



May 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the May newsletter. This half term has passed by incredibly quickly, especially with the extra bank holiday, although we have still managed to pack in a great deal.

Ofsted

Last week, we were very pleased to share with you the final report from our Ofsted inspection on 29th and 30th March. We are proud that the school received a 'good' rating across all areas; this positive outcome reflects the hard work of the whole school community (children, staff, parents and governors) and has provided us with increasingly solid foundations on which to continue to build an outstanding school in the future. The report can be found on our website. A huge well done to the entire Denver School community!



Coronation Celebration

On Friday 5th May, we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III in school. Unfortunately, due to the rain and thunderstorms, our street party was held in the school hall, but the weather didn't dampen our spirits.





Luckily, the sun did make an appearance in the afternoon and the children were able to go ahead with our planned festivities. The children (and adults) were mesmerised by the birds of prey demonstration by Fens Falconry.



Each class also spent some time in the morning with the birds, learning more about them.



A group of children from all classes had been working hard with Amanda Dawson and Michelle Caul-Byrne to learn some maypole dancing which they performed to the children and parents.



The Friends sold refreshments and Mrs Fenn baked an amazing cake, the top tier of which was raffled off to raise money for The Friends.



Thank you to everyone who made this a special celebration and one to be remembered!

KS2 SATs

Between 9th and 12th May, the children in Y6 took the KS2 SATs tests. As you are probably aware from the media coverage, the papers this year were quite challenging, particularly the reading paper. However the children were calm, focussed and all tried their very best and we are very proud of them!

Great Cressingham Visit

Yesterday, Class 4 became Victorian scholars for the day when they visited the Victorian School at Great Cressingham. Here is an account of the visit from Mrs Henden:



The children arrived to the sound of the bell tolling the beginning of the school day. After greeting their teachers for the day (Miss North and Miss Samson), they were separated into gender groups to enter the school building.



Many interesting activities followed: hymns and prayers, Victorian style; reading, writing and arithmetic lessons and close-up science/art observation lessons. We learnt many Victorian sayings: 'Time is the enemy,' 'Practise makes perfect,' and 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again!'



It wasn't all work! Playtime allowed the children to learn how to spin tops, roll hoops, use kaleidoscopes, play wooden quoits, use Zoetropes, flick books, use skipping ropes and many more novel skills...



After a traditional packed lunch, Victorian style, and endless complaints about the tin cups of water (!) there were more things to discover. The boys closely observed and drew scientific objects while the girls sewed lavender bags. After a final handwriting lesson using dip pens and blotting cloths there was a closing hymn and farewell.



This was a brilliant experience. We are truly grateful to Miss North and Miss Samson who provided the experience, the Friends of Denver School who funded the coach, the parents for providing amazing costumes and Miss Cronin and Miss Loveridge for supporting the visit. What a day! One that we will treasure for years to come.

Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

Outdoor learning has been a fantastic success, with all children benefitting from seeing our school field in a different light! The children have created lots of interesting creations from willow, with our largest project to date being the fire pit and live willow fence. They have also made willow head dresses with wildflowers, bug hotels using chicken wire and helped build a fence for Reception using tools (under supervision of course!). They have problem solved moving and siting the new bird table, and they have made Sistrum musical instruments.

Yesterday the children planned and modelled making a spherical dome using a variety of different circular items; this was as an exploratory lesson for a potential whole school project that will hopefully materialise in the second part of the summer term... watch this space, parental help will be welcomed!



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

Please discuss any planned absence, including for holidays, during term time, with the class teacher. A leave of absence form **must** be completed at least two weeks prior to the absence, the link for which should be requested by emailing the school office. Please remember that, in accordance with our policy, a penalty notice fine may be issued for holidays taken in term time.

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

Class 1	96.1%
Class 2	99.0%
Class 3	95.6%
Class 4	97.8%

Well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of May with an impressive 99%!

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 **95.7%**, which is lower than our target of 97%. Please work with us to help improve attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

We also monitor children who arrive at school late. Please remember that any child arriving at school after 9am will receive a late mark. If a child arrives after 9.10am, this will result in an unauthorised absence. Letters will be sent out to parents/carers if there are concerns about punctuality to school.

Waste-Free Wednesdays

Our waste-free Wednesdays have been continuing this term and we have been really pleased by the number of children bringing in packed lunches which do not contain any packaging. This initiative will continue after half term.

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. 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 has been **tolerance** and after half term it is **endurance**. This value will be explored in collective worship as well as in curriculum time and the children will record examples of endurance in action in their floor/class books.

Sun Protection

To protect the children 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.

Denver Supertots Playgroup - 15th and 29th June

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 is on **15th June**.

Uniform Orders

If you need to order uniform from our online supplier, Gooddies, and would like it delivered free of charge to school, the cut-off date is 15th June.



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.

Brambles Animal Sanctuary

Brambles Animal Sanctuary in Denver is in urgent need of pet food. They can take unopened, opened or out of date bags of food. If you can spare anything, please bring these into school after half term and we will pass them on. Thank you.

Update from The Friends

Father's Day

For those who completed the artwork templates, you should now have received your personalised order forms in book bags. Unfortunately, a few templates were delayed and these are now being scanned and codes produced to enable you to still order your products. If you have not received your order form, please contact friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk and we will be able to provide you with the code and online order details. The deadline for orders to be delivered in time for Father's Day has already passed, however if you still wish to place an order, you can do so on the late orders website: www.direct.school-fundraising.co.uk

Coronation Party 5th May

Thank you to everyone who helped out both before and on the day, particularly our fantastic army of volunteer bakers who supplied all the lovely cakes sold during the afternoon. A special thank you to Amanda Dawson for organising the entertainment and much more on the day and to Michelle Caul-Byrne for all her hard work learning the maypole dance with the children.

