



October 2022

Newsletter



Welcome to the October newsletter. This term has absolutely flown by; I cannot believe that half term is nearly upon us! Here is a snapshot of the many activities and events we have engaged with during this busy month.

Harvest Assembly

On 13th October, we held our Harvest assembly in St Mary's Church, Denver. Each of the classes performed a harvest themed song they had been learning in their music lessons and the School Council led some readings and prayers. It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and grandparents in the church – thank you for coming along to join us in our celebrations.

Harvest Celebrations

A huge thank you for the many donations we received as part of our Harvest celebrations. Our new blue collection bin was full of produce and here is a photo of the School Council with some of your donations.



Foodbank Visit

On Tuesday 18th October members of our School Council travelled to the Downham Market Foodbank to find out more about what they do to support the community and to take the generous donations made during our Harvest collection.

School Council members Kayla and Chloe wrote this lovely report about their visit...

The food bank was incredible! It showed us just how many people are suffering and how much the food bank relies on our donations. All the staff (who are volunteers) were very welcoming. If you look worried, they give you tea or coffee and a biscuit. Also, they will talk to you about your problems.

It isn't just food for people that they provide, they also provide cat food, dog food, toiletries and even clothing in case you need to attend an important event (such as a job interview). This is because if you are unable to feed yourself, you are also unable to feed your other family members, including your pets.

When someone donates a tin or other product, it is weighed, and the date is checked. This is displayed clearly on the top so it is easier to see and is not wasted. There are items on the front desk that are out of date, that they leave out so everyone has a choice if they want to take it or not as they don't want people to become ill. Once the items have been dated, they are then sorted into categories: toothpaste, sauces, animal foods and more.

My favourite part (Kayla) is that they have a reverse advent calendar! Instead of receiving chocolate or an object, you donate that to the food bank instead. It is a really creative idea. You can donate as much or as little as you can manage. Everything counts and is valued.

It really was an incredible experience and we learnt a lot from visiting. They help anyone in need which is so kind. Please remember to spare something whenever you can.



Open Morning

On 14th October we hosted an Open Morning aimed at the new Reception starters for next September. The children and their families were given a tour of the school by our excellent Y6 children and then spent some time in Class 1. Refreshments were also provided by the Friends. If you know of anyone who missed the Open Morning, please get them to contact the school to arrange a visit.

Christian Vision

Recently, we asked the children to create an image that will help us to represent our Christian vision 'Let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16). The children produced some excellent designs, which have been displayed in the entrance through the staffroom, and we took elements from a number of these to create the wonderful image below, which I'm sure you will agree is an excellent symbol to celebrate our vision.



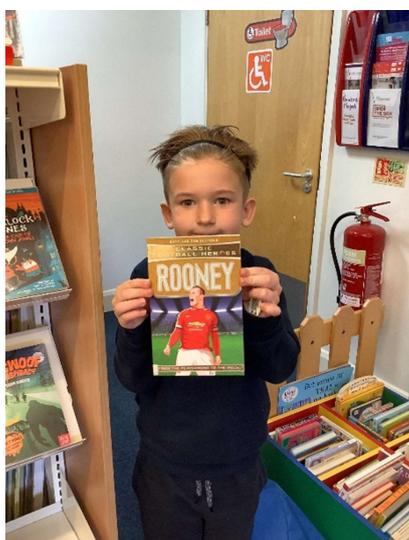
Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

In the last newsletter, we shared the good news that we had achieved the Eco-Schools Green Flag award for the last academic year. We have since received our green flag which last year's Eco-Committee are proudly showing off below. Well done to the whole school community for this fantastic achievement!



Library Visit

On 11th October, the children in Years 1 and 2 visited Downham Market Library. They had a tour of the library by Fran, the librarian, completed a quiz and were given the opportunity to take out a book with their library cards. They were all extremely well behaved and excellent ambassadors for the school. Here are some photos of their visit.



Supertots Playgroup

Our first Supertots playgroup of this term was held on 13th October. The sessions are run jointly by the school and sixth form students from Downham Market Academy. The sessions run fortnightly from 9.30-10.45am, with the next session being held on 3rd November. Please spread the word as we are keen to welcome more families.



Willow Weaving

Last Friday, we were joined by June and Julian who kindly gave up their time to help us weave our living willow. They were joined by Miss Waters, Bobby, Evie, Rosie, Saffron, Amelia and Oliver who offered an excellent helping hand. We are currently working on creating an outdoor reflection space within our living willow and this will hopefully be ready soon after half term.



Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you for the many donations we have received for the Rotary Shoebox Scheme, which this year is supporting those affected by the war in Ukraine. There is still time for items, or even full shoeboxes, to be brought into school. These will be collected in the week after half term. For more information about the scheme and lists of suggested items, please visit www.rotaryshoebox.org

New Menu Food Tasting

On Tuesday 18th October, we were joined by Amanda Massen from Norse, our catering provider, for a new school menu taster session. The children in Classes 1 and 2 sampled some of the dishes in the new menu which starts after half term, including lemon cake, teriyaki chicken and sausages. The children then gave their feedback on the new items, and as you can see from the photographs below, these were mostly positive. The new menu can be found on our school website.



Hate Crime Awareness

On Friday 14th October, Class 4 had a RSHE lesson with a difference. They were joined by PC Hazel Tampin and a large number of Norfolk schools for an online lesson about hate crimes. They learnt that children have some criminal responsibility and can be arrested from the age of 10. Hazel explained which crimes can constitute a hate crime if crimes are committed against the five characteristics that are protected by laws: threatening behaviour, assault, harassment, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour (also known as nuisance). The characteristics that are protected in law are: religion, race, disability, transgender identity and sexual orientation. At the end of the session there was a chance for questions and signposting to organisations such as Childline.



Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge

A huge congratulations to everyone who engaged in the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge. Fran from Downham Market Library delivered our certificates and said how impressed she was at how many children had completed the challenge from Denver this year. Here are the children receiving their certificates in our Celebration Assembly.



Afternoon Tea and Preloved Book Sale

Yesterday, we had an Afternoon Tea and Preloved Book Sale in school, kindly organised by the Friends of Denver School. It was lovely to welcome so many members of the school and local community into school – we really appreciate your support. A fantastic £242 was raised to help fund our new library, thank you so much!



Staff Update

I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed Mr Ashley Cawley as the new Class 2 teacher. Miss Pennock will teach Class 2 on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Mr Cawley on Wednesdays – Fridays. We look forward to welcoming Ashley to the team after half term.

Governor Update

I pleased to inform you that Sarah Dungay has joined our Governing Body as a Parent Governor. Sarah is mum of Grace in Class 4. We do still have one vacancy for a Parent Governor and will be contacting you after half term with another Parent Governor election round.

Christian Values

Each half term, we focus on a different Christian value and this value permeates through the curriculum and our Collective Worship. Our Christian value for the second half of the autumn term is peace.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultation evenings will happen after half term. These provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments will be available on the below dates and will take place via Teams or telephone call. More details about how to book appointments will follow after half term.

	Dates
Class 1	9 th and 10 th November
Class 2	7 th and 8 th November
Class 3	7 th , 10 th and 16 th November
Class 4	8 th and 9 th November

New Library Update

Just a reminder that our library project is in the Community Grant area in the Downham Market Tesco store. Please help us collect as many blue tokens as possible. Work to move the shelving and books from the corridor into the new library is happening over half term. We have also consulted with the School Council over some possible designs for the new library. These are exciting times, and we are making significant progress towards our end goal.

After School Club

Thank you to those parents who completed the survey we sent out to see if there is a demand for an After School Club, similar to our popular Before School Club. We had 15 responses, all of which said they would potentially use such a club. We plan on offering a club on a trial basis soon after half term to see if it is popular. More details will follow after half term.

Out of School Hours Communication

You can contact the school urgently, for example with a safeguarding concern, during out of school hours and over the half term break by using the dedicated email address worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk. If you are worried about something, please do contact the school via this method and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Volunteers

We are very grateful for the many volunteers who come in to listen to readers, help on school events and trips etc. If you feel you have some time to spare, please let me know. Any extra support is always welcome.

Attendance

We are continually working hard to improve school attendance. Any absence from school has an impact on learning, as is exemplified in the table below. Please remember that holidays in term time will not be authorised.

Attendance	Days Off	Approximate Weeks Off	Hours of Learning Lost	
100%	0	0	0	Excellent
96%	8	1.5	40	Good
90%	19	4	100	Slight Concern
85%	29	6	150	Concern
80%	38	8	200	Serious Concern

We are continuing to promote good attendance by celebrating the class with the highest attendance each month. October's attendance figures are as follows:

Class 1	89.4%
Class 2	96.5%
Class 3	94.5%
Class 4	95.3%

Well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of October, the second month in a row! 😊

Our overall school attendance so far this year is 95.9%.

