



November 2022

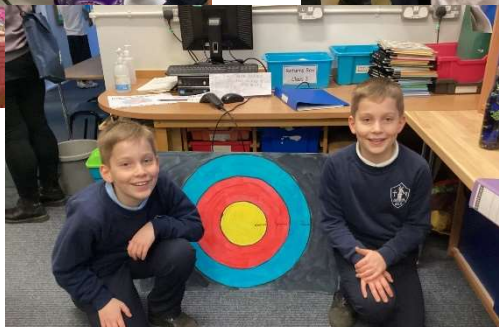
Newsletter



Welcome to the November newsletter, and what a busy month it has been! We hope that you enjoy reading about what has been happening in school and the local community.

Christmas Fayre

On 24th November, we held a very successful Christmas Fayre in school. There was a great atmosphere, and it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves. The KS2 children who organised and ran their own stalls did an amazing job and should feel so proud of themselves. A huge thank you also goes out to the members of the Friends for their incredible support in organising and running another successful event. A fantastic £430.92 was raised in total – well done to all involved! 😊 We realise that these are difficult times, so your support this year is especially appreciated.



Scholastic Book Fair

To coincide with the Christmas Fayre, we ran a Scholastic Book Fair. Just over £200 of books have been sold over the past week, providing the school with over £50 of free books. Thank you to all those who supported the book fair. Here is Rowan choosing a new book.



World Land Trust Donation

A gift donation has been made to the World Land trust on behalf of Denver Primary by Mr John Sheldrake of Swaffham. His donation supports their Buy an Acre programme and will help to create permanently protected nature reserves. Thank you to Mr Sheldrake for this generous gesture.

Children in Need

On 18th November, we held a non-uniform day to support this year's Children in Need appeal. Mrs Fenn kindly made some delicious Pudsey biscuits which were sold at break time and after school. Thank you to the members of the School Council who collected money on the day and sold the delicious biscuits. In total we raised a super £159.07 – an amazing effort! Thank you for helping us to support such a good cause. Here is a photo of Class 3 getting into the spirit of the day.



Odd Socks Day

On 14th November, we organised an Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week. The theme this year was 'Reach Out' and we encouraged the children to talk to someone if they, or someone they know, is ever being bullied. Representatives from the Swan Youth Project also came into school to lead some anti-bullying workshops in Classes 3 and 4. Well done to all the children for promoting this very important message, and of course for wearing such fantastic odd socks!



Choir Performance

On 30th November, the school choir performed in Ely Cathedral at the Ely Diocese Headteachers' Conference. They sang beautifully and received lots of positive comments from the other Headteachers. Here they are in the Lady's Chapel.



Remembrance

On November 11th, we marked Remembrance Day with a special assembly led by Reverend Moat. Grace, in Class 4, laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the school at the memorial in Denver on Remembrance Sunday. The children at Before School also made poppy wreaths using their own handprints.



Pupil Safety Questionnaire

Earlier in the term, our wellbeing ambassadors, Ella-Rose and Oliver, worked with me to develop an online Pupil Safety Questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed by the children across all classes in school on the laptops, with the older children helping the younger children. The School Council analysed the results this week and were pleased overall by the mostly positive feedback. They have created some posters to remind the children who they can talk to if they have any worries, and what to do if they are concerned about bullying. A summary of the results has been attached to this email.

Questionnaires

I would like to thank everyone who completed the recent online Parent Questionnaire. We received 48 responses in total. Your feedback has been extremely valuable, and we appreciate you taking the time to share your views. We are currently looking closely at the responses, as well as your comments, to identify ways in which we can continue to improve as a school. A summary of the results, which I hope you will agree are very positive overall, are attached to this email.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

Booking for the **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun** festive holiday activity scheme opened on Monday 21st November. Activities will run from 19th – 30th December for children aged 5-16 (and 4-

year-olds in reception classes). Free places are available for children who are eligible for means-tested free school meals. Parents can use www.everymove.uk to search for and book activities for their child. There are hundreds of spaces available across Norfolk and some brilliant activities to choose from. Parents are encouraged to book as soon as possible to secure their first choices. For more information, please visit Big Norfolk Holiday Fun at www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/

Getting Ready for Spring

This half term, the children have each had the opportunity to plant a spring bulb, kindly donated by a parent, to help increase biodiversity in the spring. Here are some of our green-fingered children in planting action.



Clubs

Just a reminder that next week (5th – 9th December) is the last week for clubs this term, except for the Y6 Booster which will run until the end of term. I would like to thank all the people who have offered after school clubs this term – we really do appreciate it. Clubs will resume in January and a letter will be sent out at the beginning of term giving further details.

