



July 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year. As always, the end of the school year is always extremely busy, full of lots of exciting opportunities for the children to enjoy and for us to share with you. There has been quite a lot to celebrate in this newsletter so sit back and enjoy!

Denver Fun Day

Last Sunday, our school choir performed at the Denver Fun Day for the third year running. They treated the audience to a selection of songs from the KS2 production on the music stage. Thank you to all the choir members who were able to join us, Denver Fun Day for once again inviting us and of course to Mr Lawrence for his hard work with the choir this year.



KS2 Production

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week KS2 performed their end of term play, Penelope and the Crystal of Ultimate Knowledge. This year's extravaganza had an 80s theme, and I am sure brought back a lot of fond memories of shell suits, leg warmers and fluorescent clothes – I can certainly remember dressing in such clothes! Like last year, we performed in Denver Village Hall, although this year the temperature was thankfully slightly cooler! The singing, acting, dancing and costumes were all absolutely fantastic; it was lovely to see the children really enjoying themselves. They should certainly all feel very proud of themselves. A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved in helping to put the performance on, to Matt Valentine and Denver Village Hall, and in particular to the very special Mr Lawrence whose incredible talent once again shone through.



Y6 Leavers' Buffet

Following the Thursday performance, there was a buffet at school for the Y6 leavers, their parents and invited guests. There was a fantastic spread and we are grateful to all the Y6 parents for providing the food. The parents had also clubbed together to organise an inflatable for the children to enjoy and enjoy they did! It was also lovely to welcome back last year's Y6 and learn about how they are getting on in their new schools. A huge thank you to the Friends for providing the drinks.

Music Concert

Last week Class 2 and our music club treated us to a wonderful music concert to showcase what they have been learning with Miss Berners. The concert was brilliant, and it was lovely to see the children all enjoying themselves and their music. Thank you to the talented Miss Berners for bringing such musical joy to our school.



Class 2 Visit to West Runton

On Thursday the 6th July, Class 2 visited the beach at West Runton. Here is an account of the trip as written by them...

Class 2 took a coach down to the seaside village of West Runton. Steve was a coach driver for the day and he did really good job getting the big coach down the small, windy, twisty road to the beach. When we got to the car park, the man had to come and open the barrier to let our big coach in so we could park. Class two departed the bus and went down the hill by foot to the beach, some children needed the toilet!

We walked to the beach, and we put our water shoes on. We enjoyed splashing around in the sea; Everybody got soaked. We all sat on the rocks and ate lunch at 12:00 o'clock, we had delicious sandwiches prepared by Mrs Fenn.

We then went to the rock pool area which was the other side of the groyne. The groyne is a wooden structure that is in place to stop the big waves crashing on the sand and eating away at the beach. There, we found some crabs. The crabs like hiding under the seaweed but the seaweed was really slippery to walk on, so we had to be very careful not to fall. Some of us found huge crabs that we placed in our bucket, but we were careful to add water so that the crabs were happy. We made sure we released the crabs back into their environment, and make sure we didn't leave any of our rubbish on the beach. We need to look after our coastline.

Then we went to the ice cream shop and we were treated to a cone. We were tired on the return journey as we had an exciting day at the beach, some of us even fell asleep on the bus! We all had a fantastic day!





Vet Visit

Last week, Classes 1 and 2 had a special visit from Liv, a trained vet. The classes had a great time learning about how to approach a dog safely and how a vet would do a full body health check on an animal. Everyone got the chance to dress up as a vet too and learnt about the differences between a farm/big animal vet and a small animal vet. Liv also brought in lots of bandages and syringes so everyone could practise looking after their own toy animals. The children successfully treated their animals – we clearly have some budding vets for the future!



Farewell to Y6

I cannot believe that it is time once again to say a fond farewell to our Y6 children. They have been a super year group throughout their time at Denver and we will be very sad to say goodbye to them. We hope they have many memories of their time with us at Denver and we look forward to hearing about their future successes. We wish Kayla, Saffron, Edward, Evie, Joshua-Jon, Jessica, Logan, Chloe, Ivy, Barney, Theo, Amelia, Riley, Brooke and James all the very best in their new schools and for the future – we will really miss you! Good luck!



Move Up

Last week, we held our 'Move Up' afternoons to give the children the opportunity to spend some time with their new classes and teachers for September. Our new Reception children had their first experience of Denver School life and on the Friday afternoon, we also welcomed our new Reception parents for the intake meeting. The afternoons went very smoothly, and the children seemed to really enjoy spending time with their new classes. We very much look forward to welcoming the new reception children and their families to the Denver School community in September.