Celebrating Success

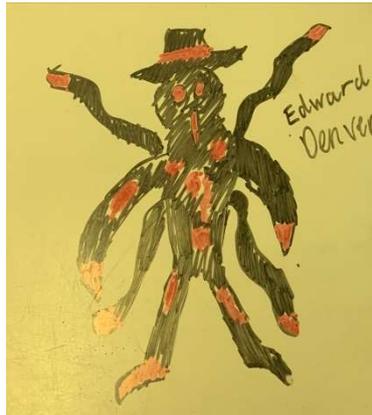
In the words of our school vision 'Seeking to discover and celebrate what is good in each individual', we are always keen to celebrate our children's achievements, both in school and out. Please do send class teachers details of these so they can be shared in future newsletters.

Running Star

Well done to Mrs Henden who has been the first female home in 7 of the last 9 King's Lynn Park Runs. She also came an impressive 2nd female home in her category in the first of the Shouldham Cross Country Grand Prix series. Go Mrs Henden!

Drawing Competition

Congratulations to Edward in Class 4 who, won first place in the monster drawing competition at Downham Market Academy's recent opening evening. Edward's drawing has featured in the Academy's weekly newsletter. Well done, Edward!



Friends' Update

We would like to congratulate our new joint chairs Michelle Caul-Byrne and Danielle Grummitt who were unanimously elected at our annual general meeting last month.

Christmas Cards

For those children that completed a drawing template, you should have received your customised order form giving details of how to order and pay online. The deadline for orders has been extended to 27th October so you still have time to get your orders in and make great souvenir gifts and keepsakes.

Fireworks

The Friends of Denver School will be running a family fun craft activity making lanterns at the Denver Playing Field Committee Grand Fireworks display on Saturday 29th October. We hope you will be able to join us and come and say hello. If you are heading out to the Downham Market and District Roundtable Fireworks Display at Stradsett Hall on 5th November, don't forget there is the build a Guy competition with the winning entrant's school also receiving a £100 donation.

Bags2School

We have another Bags2School collection planned for 9th November. All donations can be dropped off at the front of the school from 8am on the morning of the 9th November.

Christmas Events

We will be holding our annual Christmas Coffee Morning, with hamper raffle on 8th December from 9am in the school hall. Also returning this year will be the Christmas Fayre on

24th November. We are hoping to have an array of craft stalls and a book fair providing an ideal opportunity to stock up on Christmas gifts. There will be refreshments and children from Classes 3 and 4 will be hosting games and competitions. Should you wish to have a stall, please contact The Friends on Friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

Easy Fundraising

Just a reminder that we have access to raising free donations for Denver School every time you shop online with over 6,000 retailers using Easy Fundraising. It takes only 2 minutes to register and then shop as normal. To start your shopping journey first go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/ and search for Friends of Denver Village School. For all purchases made with retail partners through the Easy Fundraising website or app, retail partners make a small donation to our cause.

Preloved Uniform

We have a selection of preloved uniform available. If you need any items, please contact Friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk with your requirements. A selection will also be available to purchase on the day at the Christmas events.

Clothes Labels

Name labels on uniform, lunch boxes and water bottles and other school kit ensure your child returns home with their own uniform (and not someone else's). <https://www.stikins.co.uk> offer stick on name labels that are washing machine and dishwasher safe. Using fundraiser code 36218 at the checkout allows the school to receive commission on every sale.

Forthcoming Events

School Photographs – 1st November

Tempest photography will be visiting school on Tuesday 1st November for individual and sibling photographs. If you do not want your child to have their photograph taken, please inform the school office by Monday 31st October.

Denver Supertots - 3rd and 17th November

Our next Denver Supertots playgroup sessions will be on 3rd and 17th November at 9.30am in the school hall. The recent session was very popular, but we are always keen to welcome new families, therefore please spread the word.

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind – November and December

The children in Class 3 will be engaging in the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind programme in their Friday PE sessions across the next half term.

Pizza Making Class 1 – 8th November

We have organised a pizza making workshop for Class 1 on 8th November. The children will make homemade pizzas which they will then be able to eat.

Odd Socks Day – 14th November

To mark the start of Anti-Bullying week (14th -18th November), we are taking part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 14th November. The children will be asked to come to school wearing odd

socks to show that we stand against any forms of bullying. Louise from the Swan Youth Project will also be delivering some workshops to KS2 about bullying on this day.

Children in Need – 18th November

The School Council have decided that they would like to support Children in Need again this year. They are organising a non-uniform day and asking the children to wear bright colours or spots for a suggested donation of £1. Mrs Fenn has kindly offered to bake biscuits which will be sold for 50p each.

Christmas Fayre – 24th November

As mentioned in the Friends' update, we are organising a Christmas Fayre which will be held on Thursday 24th November. A range of stalls will be in the school hall and the children in KS2 will be making games for the children to play. There will also be a book fair. More details to follow soon.

Choir Performance – 30th November

Our school choir have been invited to sing at Ely Diocese's Headteacher Conference on Wednesday 30th November. More details to follow soon.