This May Help

This May Help is a new national initiative providing mental health advice to parents and carers who may have concerns about their child's mental health. The website gives easy-to-follow advice to help families manage their child's mental health needs. This advice was developed by NHS professionals and parents who've been through their own child's mental health journey. Parents and carers have shared advice that helped them and that may also help other families. The advice covered on 'This May Help' includes: self-harm, gaming and online safety, eating disorders, school avoidance, understanding mental health, understanding teenagers, online threats, building rapport, building resilience, building a support network, self-care tips, managing an emergency, managing in a crisis, and preparing for a children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) appointment. These subjects were chosen by families and young people who have gone through their own mental health challenges. Gary Lineker, Myleene Klass, and Tanni Grey-Thompson are amongst 16 presenters featured in the films.

For more information, please scan the QR code below or visit the website [This May Help – Children’s Mental Health Advice aimed at Parents and Carers - Jesmond Health Partnership \(www.jesmondhealthpartnership.co.uk\)](http://www.jesmondhealthpartnership.co.uk)



Litter Picking

The members of the Eco-Committee have organised a Friday litter picking group to help keep the school ground free from litter. Here are some of the members in litter picking action.



Bank Holiday 8th May

In honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, there will be an extra bank holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 and school will be closed on this day. This date was scheduled as the first day of the 2023 Key Stage 2 SATs and we have now received confirmation from the DfE that the tests will take place in the same week, following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned. The new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

If you have any questions about the changes to the tests, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Pizza Making

On Tuesday 8th November, the children in Class 1 were joined by Amanda Massen from Norse, for a pizza making workshop. The children really enjoyed the session, as is evident from the photos below.



Governor Update

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have one vacancy for a Parent Governor and will be organising a Parent Governor election round in the new year.

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. We managed to fill an impressive 27 shoeboxes as a school. Pictured below is Richard Fordham blessing the 117 shoeboxes made up by donations from the church and local community.



School Photographs

Delivery of the school photographs from Tempest are coming into school in batches, therefore if you have not already received your order, you should do very soon. We would like to thank Tempest for donating £167 to our school funds in commission for the photos sold.

New Library Update

Just a reminder that our library project will be in the Community Grant area in the Downham Market Tesco store until January. We are currently in the lead with the blue tokens so thank you to everyone who is supporting us. We have now moved the bookshelves from the corridor into the new library, which has created much more space in the corridor, and are now just awaiting delivery of the new tables, chairs, shelves, and soft furnishings to make it a truly wonderful place to celebrate reading. Hopefully the project will near completion in January so the children can start to enjoy using their new dedicated library.

After School Club

We will be starting a paid for After School Club, like our popular Before School Club, in January on a trial basis to see if it is popular and financially sustainable. More details about how to book for this club will be sent out before the end of term.

Out of School Hours Communication

You can contact the school urgently, for example with a safeguarding concern, during out of school hours 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.

Christmas Cards

From next Monday, the children will be able to post all their Christmas cards to their friends and staff members in the Christmas post box. Please ensure that envelopes clearly show the recipient's first and the initial of their last name, along with their class, to ensure that cards can be delivered successfully e.g. Charlotte D Class 4. Cards can be posted until the last day of term, Friday 16th December.

First Admission to School

Applications for children starting school in Reception next September need to be made by 15th January 2023. Parents need to apply at www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk. If anyone is interested in their child starting here at Denver next September, or knows of anyone else who is interested, please contact the office to arrange a visit.

School Opening Hours

Just a reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am and finishes at 3.15pm. Any child coming in after 9am will be marked as late and if they are later than 9.10am, this will count as an unauthorised absence. The gate will be locked promptly at 9am and any child coming to school after this time will need to enter school via the office.

Attendance Focus

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. November's attendance figures are as follows:

Class 1	88.2%
Class 2	96.4%
Class 3	94.5%
Class 4	96.2%

Once again, well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of November, the third month in a row! 😊

To help keep you informed of your child's attendance, a letter will be sent out at the end of each half term for those children with an attendance of less than 90%, which is deemed as persistent absence.

Our overall school attendance so far this year is 95.6%, which is lower than our target of 97%. Please work with us to help improve attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

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 Ace

Mrs Henden continues to put us all to shame with her amazing running achievements. She has been the first female home in last 4 King's Lynn Park Runs. Well done Mrs Henden!

Taekwondo Star

Seren, in Class 3, was entered into the UK Open Taekwondo Championship in Birmingham last weekend and won a gold medal in sparring for her grade and age category. What a fantastic achievement, well done Seren! Here is Seren sporting her very impressive medal.



Friends' Update

It has been a busy month for the Friends. Here is a summary of the many fundraising activities they have organised recently.

Library Fundraiser

We held a library fundraiser book sale afternoon tea on 20th October raising £242 towards the new library. Thanks to everyone who supported and helped with this event. We are pleased we could help the school with this fundraising.