Eco Champion

Throughout the year, Saffron in Y6 has been an excellent member of our Eco-Committee, really championing eco causes. Here she is litter picking in her own time over at Denver Playing Field. Well done to Saffron for showing passion and dedication to such a worthy cause.



Courageous Advocacy Award

This year we have a new award to present at the end of the year – the Courageous Advocacy award. This award is for a child or a group of children who speak out against an issue of injustice and become a courageous advocate for change. This year we would like to present this award to Ellie-May in Class 2 who recognised that our school should have its own library and climbed Ben Nevis to help fundraise to create the wonderful new library we have now. She has also been an active member of our Eco-Committee. Well done for being an inspiring courageous advocate, Ellie-May.

Defibrillator

We have recently received a defibrillator from the DfE to have in school in case of emergencies. We want this to benefit the Denver community should it be needed, therefore please do spread the word.

Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

Having previously made a fire pit with the children, it seemed only fitting that our last session should allow us to try and have another bonfire. This time, the weather was kind so our fire was a roaring success (excuse the pun!). We recapped the fire triangle, and the children were able to identify that fire needs heat, fuel and oxygen. With the learning over, we turned our efforts to choosing a suitable stick for our marshmallows. Mr Cawley threw in a foil wrapped potato to cook on the embers, and we all went home with our tea in our hands.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the adults involved in our outdoor learning club. Without the support from you all, we would not be able to run an outdoor learning club, as adult ratios would not allow for it. It is with this support that experiences such as fire pits and creating things like we have are made possible. Thank you.





Summer Moving Up Activities

To help to prepare the children for moving up to the next year group, there are some useful English and Maths activities in the 'Parent' tab on our school website. These are completely optional, and are there should children wish to dip in and out of them.

Times Tables Rockstars

Please remember that the children continue to have access to Times Tables Rockstars. We would encourage them to use this resource over the summer holidays: a sound understanding of times table facts is essential in becoming a successful mathematician.

Volunteers

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers in school. We have a number of regular volunteers who come in to school to listen to readers, help on school events and trips etc. and we are always looking to expand our team. If you feel you have some time to spare, please let me know. We really would be grateful for any extra support.

Meet the Teacher

We will be organising 'Meet the Teacher' events in the first few weeks of the autumn term to give parents/carers the opportunity to meet our class teachers and learn more about the forthcoming year. More information will be sent out at the beginning of the new term.

Outdoor Learning Area Project

To build on our outdoor learning offer, we are looking to develop an outdoor learning area, including an outdoor classroom on our school field. We are applying for grants to help us to achieve our goal and a recent crowdfunder raised a super £485 to contribute towards this project. A huge thank you to Danielle Grummitt who has been the driving force behind the grant applications.

Bug Hotel

Linked to the outdoor learning area development, the children in school have expressed a wish to have a bug hotel, similar to the one shown in the picture below. We would like to make this a whole school project in the new school year where both parents and children can get involved. We have already had some pallets donated and if anyone has any of the other materials needed that they can donate we would be extremely grateful. If you would like to be involved, please do contact me and we will arrange a working party.



Outdoor Reflection Area

This year we have created an outdoor reflection area in the living willow. This has very kindly been funded by the Burton family as a memorial to members of their family who have attended the school. It really is a peaceful haven where children can go to reflect and have some time to be with nature. The children really enjoy using the space and it has really benefitted their wellbeing. A huge thank you to the Burton family for their kind donation.





Attendance Focus

As part of our continued work to improve school attendance, each newsletter throughout the year has had an attendance focus.

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

Class 1	96.3%
Class 2	94.0%
Class 3	97.3%
Class 4	97.4%

Well done to Class 4 for having the highest attendance for the month of July!

The class with the highest overall attendance for the whole year is Class 2. Well done!

A special well done also goes out to Jack, Alfie Cr and Amelia, all from Class 3, who have 100% attendance for the whole year – a great achievement!

Our overall school attendance for this year is **95.8%**. Thank you for supporting our drive to improve school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

The Local Authority recognises that lots of things can make it difficult to support children to attend school regularly, and they want to understand what the biggest challenges are and how they can support families to overcome them. They would like parents/carers to take a five-minute survey to share their thoughts at www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

School Attendance Questionnaire



Or visit: www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/attendance

Reports

Thank you to those of you who have completed the parental comment forms from the school reports. We really appreciate your comments and feedback. If you have not had time to share your comments, the forms can still be returned in September.

