



# June 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the June newsletter, the penultimate of the school year. June started off with some unseasonably cool weather, but the sun has come out at last and been very kind to us at our recent events. As always, we have lots to share with you...

## **Outdoor Learning Area Grand Opening**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, we had the grand opening of our Outdoor Learning Area, and what a fantastic evening it was! The Deputy Lieutenant, Nick Pratt, a former pupil of Denver, had the honour of declaring the classroom officially open. Attendees at the event included Watunga, Church Farm, West Norfolk Beekeepers Association, Fen Zen, Inside Out Bushcraft, Tee9 Mini Golf, plus many more. A huge thank you to the Friends of Denver School for organising this event, and to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for the grant which made this project possible.



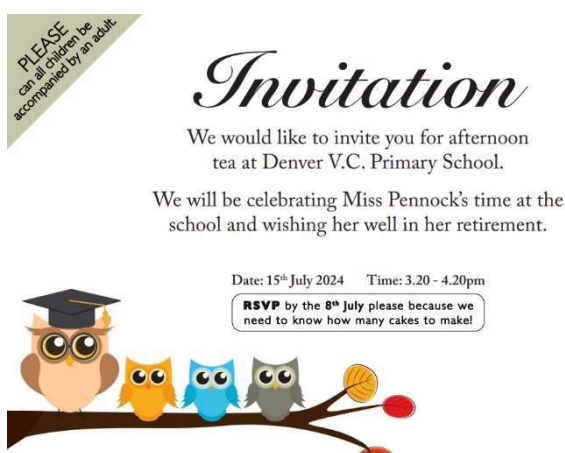


## **Staff News**

Miss Pennock is retiring at the end of the summer term after 17 years of committed service to the school and children of Denver. Linda has been a hard-working and invaluable member of the staff team over the years and her expertise with the maths curriculum has considerably helped to drive forward standards. She will be greatly missed by the whole school community, but we wish her well in her retirement.

Mr Cawley will become the full-time Class 2 teacher from September.

To celebrate Linda's time at Denver VC Primary, we will be having an afternoon tea after school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. We would like to present Linda with a special gift to mark her dedication to the school at this event. If you would like to contribute towards this gift, please send the money in a named envelope to the school office before Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July.



## **Class 2 Visit to Norwich Synagogue by Mr Cawley**

The 6<sup>th</sup> June was a day looked forward to by all in class two, and one to be remembered in more ways than one! We embarked on our trip to Norwich Synagogue before the rest of the school had started their day, and within the hour, we were the cause of many frustrated commuters in the heart of Norwich, in the middle of the morning rush hour! As I am sure that you are all aware, we had a small issue with our coach, which meant that we spent a while straddling the busiest roundabouts in Norwich. The coach company was quick to despatch a replacement vehicle, and the police were very quick to attend on their blues and twos, which made for a very memorable journey for the children. The children were a credit to the school, and yourselves. They were calm, quiet and each one listened perfectly to the instructions given. It turned an unfortunate event in to a positive memory.

Once Deborah, our contact for the trip, heard of our plight, she walked over from the synagogue and led us on a pedestrianised journey to our destination. Once inside, the children were able to hear first-hand how a Jewish person celebrates the Shabbat (Jewish day of rest) including the arrangements for eating, resting and spending time with their family. The children had the chance to try traditional bread before trying their hand at a treasure hunt for artefacts in the main synagogue. They also had the opportunity to try on traditional clothing. The questions that the children asked were well thought through and really sensible; again, a credit to Denver and their previous learning. With a fresh coach and a class of happy children, we made the return journey back to Denver. A memorable trip which certainly took the learning out of the classroom. A huge thank you to The Friends for funding this visit.



### **Pit Firing**

Over the last few weeks, the children in Class 2 have been engaging in a pit firing project supported by one of our Foundation Governors, Jonathan Webster. Firstly, they looked at images of nature and created a collage from these. They then designed their own nature tiles which have been put into the pit on the school field to be fired over the weekend. We look forward to sharing the final tiles with you at the art exhibition.

### **Cooking**

As part of her EPQ course from Hills Road 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Eve Caley (sister of Hope in Class 4) came into school to help a group of children learn some cookery skills. There were 3 sessions where she showed them how to cook sausage rolls, cupcakes, brownies and burgers. All the children really enjoyed the sessions. Thank you Eve for giving the children this opportunity.



