hardy students in year ten came and did fun drama about swapping things. They worked in twos and threes. They did funny moves and funny faces. When we came in they were all asleep and we had to wake them up. We had to shout at them three times. We really want them to come again.

by Lizzie and Charlotte Year 3

Olé – DASP children are festival bulls for a day!

Children at Dorchester First Schools worked with local artists to prepare exciting Fiesta costumes to be worn in the parade which launched the Dorchester Festival in April.



Pupils at Cerne Abbas, Damers, Manor Park, Owermoigne and Piddle Valley, all worked with textile artist Catherine Grimaldi, from the Dorchester Arts Centre. Each of the 5 schools colour co-ordinated to create a colour banded effect in the procession on 29th April. Our photos show children at Owermoigne First making and demonstrating their masks.



Led by Dorchester Samba Band and watched by thousands, the procession went from the Corn Exchange through the town to the Festival site at Maumbury Rings.

Manor Park teacher Cathy Nisbet said: "The Festival was a wonderful event for the town and it was very exciting for the school to be involved. Several of our children were also taking part in a performance of James and the Giant Peach by Dorchester Youth Theatre."



Manor Park children in their colourful Festival costumes.

Piddle Valley First receive International Award

Piddle Valley First School received the British Council International School Award - Intermediate Level in January 2006. This was based upon the work the school has done with Finnish Primary Schools - and in particular Paivankehra Primary Espoo.

The application centred on the impact upon all our children, of our partnership with a school outside the UK. We had to present evidence of the ways in which our exchange of visits affected how and what we teach. After discussion with Governors I feel that the Intermediate level is appropriate for a school of Piddle Valley's size. A commitment to the next stage of award would be beyond the scope of our resources.

Carole McCormack (Headteacher)
Piddle Valley First School

Puddletown First wins £5K Lottery Grant for Sports Facilities

Thanks to the expertise of Demelza Roberts of the West Dorset Partnership, who did all the form filling and managed to get the right boxes ticked, Puddletown First has secured a £5000 grant from the Lottery "Awards for all" towards its footballing activities. To secure the award, applicants have to satisfy the Lottery people that the money will help build links with the local community and be an out of school activity.

The grant has been awarded for equipment, coaching and transport. As Puddletown Junior Football Club coaches the First School players, it has been given a £500 share of the grant. St Mary's Middle School's other feeder schools will also benefit, as the planned June Football Festival for Year 4s will be funded from the grant.

A celebration of African Arts at Puddletown

During the last week of the Spring Term, we held an African arts week. Each year group had a go at creating some African artwork. As part of our African week we were involved in raising awareness of the rhinos plight which helps to ensure the survival of the rhinoceros species. We held an African art competition for our pupils which was judged by Mr James Thrift, who spent 6 days trekking the little used

Ronagi wilderness route, to the summit of Kilimanjaro, in aid of Save the Rhino.

The photo shows the winners of our competition.



If you would like to know more about Save the Rhino go to:

www.savetherhino.org

Viv Burgess (Headteacher)
Puddletown First School

Owermoigne First School at the forefront of ICT and that's official!

Owermoigne First School is one of the first schools in the UK and the first in Dorset, to receive the prestigious new National ICT Mark. The new quality mark recognises schools who can demonstrate they use ICT to support all learners and all school activities. The ICT Mark is awarded by BECTA, the governments lead agency for ICT in education and recognises the success that Owermoigne First School has in developing a strategic approach to its use of ICT across the whole school.

It builds upon and will eventually replace the Naacemark (which originated with NAACE – the National Association of Advisors in Computer Education), which Owermoigne First School already holds. In order to gain the new award, the schools have to demonstrate that in addition to meeting the criteria set for Naacemark, they meet criteria focusing on pupils' progress in ICT capability, the impact of ICT on attitudes and behaviour and pupils' progress.

Ian Brewer (Inspector for ICT in Dorset) said he was delighted to hear of the awards. "To have Owermoigne First School amongst the first in the country and the first in Dorset to gain this new award is a wonderful achievement and they should be congratulated. This demonstrates the excellent

ICT management and teaching that is taking place in our local schools."

Helen Boyce (Head teacher) said "We are delighted to receive the ICT Mark. It recognises our approach to ICT and the positive impact that it is having on our school as a whole."

Neil McLean, Executive Director Educational Practice, BECTA said "Owermoigne First School thoroughly deserve this accolade. They clearly demonstrated how important it is to take a holistic approach to using ICT in a school. By doing this, their investment in new technologies has contributed to improvements in learning. The ICT Mark based on the BECTA self-review framework requires schools ensure their key structures, processes and boundaries enable ICT to support personalising learning."

Nicola Hodgson
ICT Co-ordinator (Owermoigne First)

St Mary's Charminster visit Garden Centre.



Oak and Willow class from St Mary's First School, Charminster visited Poundbury Garden Centre on Thursday 20th April. We went to buy bean seeds, sunflowers seeds and compost. We really enjoyed looking at all the plants and were amazed by all the different colours. We were particularly interested in the water fountain at the Garden Centre. Thank you to all the staff at Poundbury Garden Centre, who made our trip so successful. We are looking forward to watching our beans and sunflowers grow.

Debbie Lailey
St Mary's Charminster

Website development in DASP

Marilyn Peddle is based at the Thomas Hardy School and has been working hard on

establishing the school's Intranet. Here she talks about her recent involvement in working with other DASP schools on their websites.

At the beginning of 2005 my role was extended as Web Administrator at Thomas Hardy School, into helping schools in the Partnership develop their websites. It has been a positive experience for myself and I hope the schools have also gained something constructive by making use of my skills.

In my role I try to allow the school to develop their website as they wish, whilst advising them on what they need to make it usable and accessible to a wide range of people. This has involved giving a professional look to the website, but maintaining simplicity in the design to allow "in house" updating.

After the new site has been developed I have maintained close contact with the schools as necessary allowing them to maintain their websites and giving them back up and advice as needed.



The first project, DMS - uploaded Easter 2005

The websites I have helped completely redesign so far are: Dorchester Middle, St Osmund's Middle, Manor Park, Milborne St Andrew, Puddletown and Piddle Valley. I am in the process of re-working The Prince of Wales First School website and Charminster First at the present time. If you would like to take a look at any of the websites on-line, go to the DASP Community link on www.dasp.org.uk for the links to the schools.

If you would like some help with your school website from complete redesign to perhaps help with image editing or anything else, please contact me **Marilyn Peddle** – email mpeddle@thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk or 01305 266064 ext 153.

To contribute to this newsletter, e-mail:

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DASP Website: www.dasp.org.uk