



# March and April 2023



Welcome to the latest bumper edition of our newsletter for March and April. Apologies for a newsletter not being sent out for March; our visit from Ofsted made the last week of term extremely busy! I hope you all had a relaxing Easter break and are ready for the jam-packed summer term ahead. Please look carefully at the forthcoming events and diary dates towards the end of the newsletter so you are aware of the many events we have planned for the final term of the academic year.

## **Ofsted**

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, we received a visit from Ofsted. The inspection, which was conducted by two inspectors, was extremely thorough, and involved all members of the school community: staff, pupils, parents and governors. We are hoping that the report will be published very soon so we can share it with you. I would like to thank all the staff and governors for their hard work in the build-up to, and throughout the inspection itself. They worked extremely hard to let the school's light shine. The children were fantastic and showed great maturity when interviewed by the inspectors. Thank you also to you the parents/carers for your many kind words of support – they really were appreciated. We will let you know as soon as the final report has been made available for publication.

## **Mothering Sunday Posies**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, we continued a long school tradition of making Mothering Sunday posies. As always, the children made some lovely creations, as well as some thoughtful cards. A huge thank you to Jo Walton and Amanda Dawson, along with ladies from St Mary's Church, for their hard work in preparing everything. Thank you also to Morrisons in Downham Market for their donation towards the cost of the flowers and to the Stow Estate for providing the greenery. If you have not already returned the plastic trays, please could you do so as these can then be re-used next year.



### **Easter Service**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, we held an Easter Service in St Mary's Church, Denver and were joined by our families and members of the local community. Each class shared a song they had been learning in their music lessons with Mr Lawrence, and the choir treated us with their wonderful singing. Reverend Nigel Moat performed some magic and memorably challenged Mr Rackham and Mr Cawley to a competition to see who could eat a Cadbury's Creme Egg the quickest! All the children all received Palm Crosses which were blessed in the service. Thank you to all those who joined us for the service.

### **Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge**

Throughout the period of Lent, we engaged with Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge, the theme of which this year was 'Live Life in all its Fullness'. The children explored the different things that help to make their lives full, and they each created their own cups and hats containing their ideas. The hats were then displayed in a cup saying 'Our Cup Runneth Full' which was blessed by Reverend Moat in our Easter service. Many thanks to Carole Reich, our Chair of Governors, for creating our Lent challenge cup.



### **Music Concert**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Class 3 and the children who attended the after school music club put on a concert to the school and their parents/carers. The children really enjoyed performing to an audience using a range of instruments and they put on a really good show. Well done to all involved.





### **British Science Week 2023**

13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> March was British Science Week and the theme this year was '**Connections**'. Each class engaged in activities throughout the week to explore the theme of connections in science. Here are some photos of the children in Class 4 who linked their scientific activity to their geographical learning to make their own versions of seismometers.



### **World Book Day**

Back at the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day. As usual, the children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and took part in different activities to celebrate reading, including reading to children in other classes and a KS2 World Book Day quiz. Parents and carers were invited into school at the end of the day to read with the children. They also took home a £1 World Book Day voucher. Here are some photos of the children in their fantastic costumes.





### **Red Nose Day**

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, we all dressed in red and wore red noses to raise money for Red Nose Day. As part of our courageous advocacy work, the School Council wanted to support the West Dereham Playground fundraiser, therefore we decided to donate half of the £89.60 raised on the day to this worthy cause.



### **Card from King Charles III**

Back in September, the School Council wrote to King Charles III to express their condolences following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. On our return from the Easter break, there was an envelope from Buckingham Palace addressed to the children, and inside a lovely card thanking them for their kind words. The children were really excited to receive correspondence from the King and we plan to frame the card and display it down the corridor.



### **Eat Them to Defeat Them**

Throughout the second half of the spring term, we promoted vegetable consumption by engaging in the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign. Each week, we focused on a different vegetable, and we were really impressed by how many children ate, or at least tried, their veg. Thank you to Mrs Fenn for incorporating this initiative into the menu, and to parents/carers for helping us to promote the campaign.

### **Viking Invasion**

Over the Easter break, the children in Class 3 were busy making Viking longboats as part of their work in history. The boats were fantastic, and the children had clearly put a lot of effort into making them. Here is the fleet invading our school!



### **Crucial Crew**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, the Year 6 children took part in the annual Crucial Crew event at King's Lynn Fire Station. Crucial Crew supports the RSHE and citizenship curriculum by sharing workshops that explore safety in a range of situations. Here is a report of the event from Mrs Henden...