Parking

We have been approached by some local residents who are finding themselves blocked in on their drives by parents parking in the lay-by. Please be respectful when parking at drop off and pick up and preferably park in the playing field carpark.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme

It is not too late to book spaces on the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun, a summer holiday activity scheme run by Active Norfolk in partnership with Norfolk County Council for children aged 5-15. Activities start from 24th July and include sport, drama, cooking, music, arts and crafts, dance, and much more. A free lunch is also offered. Activities are available for all children and free to those eligible for means-tested free school meals. There are also places available for vulnerable children. To find out the available activities near you and information on how to book places, visit <https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>



Summer Reading Bingo Challenge

In order to avoid the summer dip in reading, we would very much like all the children to complete the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge over the summer holidays. Certificates and Dojo points will be awarded in September for each child who completes a bingo sheet. This challenge is a great way to help the children to keep up with their reading during the long summer holidays; regular reading throughout the summer can really help to maintain literacy levels and make a difference to children's reading levels. Once again, will be creating a reading display in school to celebrate the children's engagement in the challenge, therefore we would be very grateful if you could send in photographs of them completing some of the tasks. The children have already received their bingo sheets – these can also be found under the 'Parent' tab on our school website.

Don't forget that the children can use the books they are reading as part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge 'Ready, Set, Read!'. To find out more information about the challenge, please contact your local library or visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries .



Out of School Hours Communication

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently over the summer break, 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.

Drinks

From September, we are going cashless at school to reduce the administrative time spent on handling cash in school. If your child would like a drink, these will need to be paid for half termly via BACS, with the first 7 week half term costing £7 (20p per day). Payment should be made by Friday 1st September for that first half term. Thank you for your co-operation.

Clubs

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in running our school clubs this year. We are extremely grateful that so many people give up their valuable time to offer extra-curricular opportunities for our children. We are hoping to be able to continue our paid for after school club, although numbers will need to increase in September to make this financially feasible.

Pre-school Survey

We are continually looking for ways in which we can improve as a school and one area we are exploring is pre-school childcare/nursery provision. We have sent home a survey and we would be very grateful if those of you with pre-school age children, or friends who have pre-school age children would complete this to give us an indication of the need in the local community. This information will be key in helping us to make future plans.

Denver Supertots Play Group

A huge thank you to Amanda Dawson, Clare Gunns and the students from DMA, Sophie, Jessie and Emily, for helping to run our playgroup, Denver Supertots, throughout the year. It really is a lovely, welcoming group and the children who attend really do enjoy themselves. From September, the group will be running weekly, more details to follow. Below is a photo of our final session of the year.



Denver Church School Creatives

In the new academic year, the school, in association with our new vicar and wife, Rev'd Nigel Moat and Heidi Moat will be starting an after school club, Denver Church School Creatives, for children of all ages from the school. The group will meet once a half term on a Monday after school in the school hall till 5:00pm. To help with planning, we would be grateful if you would complete the form sent home via email this week to show any expression of interest for your child/ren joining the club. Thank you.

Thank You

There are many people I would like to thank for the support they have given the school throughout the year.

The Governing Body do a fantastic job supporting the school and providing strategic direction and we are grateful to them for their hard work.

The Friends continue to support in so many ways and are an amazing team. They have organised many events and activities throughout the year and raised a significant amount of money to benefit the children in school. We really do appreciate them giving up their valuable spare time to support us. Thank you!

Rev'd Nigel Moat and St Mary's Church have supported us in many ways. The ladies from the church have helped the children to make Christingles and Mothering Sunday posies. They have also donated money to help fund the glass project. We also have some lovely new RE artefacts donated by members of the church. Rev'd Nigel and his wife Heidi help to lead

collective worship in school and the children look forward to their assemblies. Thank you to you all!

Thank you also to those who have volunteered in school this year, listening to readers, helping with outdoor learning club and much more. We really appreciate the time you give to support the school.

Update from The Friends

It has been a really busy but fun term for the Friends with many fundraising activities to organise and lots to help with in school.