Spring Bulbs

We also organised and donated wild daffodil bulbs for the children to plant out in the wild area on the playing field adjoining the carpark and in the school grounds. The children thoroughly enjoyed planting their own bulbs and a lovely article appeared in the Your Local News praising their efforts. Many thanks to Danielle, Michelle, Naomi and Rosie for taking the time to organise and plant the bulbs with the children and the school for supporting this initiative. We look forward to seeing the display of beautiful flowers in spring.

Christmas Crackers

Christmas will soon be upon us, and the Friends will be in school on 2nd December for Decoration Day making crackers. Please can child/ren bring in a cardboard tube ready for cracker assembly.

Christmas Fayre

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported the Christmas Fayre on 24th November. We raised £430.92. Well done to all the children for their hard work creating and running their own game stalls (and parents/grandparents who got roped in to help!). You should all be very proud of yourselves. A special thank you to Knicat bakery for cakes and parents who donated cakes and ran stalls. Thank you as well to everyone who took part and ordered items with children's personalised artwork Christmas cards and gifts. The estimated commission for the school currently stands at £203.70.

Without all your efforts and support we couldn't run these events which support our children's learning and fund so many of the extra activities in school.

Christmas Coffee Morning

We will also be holding our annual Christmas Coffee morning in school on Thursday 8th December in the main hall from 9am. We will have an array of cakes and refreshments, raffle, preloved uniform, and our annual luxury Christmas hamper. We hope to see you there. If you can't make it don't worry, there's no need to miss out, we will be holding our first ever coffee morning at Downham Market town hall on 16th December to raise money for the school library. If you're free please do come and join us and as ever a helping hand, or baked goods, are always appreciated.



Bags2School

We had another Bags2School collection on 9th November which raised £28.00. Thank you to everyone who supported this collection.

Fireworks

We attended the Denver Playing Field Association Fireworks Display for the first time this year making craft lanterns. It was a great opportunity to be out in the community and we saw many current and ex pupils who came and made a lantern with us. We raised over £60 during the course of the evening and thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone. Thank you to everyone who support this event, especially Amanda Dawson who hand washed over 100 jam jars!



Cashback - Easy Fundraiser & Amazon Smile

We recently received Amazon smile commission of £5.83 and easy fundraising of £18.67. Don't forget free donations can be earned 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. Just start your shopping journey by first going to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/ and search for Friends of Denver Village School. All purchases made with retail partners through the Easy Fundraising website or app retail partners generates 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). www.stikins.co.uk offer stick on name labels that are washing machine dishwasher safe, with same day delivery. Using fundraiser code 36218 at the checkout allows the school to receive commission on every sale.

Forthcoming Events

Denver Supertots – 1st and 15th December

Our next Denver Supertots playgroup sessions will be on 1st and 15th December at 9.30am in the school hall. The next session will have a Christmas theme and we are planning a Christmas party for the final session of the term. Please help us to spread the word to any families with pre-school aged children who may want to attend.

Christmas Parties

We are once again organising for each class to have their own Christmas party in the last few weeks of term. The parties are always a fun way to end the term and will help to get the children, and indeed staff, into the festive spirit. The parties will take place on the following dates:

	Dates
Class 1	9 th December
Class 2	13 th December
Class 3	12 th December
Class 4	13 th December

Open Classrooms

Thank you to all parents who engaged with our recent parent consultations. It is vitally important that we maintain a good dialogue between home and school so we can support each child effectively and help them to thrive. We would like to invite you into the classrooms to see the children's hard work this term by having some open classrooms. The classrooms will be open during assembly time (3-3.15pm) on the following dates:

	Dates
Class 1	7 th December
Class 2	8 th December
Class 3	6 th December
Class 4	12 th December

Please come into school via the field gate. We hope to welcome many of you into school on these days.

Christmas Coffee Morning – 8th December

As mentioned earlier, the Friends are organising their annual Christmas Coffee Morning on Thursday 8th November at 9am. We would like to welcome members of the school and local community to this event, therefore please do spread the word. Raffle tickets will be on sale on the day for parents to purchase. There are some amazing prizes up for grabs this year including tickets to Oxburgh Hall, £20 Church Farm voucher and a Faraway Play forest school family pass. There is also the incredible luxury hamper to be won with lots of delicious food treats for all the family to enjoy. If you are unable to attend on the day but would like to buy some tickets, please send money in on 8th in a marked envelope with your child specifying which raffle you would like to buy tickets for. A strip of 5 tickets will cost £1 for the standard raffle and £2 a strip for the luxury hamper. Thank you.

Pantomime – 9th December

The children in Year 1-6 are looking forward to visiting the Maltings, Ely to watch the pantomime, Cinderella. This is very kindly being fully 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.