The Fire and Rescue Service taught the children to be more fire aware in the home. They discussed potential hazards and also what to do when faced with a fire. The next station was run by the RNLI. This was about what to do if swept away at sea and how to get the attention of people who could rescue you.

We then moved on to an NHS mental health and emotional wellbeing workshop where the children were shown some very simple strategies for grounding themselves when feeling anxious or angry.



Soon after, we were asked by the Environment Agency to think about what might happen if our area was so badly flooded that we had to evacuate our homes to a nearby school or leisure centre. What would and should we take to cope?

The East of England Air Ambulance Crew then taught us valuable lifesaving first aid skills, how to call for emergency services and how to find and use a defibrillator.



Onwards to Luke, a representative from Cadent, and such an engaging character. He explained how we can prevent, detect, report and deal with gas leaks.



Last but not least, police representatives from Norfolk Constabulary discussed social media and how to protect ourselves online.



Crucial Crew was a valuable experience for the children, and they learnt some very important messages about how to keep themselves safe in a range of scenarios.

### Waste-Free Wednesdays

The Eco-Committee are organising waste-free Wednesdays throughout this term. They want the children to bring in packed lunches which do not contain any packaging. The children get a 'It's good to be green' sticker for bringing in a waste-free lunch and will receive a certificate if they have at least 5 waste-free lunches. We have been very impressed by the number of children engaging so far, although we are hoping that more children will get involved as the term progresses.

### No Child Goes Hungry Scheme

The Swan Youth Project are running a 'No Child Goes Hungry' scheme to all local schools. The scheme aims to help families in short-term crisis by providing weekly food parcels to help them get back on their feet. Here is a poster with more information...

Our 'No Child Goes Hungry' Scheme is here to help you if...

- you have school aged children
- you have had a recent change in circumstances / are in short-term crisis - this includes:
  - you are self-employed and have been unable to work
  - you have had hours cut, or you have lost your job
- you are **NOT** entitled to Free School Meals

You must also be registered with our Love Downham shop to be eligible - they are able to provide support by offering food at reduced prices from the standard rates.

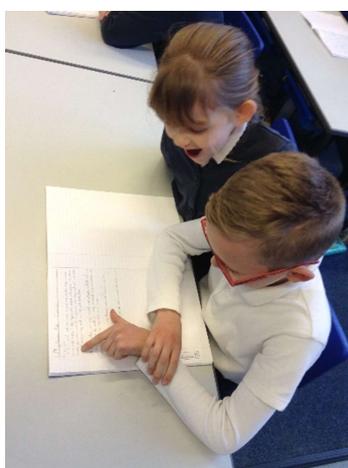
Once this has all been confirmed, food parcels will then be available for collection on a Monday from the centre (Swan Youth Project, Paradise Road, Downham Market, PE38 9JE). Collection time is usually 10am-12pm.

For enquiries please contact [lucy@swanyouthproject.org](mailto:lucy@swanyouthproject.org) or call 01366 386259 !



### Fables

Class 3 recently enjoyed sharing the fables they had written in the spring term with Class 2. The children in Class 2 were really impressed and listened with such intent.



### Attendance Focus

In each newsletter we have an attendance focus as part of our continued work to improve school attendance. Please remember that 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

To promote good attendance, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance each month. March's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	95.7%
Class 2	95.7%
Class 3	94.5%
Class 4	93.1%

April's attendance figures are as follows:

Class 1	98.2%
Class 2	99.4%
Class 3	99.2%
Class 4	95.4%

Well done to Classes 1 and 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of March and Class 2 for April.

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 95.5%, which is lower than our target of 97%. Please work with us to help improve attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

### **Industrial Action**

The next National Education Union industrial action is planned for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Once again, we have plans in place to provide sufficient cover for all our classes and therefore we will be open as usual.

### **Out of School Hours Communication**

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently, for example with a safeguarding concern, by using the dedicated email address [worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto: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.

### **Christian Value**

Each half term we focus on a different Christian value in school, and our value for this half term is **tolerance**. This value will be explored in collective worship as well as in curriculum time and the children will record examples of tolerance in action in their floor/class books.

### **Sun Protection**

During the summer term, the children will spend more time outside. To help protect them from the sun, please ensure that they bring a sun hat and water bottle to school each day, and that they apply sun cream before coming to school. Thank you.

### **Specialist Music Teaching**

To supplement our music curriculum, Miss Berners will be working with the children in Years 1 and 2 this term. They are already enjoying their sessions and Miss Berners has commented on their very good prior knowledge.