### **Police Visit**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, PC Maddi Cage and PC Jamie Cowen visited the school to talk to the children about online safety and road safety. The children asked many sensible questions and now have a better understanding of how to keep themselves safe.



### **Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley**

In the outdoor learning session on 12<sup>th</sup> June, we had the rather important job of preparing our school grounds for the grand opening of the outdoor classroom. The children spent time moving the tyres and tidying the grounds. Some of us were working on the Willow weaving, whilst others had their chance to experience whittling with Mr Rackham. Great excitement ensued, as halfway through our session Lee from Accent Fresh brought some new arrivals for the pond. We now have the responsibility for caring for around ten small carp, who now call our pond 'home'. There was a real sense calm with the children; each getting on with their own job and enjoying the club for what it is...an opportunity to experience our outdoor learning environment first hand. Here's looking forward to lots of exciting experiences over the coming sessions.

### **Courageous Advocacy**

Last weekend, Matthew in Class 3 took part in a 2.4 mile walk for the Air Ambulance. He completed it in 36 minutes and raised £42.



### **Sun Protection**

To help 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 on sunny days.

### **Denver Supertots Playgroup**

The last sessions for our Denver Supertots Playgroup this term will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 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. The students from DMA have some lovely activities organised for these last sessions, so please spread the word.

### **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme**

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun is a summer holiday activity scheme run by Active Norfolk in partnership with Norfolk County Council for children aged 5-15. Activities start from 22<sup>nd</sup> July and include sport, creative and outdoor activities with a free healthy meal. These sessions 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 Challenge

The National Summer Reading Challenge has been running for 25 years and the theme this year is Marvellous Makers and it's all about creativity! From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there is something for everyone. This year's theme has been developed in partnership with a leading arts charity, [Create](#). As always, the challenge is FREE to join. The children need to read 6 library books to collect stickers along the way to achieve a certificate and medal. Fran Valentine from Downham Library will be visiting school in July to promote the challenge and encourage the children to sign up. Downham Library will be hosting lots of exciting events and fun things to do throughout the summer and we'd love our children to be part of it. More details to follow soon.

### Attendance Focus

We are continually working hard to improve school attendance due to the impact that absence from school can have on learning. As part of this work, each newsletter throughout the year has had an attendance focus.

Please remember that, in line with the expectations set out in '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)', fixed penalty notices will be issued if the criteria set out in that letter is met.

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

Class 1	98.1%
Class 2	94.5%
Class 3	97.1%
Class 4	95.3%

Well done to Class 1 for having the highest attendance for the month of June.

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **96.1%**, which is lower than our target of 97%. Please help us to support good school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

### Holidays

Please remember that holidays during term time **will not be authorised** and may be considered for a Fixed Penalty Notice should the criteria be met (**9 sessions or 4.5 school days of unauthorised absence within a 6 school week period**). An absence request should be completed **before** any holidays or absence are taken and can be accessed by requesting a link from the school office. It is important that we are made aware of children taking holidays before they are taken, rather than once children are on holiday as is sometimes the case. Our Attendance Policy is available on our school website.

### Yoga and Mindfulness

Throughout this half term, a group of children have been taking part in some Yoga and Mindfulness sessions run by Joanne Turner from the Schools and Community Team. They have been enjoying their sessions and learning some good relaxation techniques.

### **Understanding Your Child's Behaviour**

Thank you to those parents who attended the first session of the 'Understanding Your Child's Behaviour' course this week. These sessions, led by Joanne Turner, follow the Norfolk Steps approach. The next two sessions are being held on:

Session 2 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 09:00 – 11:00  
Reflection Session – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 09:00 – 10:00

### **Wraparound Provision**

Just a reminder that we have extended our After School Care offer from 4.20pm - 5pm each day. The cost from the end of school until 5pm will be £6.00. Children can still stay until 4.20pm for £4.00, the same amount currently charged. Children staying until either 4.20pm or 5pm will be given a snack each day at the start of the club. A range of activities will be on offer, including sports, crafts, outdoor play and child-led activities. Booking should be made through emailing [3.15club@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:3.15club@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)

### **Road Safety Survey**

Thank you to everyone who completed the road safety survey shared with you earlier in the month. We are currently collating the results with the School Council, and we will share these with you soon.

### **Headlice**

We have had a few cases of head lice in school recently and would ask that you check your child's hair regularly and, if necessary, ensure it is treated before your child returns to school please. We should also be grateful if you would make sure that long hair is always tied up as this helps prevent the spread of head lice.