This year we have funded all the trips including the Class 2 trip to West Runton, Class 4's trip to Great Cressingham Victorian School, Class 3's visit to West Stow and Class 1's trip to Fossils Galore. We have also funded: tables, chairs and toadstools for the new library; the pantomime experience, including entrance and coach travel; drinks for the Year 6 leavers party; Class 1's Christmas party; presents from Santa; book bags for new students; and Y6 ties and badges. We also helped to fund the recent opportunity for all the children to have a go at glass making and we hope you enjoyed the creations they bought home. A few treats were also funded including ice creams after the sponsored walk, and a contribution to the falconry display at the Coronation party.

As you can see, we have been busy and none of this would be possible without the support of you the parents. So we say thank you to those that help, those that donate and those that make and eat cake, we thank you one and all for your contributions. If you would like to help out at any of our events or have any ideas for future fundraising, please do let us know either directly or on Friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk. We would love to hear from you and hope you all have a great summer.

Denver Fun Day

A big thank you to everyone who supported, donated and help out with the Friends of Denver School tombola stall at the Denver Fun Day. Despite the showers and wind, we had a great day and raised £308.20 towards trips and activities next year.

Clip & Climb Squares

The friends have been busy selling squares to win a £31 Clip n Climb voucher kindly donated by the rock climbing activity company in Cambridge. The winner of the draw will be notified directly, and we hope you enjoy your prize.

Preloved Uniform Sales

The friends held their first end of term pre-loved uniform sales on Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you to everyone who support the sale and who donated uniform. It was great to see so many of you and even better to keep this good quality uniform in circulation and being worn again. If you didn't manage to join us and still need uniform for September, please contact the Friends on Friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk with your requirements and we can check any leftover stock. All uniform is passed on free of charge, though a small donation is always welcome.

Annual General Meeting – 13th September

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on 13th September after school at 3.20pm. 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 several roles available within the Friends of Denver School Committee next academic year. The roles of Secretary, Vice Chair Person and Chair Person 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

Denver School Games Festival 2023

Young leaders from Class 4 organised and ran a multi-skills festival for the rest of the school on Tuesday 11th July. The children decided on a range of games that would use different skills of throwing, running and jumping whilst promoting teamwork and resilience by working alongside each other to earn points for their teams.



The day began with a short assembly to introduce the theme: equality. Young leaders had been tasked with thinking of ways to ensure that there was equality of opportunity within their games to give every child, regardless of age, sufficient challenge. They had been challenged to create their own scoring systems and sets of rules that they had to communicate to the children visiting their activities. Our dance festival group performed their routine to get everyone in the festival mood.



The morning ended with another assembly where the winning team was revealed. Congratulations to Team 3 who amassed a whopping 2112 points!

It was a really enjoyable morning with superb participation. Class 4 leaders did a fantastic job. Well done!



KS2 Rounders Festival

Our annual KS2 rounders intra-festival took place on Friday 14th July. Despite a little drizzle, rain did not stop play. Each house team competed against each other both in bat and in field. Overall winners were White Team who won both of their matches. Well done to everyone who took part.



School Games Gold Award

We are delighted to have been again awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award! This is an impressive achievement for a small school and we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport. Thank you to all children, staff, parents, carers and volunteers for working together to help us to achieve this award. A particular thank you goes out to Mrs Henden for her hard work in promoting PE, sport and the School Games values in school.

Sporting Stars

Gymnastics Success

Libby in Class 2 has been awarded the 2023 Eaglet of the Year for Eagles Gymnastics. Libby has been chosen for the mini squad. She loves trying new skills and flourishes on the bars. Well done, Libby – a super achievement!



And finally...

I would like to conclude this newsletter by offering my sincere thanks to everyone in the school community (children, parents, staff, governors, Friends and volunteers) for the amazing support the school has received this year. You have all contributed to the school 'letting its light shine'.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and a relaxing break! Hopefully we might even get some better weather! I look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another busy school year. Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Louise Jones

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2023/2024

Autumn Term

September 2023	6 th	Wed	Children return to school
October 2023	23 rd – 27 th		School closed for half term
	30 th	Mon	Children return to school
December 2023	20 th	Wed	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2024	4 th	Thu	Children return to school
February 2024	19 th -23 rd		School closed for half term
	26 th	Mon	Children return to school
March 2024	27 th	Wed	Last day of spring term
April 2024	15 th	Mon	Children return to school

Summer Term

May 2024	6 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	27 th – 31 st		School closed for half term
June 2023	3 rd	Mon	Children return to school
July 2023	19 th	Fri	Last day of summer term