### **Music Club**

Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, we are currently unable to offer the music club run by Miss Berners. We are hoping to offer this again after half term to children in KS2, if we can get more children involved. The children who attended the club before Easter really enjoyed the sessions so fingers crossed we will have more sign up.

### **Denver Supertots Playgroup – 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May**

Just a reminder about our Denver Supertots Playgroup which takes place every other Thursday from 9.30-10.45am. All pre-school age children and their parents are welcome to attend for a small cost of £1 each child, with children under 1 being free. A variety of games and activities are planned, with refreshments provided for the adults. The playgroup is jointly run by the school and students from Downham Market Academy. The next session on 11<sup>th</sup> May will be held in St. Mary's Church in Denver.

### **Allergies**

Just a reminder that, due to a number of children with allergies, we are a nut-free school. Please ensure that you do not send any products into school containing nuts, thank you.

### **School Trips**

Staff are currently organising trips for each class to enjoy in the summer term. A huge thank you to the Friends who are kindly funding the cost of the visits.

### Earrings

Just a reminder that it is our policy that earrings should be removed for PE lessons. This is for the safety of the children. Thank you for your support with this.

### Uniform Orders

If you need to order uniform from our online supplier, Gooddies, and would like it delivered free of charge to school, the following information gives their cut-off date for doing so.



#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS USING OUR ONLINE UNIFORM SERVICE**

**THE FINAL CUT-OFF DATE FOR DELIVERY INTO SCHOOL BEFORE THE SCHOOLS CLOSE FOR THE SUMMER BREAK IS**

**MIDNIGHT 15TH JUNE.**

**THE FINAL CUT-OFF DATE FOR DELIVERIES TO HOME ADDRESSES BEFORE 31ST AUGUST IS MIDNIGHT 31ST JULY.**

**ANY ORDERS PLACED AFTER 31ST JULY WILL NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL AFTER THE CHILDREN RETURN IN SEPTEMBER.**

### Update from The Friends

#### **Valentine's Disco**

We hope everyone who was able to join us at Valentine's disco back on 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the Village Hall had a great time. The children seemed to really enjoy the limbo dance, and photo booth especially. A big thank you to former Denver student, Thomas Burt, for doing the disco. Ordered photographs will be handed out at the Coronation Street Party next Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to everyone who helped out on the day or beforehand.

#### **After School Winter Warmer**

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March for a hot sausage roll and luxury hot chocolates after school. Special thanks to Katy Grisman for organising this treat and cooking all those sausage rolls!

#### **Coronation Party - 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Plans are well underway for the Coronation party in school next Friday, and the Friends have been helping the School Council bring their ideas to life. The event will start with a street party and special picnic lunch outside on the playground, weather dependant. Fens Falconry will be coming along with their birds of prey and the children have been practising some Maypole dancing. We would like the children to come to school wearing red, white and or blue clothing to help them to make this a special celebration. Parents can arrive from 1.15pm from the field gate. The Friends will be selling refreshments: teas, coffees, cakes etc. If you are able to spare anytime to help (e.g. making cakes) for this extra special event, we would love to hear from you.



part, please return your completed artwork templates into school by Tuesday 9th May. If you would like any additional templates, please contact us on [friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)

### **Bag2School**

The next Bag2School collection will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

### **Sports News**

#### **London Mini Marathon**

Congratulations to James in Class 3, Saffron in Class 4, and Juniper in Class 1 for completing the TCS London Mini Marathon on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The school will receive £10 each for them participating. What a fantastic achievement by all three children and something to be proud of! Thank you to Mrs Henden for organising this.



#### **Kwik Cricket Club**

This term, we are pleased to be joined by Martyn Wardle from Denver Cricket Club who is running an after school cricket club for Y5/6 to help prepare the children for the cluster Kwik Cricket tournament. Thank you to Martyn for giving up his valuable time to coach the children.

### **Football Success**

Congratulations to Edward in Class 4 for winning the U11s League Cup Final at the weekend with his team, Shouldham. What a fantastic achievement, well done Edward!



### **Bee Netball**

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, a squad of 6 children from Year 6 travelled to Downham Market Alive Leisure Centre to take part in the cluster Bee Netball development tournament. The team showed very good sportsmanship throughout and were a creditable 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 6 in their first ever attempt at this adapted game. Well done Bee Netballers!