Pre-loved School Uniform

We will have a few dates where pre-loved uniform will be available at the school this summer. This is a good chance to stock up ready for next year, or if you have outgrown any items through the winter months. The dates are:

- 26th May at the sponsored walk
- 19th/20th July after school

All uniform is passed on free of charge, although a small donation is welcome should you feel able. A good range of sizes and styles will be available of both branded and non-branded uniform. If you are not able to make these dates and would like uniform ready for next year, please email friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk with your requirements or speak to Victoria Fradley (Arthur's mum in Class 3). We always welcome donations of outgrown good quality wearable uniform which can be donated via the blue bin by the field gate.

Bag2school - 23rd June

Our next Bag2school collection will be held on 23rd June. Items that can be donated include good quality clothes, hats, handbags, socks, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and bedding. A full list can be found at bag2school.com. Please leave all donations at the front of school by 09:00 on the day.

Sponsored Walk - 26th May

The Friends of Denver will be offering refreshments on the day and a selection of pre-loved uniform will also be available. We hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you then.

Annual General Meeting – 13th September 2023

Our next annual General Meeting will be held on 13th September after school pick up at 15:20. We would love to see you there and always welcome new, and old, faces. You are welcome to bring your children with you and activities will be available to keep them occupied.

Committee Roles

We have a number of roles within the Friends of Denver School Committee for the next academic year. The Roles of Secretary, Vice Chairperson and Chairperson will be vacant. Our Treasurer will also be in her last year with us next academic year and we are keen that anyone interested in this important role has time to shadow the existing treasurer to ensure a smooth transition. Anyone interested in learning about any of these roles or more about The Friends, please email friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk or speak to anyone of us.

Sports News

Tri-Golf Festival

On 28th April, a group of children from Class 2 and Class 3 participated in the cluster Tri-Golf tournament at Runcton Holme. They took part in a variety of different activities, including chipping and putting. Well done to Esther in Class 3 and Rebekah in Class 2 for being awarded medals.



Active Kids Festival

On 11th May, the Y1 children went to the last of the Active Kids Festivals at Lynnsport. They took part in a range of activities outside on the astroturf. The sun shone and they all really enjoyed the session. William's favourite activity was a cricket game - 'I hit the ball really far and then I had to go and fetch it!'



Cluster Kwik Cricket Tournament

On Friday 19th May, two teams from Class 4 attended the cluster Kwik Cricket tournament at Downham Market Memorial Field. The conditions were dreadful for much of the time but that didn't spoil their enjoyment. The teams came a very respectable 3rd and 5th and were good ambassadors for the school. Many thanks to Martyn Wardle of Denver Cricket Club for preparing them for the tournament by running after school sessions on Wednesdays.



Forthcoming Events

Class 3 Visit to West Stow - 6th June

To support the history curriculum, Class 3 will be visiting West Stow Museum.

Mini Tennis – 9th June

A group of children from Class 3 will be participating in the Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport.

Phonics Screen Week – 12th-16th June

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

Class 1 Visit to Fossils Galore – 15th June

Class 1 will be visiting Fossils Galore on 15th June – more details to follow.

Sports Day – 20th June

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

Dance Festival – 21st June

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

Area Sports – 28th June

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

PATHS Parent Feedback Session – 28th June

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

OMNES Games Ultimate Frisbee – 30th June

A group of children from Class 3 will be visiting Lynnsport for an Ultimate Frisbee event as part of the OMNES Games.

Mini Tennis – 30th June

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

Class 2 Visit to West Runton – 6th July

Class 2 will be having a day at the beach on 6th July when they visit West Runton.

After-School Clubs

All 'free of charge' multi-sports and other after-school clubs will finish week ending 7th July. Our wrap-around care clubs (Before School and 3.15 clubs) will continue until the end of term.

School Games Festival – 11th July

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

Move Up Afternoons – 12th – 14th July

On the afternoons of 12th, 13th and 14th 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 14th July at 2pm.

Denver Fun Day – 16th July

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 16th 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 – 19th and 20th 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 19th July at 6pm for parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and Thursday 20th July at 5.30pm for parents/carers of Y6 and invited guests. The Thursday performance will be followed by a Y6 leavers' buffet. We are also looking at the possibility of having an additional performance for the wider community. More details to follow soon.

And finally...

I hope you all enjoy the half term break and the good weather forecast! We look forward to seeing the children back in school on 5th June.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Summer Term

June 2023	5 th	Mon	Children return to school
	6 th	Tue	Class 3 visit to West Stow
	9 th	Fri	Mini Tennis Y3/4
	12 th -16 th June		Phonics Screening Week
	15 th	Thu	Class 1 visit to Fossils Galore
	15 th	Thu	Denver Supertots – 9.30 – 10.45
	20 th	Tue	Sports Day
	21 st	Wed	Dance Festival
	23 rd	Fri	Reserve Sports Day
	23 rd	Fri	Bag2School
	28 th	Wed	Area Sports
	29 th	Thu	Denver Supertots – 9.30 – 10.45
	30 th	Fri	Ultimate Frisbee Y3/4
	30 th	Fri	Mini Tennis Y5/6
July 2023	4 th	Tue	Downham Market Academy transition day
	5 th	Wed	Downham Market Academy transition day
	6 th	Thu	Class 2 visit West Runton
	7 th	Fri	Free of charge After-school clubs finish
	11 th	Tue	School Games Festival
	12 th	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	13 th	Thu	Denver Supertots – 9.30 – 10.45
	13 th	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	14 th	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	14 th	Fri	New Reception Intake Meeting 2pm
	19 th	Wed	KS2 Production
	20 th	Thu	KS2 Production
	21 st	Fri	End of Year Assembly
	21 st	Fri	Last day of summer term