Class 1 and Class 2 Christmas Play – 14th December

The children in Classes 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing this year's Christmas play, The Boy Who Made Santa Cry. They will be performing this to parents in the school hall at 2.30pm on Wednesday 14th December, with parents welcome into school from 2.15pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Christmas Lunch – 14th December

The children will be enjoying their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 14th December. Please ensure that you have ordered your child's lunch by Tuesday 6th December, thank you. The children can wear festive clothing on this day to help them to get into the festive spirit.

Carol Service – 15th December

Our annual Carol Service will take place in St Mary's Church, Denver on Thursday 15th December at 5.45pm. This event is for children in Classes 2, 3 and 4. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Jumper Day – 16th December

To help spread some festive cheer through the school, we are asking that all children come to school dressed in a Christmas jumper or Christmas themed clothing on the last day of term, Friday 16th December.

Sports News

Cluster Cross Country

The children in KS2 who achieved a top three place in our intra-competition attended the annual cluster cross country competition which was held at Hillcrest Primary School in Downham Market on Wednesday 2nd November 2022. For the first time since the initial lockdown, all schools in the cluster were in attendance with a very high turnout of competitors.

There were girls' and boys' events for each year group with children in Years 3 and 4 completing 2 laps of the field and Years 5 and 5 completing 3 laps. A top three finish resulted in a medal and a top ten finish allowed the children to progress to the next level of competition, the area finals. All the children tried their very best. Our medallists were Mia in 3rd place for the Year 4 girls and Joshua-Jon 2nd place for Year 6 boys and Theo Ratcliff right on his heels in 3rd place.



Cross Country Area Finals

On Thursday 24th November, children who had qualified with a top ten finish in the Downham cluster cross country tournament travelled to Lynnsport to compete in the area finals. The

children did fantastically well showing a whole wealth of School Games values such as determination and resilience.

Mr Peach, who was spectating, kindly offered this review of the Year 3 girls' race:

On Thursday 24th November, Esther and Lorelei competed for Denver in the 2022 West Norfolk Cross country competition. On a very fresh November morning, both girls arrived on time and excited to represent the Denver year 3 girls. Lining up against more than 50 competitors, both Esther and Lorelei made strong starts, with Lorelei storming to 4th place over the first 400m. Esther made a steady but strong start in the middle of the pack. Over the next half of the race both girls who were jostling for position made their way round a long and challenging course, both giving everything and doing Denver proud. As they rounded the final bend, Esther and Lorelei found themselves in a pack of around 10 children; they both managed to finish strongly out sprinting competitors to finish in 30th for Esther and 35th for Lorelei. Amazing achievements and both girls should be very proud of themselves!

A top ten place saw the competitors through to the county finals. Well done to Mia and Joshua-Jon in Class 4 whose 9th places secured their advancement to the next stage. A huge thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to take the children to the event.



Dodgeball Club

This half term, Reece from Wereham Dodgeball Club has been running a Dodgeball club on Mondays before school from 8-8.45am. This paid club has proved to be very popular with the KS2 children and we are hopefully looking to expand the offer to include KS1 children after Christmas. Here is some feedback from the children who attend the club:

Saffron – *'It's exciting and fun'*

Sonny – *'It's great fun because we get to do a variety of games'*

Barney – *'Reece always involves everyone and makes it fun'*

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Class 3 have been engaging with the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind programme over the last few Friday afternoons. Rosie has written this report for the newsletter: *'For the first half of*

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

December 2022	1 st	Thu	Denver Supertots
	2 nd	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3
	2 nd	Fri	Decoration Day
	6 th	Tue	Class 3 Open Classroom
	7 th	Wed	Class 1 Open Classroom
	8 th	Thu	Christmas Coffee Morning
	8 th	Thu	Class 2 Open Classroom
	9 th	Fri	Pantomime – Cinderella (Years 1-6)
	9 th	Fri	Class 1 Christmas Party
	9 th	Fri	Healthy Body, Healthy Mind - Class 3
	12 th	Mon	Virtual Christingle Service
	12 th	Mon	Class 4 Open Classroom
	12 th	Mon	Class 3 Christmas Party
	13 th	Tue	Class 2 Christmas Party
	13 th	Tue	Class 4 Christmas Party
	14 th	Wed	Christmas Lunch and festive clothes
	14 th	Wed	Christmas Play – Classes 1 and 2
	15 th	Thu	Carol Service 5.45pm at St Mary's Church
	15 th	Thu	Denver Supertots
	16 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term – Christmas jumpers
	16 th	Fri	Coffee Morning at the Town Hall

Spring Term

January 2023	4 th	Wed	Children return to school
	26 th	Thu	Active Kids – Y1
	27 th	Fri	Technology Day – Class 3
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
	8 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	9 th - 12 th		KS2 SATs Week
	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