### **Game Changers**

In the second half of the spring term, Class 4 took part in Game Changers, delivered by Sean from Alive KLCF, in which they learnt about the interaction between physical and mental health and wellbeing.



## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Coronation Party – 5<sup>th</sup> May**

As mentioned earlier, we are having a celebration on the afternoon of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

### **KS2 SATs Week – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May**

The children in Y6 will be sitting their KS2 SATs from 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May. They have all worked hard and are well-prepared. We wish them all the best of luck – just do your very best, you can do it!

### **Active Kids – 11<sup>th</sup> May**

The final of the Active Kids festivals for Y1 children will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The children have really enjoyed the previous two sessions and I know they are looking forward to the final session.

### **Kwik Cricket Tournament - 19<sup>th</sup> May**

A group of children in Class 4 will be representing the school at the cluster Kwik Cricket tournament on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Class 4 Visit to Great Cressingham Victorian School - 25<sup>th</sup> May**

To support the history curriculum, Class 4 will be visiting Great Cressingham Victorian School on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Outdoor Learning Afternoon for Classes 1 and 2 - 25<sup>th</sup> May**

The next outdoor learning session for Classes 1 and 2 will take place during the afternoon of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Sponsored Walk- 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Our annual Sponsored Walk will take place at 2pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. More details to follow soon.

### **Mini Tennis – 9<sup>th</sup> June**

A group of children from Class 3 will be participating in the Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Phonics Screen Week – 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June**

The children in Y1 will be doing the statutory phonics screen to assess their phonics understanding during this week.

### **Class 3 Visit to West Stow - 17<sup>th</sup> June**

To support the history curriculum, Class 3 will be visiting West Stow Museum on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Sports Day – 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Our annual Sports Day will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, with a reserve date, in case of bad weather, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. All will be welcome into school to cheer the children on.

### **Dance Festival – 21<sup>st</sup> June**

We will be taking part in the annual Dance Festival at King's Lynn Corn Exchange on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

### **Area Sports – 28<sup>th</sup> June**

The annual cluster Area Sports is back again this year and will take place on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> June. This will involve a number of children from KS2.

### **PATHS Parent Feedback Session – 28<sup>th</sup> June**

Anna Sims would like to invite all parents/carers to a PATHS parent feedback session in school on 28<sup>th</sup> June at 9am. More details to follow.

### **OMNES Games Ultimate Frisbee – 30<sup>th</sup> June**

A group of children from Class 3 will be visiting Lynnsport on 30<sup>th</sup> June for an Ultimate Frisbee event as part of the OMNES Games.

### **Mini Tennis – 30<sup>th</sup> June**

A group of children from Class 4 will be participating in another Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **School Games Festival – 11<sup>th</sup> July**

We will be having our annual School Games Festival on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July. More details to follow.

### **Move Up Afternoons – 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July**

On the afternoons of 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July, we will welcome the new reception intake into school and the whole school will move up to their next year group/class. A meeting for the new reception parents/carers will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm.

### **Denver Fun Day – 16<sup>th</sup> July**

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall and the school choir will be performing. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

### **KS2 Production – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Mr Lawrence has, once again, written an original play '**Penelope and The Crystal of Ultimate Knowledge**' for KS2 to perform at the end of the year. There will be two performances, both in the Village Hall with the lovely air conditioning: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm for parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm for parents/carers of Y6 and invited guests. The Thursday performance will be followed by a Y6 leavers' buffet. More details to follow soon.

### **And finally...**

I hope you all enjoy the forthcoming two long bank holiday weekends – fingers crossed for some sunshine and warmer weather! Please do send in photos of how you are celebrating the coronation as we will be creating a display in school of this very special event.

**Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:**

**Summer Term**

May 2023	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Coronation Party
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>		KS2 SATs week
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Y1 Active Kids Festival
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Y5/6 Cluster Kwik Cricket
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Class 4 visit Great Cressingham Victorian School
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Outdoor learning afternoon Classes 1 and 2
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Sponsored Walk
	29 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> June		School closed for half term
June 2023	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 3 visit to West Stow
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Mini Tennis Y3/4
	12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> June		Phonics Screening Week
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Sports Day
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Dance Festival
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fri	Reserve Sports Day
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fri	Bag2School
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Area Sports
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Ultimate Frisbee Y3/4
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Mini Tennis Y5/6
July 2023	4 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Downham Market Academy transition day
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Downham Market Academy transition day
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	School Games Festival
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	New Reception Intake Meeting 2pm
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	KS2 Production
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	KS2 Production
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	End of Year Assembly
21 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term	