



Issue 25

# Denver VC Primary School

Discover \* Value \* Celebrate \* Praise  
*Governor Year End Celebration*



July 2023

What a year we have had! Finally, we had a year of relative normality after the previous three years of lock downs, bubbles and worrying!

**Our community:** There is much to celebrate about this lovely school in Denver. The staff team is dedicated, hardworking and provides an astonishing range of in school and extra-curricular activities. What a rich experience, children at Denver have! The building is kept beautifully clean and administration is run efficiently with kindness and cheerfulness. The children are a delight and are always to be proud of when they represent the school on trips, in tournaments and with visitors. The families of the children are amazing, the support you give the school means so much can be achieved! The Friends of Denver School are a force to be reckoned with and do so much to enable enrichment of the curriculum, environment and development of the school. A big **'Thank you'** to you all.

**Ofsted:** The Ofsted inspection that the school underwent in March confirmed our belief that Denver School is not only 'Good' but a school where "Pupils enjoy studying a broad and balanced curriculum. They respond well to teachers' high expectations and try to do the best they can." The children are "proud of their school. They are encouraged to take on leadership roles." and "are excited about the outdoor learning opportunities." The inspector was very positive about the school and encouraged the staff team to continue doing what they do so well!

**The New Library:** The endeavours of children, parents, staff and the 'Friends of Denver' to raise the funds to convert the old IT room to a beautiful fully functioning Library has been incredible. What a delightful space which constantly has children using it to discover the joys of reading. It has been lovely to see staff and children alike being energised by the development. We are also delighted by the reading focused art that has been gifted to the school to add to the inspiring environment.

**SuperTots:** An inspired joint project with DMA has resulted in a fortnightly toddler group supported by school volunteers and staffed by students from DMA under the professional eye of Clare Gunns. Parents and their babies and toddlers join together to chat, make things, run around, climb and enjoy being in the school. This was an experiment that we all are delighted with the outcome and look forward to developments in the new year.

**Outdoor Learning:** This year has seen the introduction of Outdoor Learning which has been such a hit with the

children. It is joyous to see children getting muddy, problem solving together and running around in God's green earth. The Outdoor Learning approach will be developed in future years

**Attendance:** Nationally, attendance is a problem for schools but with the hard work of our families we are nearly back up to pre-covid levels. So, thank you to everyone for achieving 96% attendance over the year, we look forward to seeing this get back to 97%.

**Year 6:** A hugely important part of this missive is to celebrate our fabulous Year 6, as they leave us to begin their journey through high school.

The children joined the school in September 2016, when Justin Bieber was top of the Single Charts with 'Cold Water.' That year had a few notable events:

8/9/2016 - NASA launched OSIRIS-REx, its first asteroid sample return mission.

1/11/2016 - The number of people globally using mobile devices to access the internet overtakes those using desktop computers for the first time.

8/11/2016 - Donald Trump is elected the 45th President of the United States

2016 - Bob Dylan wins Nobel Prize for Literature

6/2/2017 – Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Sapphire Jubilee, marking 65 years as Queen.

29/3/2017 - The United Kingdom triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, starting the Brexit negotiations.

7/6/2017 - Solar, wind and nuclear power each provided more electricity than gas and coal combined for the first time in the UK.

8/6/2017 - A general election was held in the UK, resulting in a hung parliament, with the Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Theresa May, losing their majority in Parliament.

Over their time in school the children saw the change of headteacher, when in 2019 Mrs Jones was appointed and began to lead the school. They were taught in Class 1 by Mrs Nicholson who has now left and Mr Rackham nurtures our youngest children. In Class 2 the children were taught by Miss Pennock, who continues to teach this class in partnership with Mr Cawley after Mr Sexton left for a move to Scotland. During Class 3, the children were taught by Mr Bonham who continues to teach this class.

Finally, the children have spent the last two years in the charge of Mrs Henden in Class 4.

In discussing with the children their memories of life at Denver I was able to discover a number of surprising facts!

#### **Class 1 – Reception:**

If a child was considered not to have acted sensibly there was a Storm Cloud that the children's names were put on. Surprisingly some of the child remember this with pride!

When painting, one of the children was thought to have cut themselves quite badly when 'blood' was seen running down her face! It transpires she had an itch so scratched it with her paintbrush – needless to say you can guess the colour of her paint!

More painting adventures when two boys were painting a box using a flicking technique – you can believe Jackson Pollock would have been proud when they were discovered to have flicked paint all over each other!

#### **Class 2 – Years 1 & 2**

The class went on a visit to Ely Museum which the children described as 'fun'! They learnt to wash clothes using a washboard. They participated in the Art Day and produced artwork based on Roy Lichtenstein's pop art work. During their Year 2 the school achieved the School Games Gold Award. They also visited The Maltings in Ely to see a performance of Jack & the Beanstalk. The children walked many miles as walking the Golden Mile was introduced.

Apparently, there is a secret home for Dragons in Class 2 which only Miss Pennock knows where it is!

Miss Pennock has a special wiggly dance she uses when writing on the whiteboard!

It transpires that the Owls in the toilets don't always cheer people up, one of the girls thought they were flying at her!

#### **Class 3 – Years 3 & 4**

This was during the time the world had to deal with Covid 19 and much of 2020 and 2021 were spent in lock down. Before the world stopped the class enjoyed a series of 'OMNES' sporting events including handball and speed stacking. They also watched 'Dick Whittington' at The Maltings Ely in 2019. During Autumn 2020 Class Dojo was introduced and has become popular with staff, children and families. The school also acquired their own star called 'the Denver Bright Star'. Snow fell in the autumn term in 2020 and, as it should be, the children enjoyed playing out in the snow. Unsurprisingly the pantomime trip was cancelled and the children watched 'The Wizard of Oz' online.

The children remember having reward system using hot air balloons which were moved around the classroom. They could also earn the right to read a newspaper or magazine by collecting 3 Golden Tickets.

Apparently, Mr. Bonham still has one of the boy's pencil sharpeners!

During lock down the children remembered that they felt quite lonely not being able to see their friends but enjoyed being able to rush through their work so they could enjoy doing other things! It also transpired that during lockdown one family's cat decided to see what was happening in school and got chased out of the building!

#### **Class 4 – Years 5 & 6**

The start of a return to normality and the opportunity to go on school trips, participate in tournaments and welcome visitors into school. Mrs Jones introduced 'Hot chocolate with the Head' for children being awarded 'Star of the Week'. The class visited the National Space Museum in Leicester which proved a tiring but enjoyable day visiting the 'Rocket Tower' and enjoying the amazing planetarium show. The Rotary Club set up a Technology challenge for the children, who worked so well together to design and build a bridge that would withstand some heavy forces. The children again time travelled to the Victorian Era and visited a Victorian School, which they found to be very strict! A four-day Bikeability programme was followed by the children, they all achieved well. A Young Leaders training session was run for the children so they can now lead games and challenges during lunch and playtime. The children learned to play the Ukulele with Miss Berners which was highly enjoyable.

The big trip in this class was to go on a residential to Eaton Vale. Most of the children's memories revolve around sweets, not sleeping, creeping around, hiding under beds, playing cards in bed, getting too hot and having to complete quite scary but fulfilling tasks like climbing up and then jumping off a tall vertical structure onto a trapeze.

Perhaps this is a good place to stop with each year 6 teetering on the edge, as they wait to jump onto the trapeze of high school. We thank them for all the jobs they have completed so positively; for their hard work for being a cheerful and positive bunch and wish them well as they launch themselves into the future!