Pantomime – 9th December

The children in Year 1-6 will be visiting the Maltings, Ely to watch the pantomime, Cinderella. This is very kindly being funded by the Friends of Denver School. The children in Reception will have a Christmas party in school.

Virtual Christingle Service – 12th December

We will be joining in with the Ely Cathedral Virtual Christingle Service on 12th December. The children will make Christingles in the morning, kindly prepared by the ladies from St Mary's Church.

Carol Service – 15th December

Our annual Carol Service will take place in St Mary's Church, Denver on Thursday 15th December at 5.45pm.

Sports News

Dodgeball Taster – Class 1

On 18th October, Owen Smith from Sport2day delivered a dodgeball taster session to Class 1. The children were really engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the session. Here are some photos of them getting stuck in!



Bike to School Week

We marked National Bike to School Week by asking the children to bike or scoot to school in the week commencing 3rd October. We were so pleased with the number of children who engaged and it was lovely to see the cycle shelter full of bikes and scooters throughout the week. Well done to everyone who participated. Below is a photo of the children receiving their certificates in our Celebration Assembly.



Bikeability

Instructors from Outspoken Training delivered a four-day course to train the Y5 children in being safe to cycle on the roads. The training began with onsite Level 1 training which involved understanding how to check whether your bike is roadworthy as well as how to make signals and a number of manoeuvres to avoid obstacles. Days two to four were spent out on the public roads developing their initial training with increasing confidence, pace and technicality. This was to help them to attain Level 2 in Bikeability cycle proficiency training. The children made excellent progress, impressing the instructors. We are also very proud of the children for how well they conducted themselves earning rich praise from our visiting guests. Thank you to Miss Waters and Mrs Dawson for taking their time to be with the children to ensure their safety.



Cluster Football Tournament

Two teams of 6, Denver Dynamos (in red) and Denver Jets (in blue), travelled to Hillcrest Primary School on Friday 14th October to play in a tournament against other schools in the cluster. They each played all the other teams, including each other. Both teams played brilliantly, and the Dynamos returned as the champions! What an excellent result against the might of larger schools such as Hillcrest and Nelson! Our teams were also strongly represented by girls, more so than the other teams that were entered. They earned recognition for their skills and Hillcrest are keen for us to commence some opportunities for their girls and ours to play and practise together.



At each cluster event, Tracy Bower, the School Games Organiser for the area, awards special recognition to particular children who show evidence of the School Games Values. Well done to Sonny and William who received two of the three accolades awarded today.

Mini Marathon

James in Class 3 was massively inspired by his football coach running the recent London Marathon last weekend and is really keen to do the mini version in April 2023. If anyone is interested in this fantastic opportunity, please contact the school and we can register the children. Each child participating gains a £10 award for the school. For more information, please go to <https://www.tcslondonmarathon.com/the-event/tcs-mini-london-marathon>

Other forthcoming events

Other activities that will be taking place this term are the cluster cross country and cluster tag rugby tournament for Year 5 and 6.

And finally...

I hope you all have a lovely half term and a well-deserved rest. Enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 31st October for another busy half term.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

October 2022	24 th – 28 th		School closed for half term
	31 st	Mon	Children return to school
November 2022	1 st	Tue	School Photographs
	2 nd	Wed	Cluster Cross Country
	3 rd	Thu	Denver Supertots
	4 th	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3
	7 th	Mon	Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultation Evening
	8 th	Tue	Pizza Making – Class 1
	8 th	Tue	Class 2 and 4 Parent Consultation Evening
	9 th	Wed	Class 1 and 4 Parent Consultation Evening
	9 th	Wed	Bag2School
	10 th	Thu	Class 1 and 3 Parent Consultation Evening
	11 th	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3
	14 th	Mon	Odd Socks Day
	16 th	Wed	Class 3 Parent Consultation Evening
	17 th	Thu	Denver Supertots
	18 th	Fri	Children in Need
18 th	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3	
24 th	Thu	Christmas Fayre	
December 2022	2 nd	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3
	8 th	Thu	Christmas Coffee Morning
	9 th	Fri	Cinderella
	9 th	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3
	12 th	Mon	Virtual Christingle Service
	15 th	Thu	Carol Service 5.45pm at St Mary's Church
	16 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2023	4 th	Wed	Children return to school
February 2023	13 th -17 th		School closed for half term
	20 th	Mon	Children return to school
March 2023	31 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
April 2023	18 th	Tue	Children return to school

Summer Term

May 2023	1 st	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	29 th - 2 nd June		School closed for half term
June 2023	5 th	Mon	Children return to school
July 2023	21 st	Fri	Last day of summer term