### **Uniform Orders**

Our school uniform is available to purchase online directly from our suppliers at <https://gooddies.co.uk> The cut-off date for deliveries to school has now passed, but the cut-off date for deliveries to home addresses before 31<sup>st</sup> August is midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Orders can still be placed after these dates, although delivery cannot be guaranteed before September.

### **After School Clubs**

The last week for after school clubs (sports and outdoor learning) will be the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Before and after school care will continue until the end of term.

### **Office News**

#### **School Taxi**

If your child travels on the school taxi but will not be using the service after school, please make the taxi company aware and also let us know so that we can mark our afternoon taxi register accordingly.

#### **Contact Details**

Please let us know if you change your telephone number, email address or any other contact details so that we can make sure we have your most recent details in our system.

### **Emails**

We know we send out many emails, but it is our main means of communication with parents and families and is a very useful way for us to let you know what is happening in school. So that you don't miss important information or consent links for visits, please check your inbox regularly for emails from us.

### **Latecomers**

We understand that occasionally, late arrival at school can happen and that when the back gate closes at 9am, you may need to enter through the front entrance to school. However, we would like to remind parents that for safety reasons, the back gate is the main point for morning drop off and afternoon collections and the front entrance should only be used as a last resort.

If it is absolutely necessary to drop your children at the front entrance, for safeguarding measures, please accompany them to the door to ensure there is someone available to check them into school. The school office is unavoidably unmanned at times.

### **School Trips**

It has already been a busy term for school trips; some include the whole class and others, such as sporting events, are for individual students or year groups. We do, however, ensure that throughout the year, all children are given the opportunity to participate in the sporting events. We will only email you if your child has been invited to take part.

It is essential that, for all trips, we have a completed trip consent form from you as without it, your child will not be able to participate. These are now in an easy online format which automatically return to us once you have completed and exited the form. Please complete the consents as soon as possible after you receive them so that they are not overlooked (although we always send a follow up reminder) and to avoid us having to contact you again.

### **Telephone System and Voicemail**

At the moment, our telephone system has 2 lines. If you are trying to telephone us but there is no answer, it is possible that the office staff are already on the other line, or that there is no-one in the office to answer. Please do make use of our voicemail system and leave us a message.

### **Medical Items in School**

If your child requires medical items in school (epi-pens, inhalers etc.) please make a note of the expiry dates and ensure that you provide us with an in-date replacement when necessary. We would also be grateful that, should your child suffer a medical incident at home, you let us know so that we can monitor your child carefully in school.

### **Absence**

If your child is absent from school, please let us know for every day of the absence by emailing our dedicated absence email [absence@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:absence@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01366 383272. If your child is suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting, it is essential that they do not return to school until 48hrs after the last bout.

### **School Lunches for Classes 3 and 4**

If your child has lunch in school (but is not eligible for free school meals) could we **please ask that you keep a note of how many lunches have been taken in a week and pay promptly for these so that we do not have to send a reminder**. Thank you if you already do this! Lunches are currently £2.60 each, payable online in the usual way.

If your child would like school lunches but you are struggling to pay for them, you may be eligible for free school meals – there is a link on our website if you wish to apply.

[Denver VC Primary School - School Lunches](#)

### **Update from The Friends**

The Friends would firstly like to thank everyone who supported the Grand Opening of the Outdoor Learning Area last Thursday evening. It really was a special event and was so lovely to see everyone enjoying the summer sunshine and all the fabulous stalls and activities that we had on offer. We have sent via email links to those businesses that attended the event in case you had plans to explore them further over the Summer Holidays.

If you haven't yet had chance to send any donations raised by your children at the Sponsored Walk then there is still time to do so. Donations can be made via BACS transfer (see below) or cash donations can be sent to The Friends via the School Office. Please place any cash donation in an envelope clearly marked with 'The Friends - Sponsored Walk'.

Account name: Friends of Denver Village School

Sort code: 20-46-65

Account number: 90026174

Reference: *Child's surname + Walk e.g. JonesWalk*

As mentioned earlier, The Friends will be having a tombola stall at the upcoming Denver Fun Day on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July and would really appreciate any donations that could be used as prizes. Donations can be placed in the blue wheelie bin at the back gate to the school all next week and up to Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for their support this year. Without your help we wouldn't be able to fund all the things that we do in school. This year we have paid for numerous school trips (both entrance fees and transport), the Christmas visit to the pantomime, new intake book bags, ties for Year 6 and the upcoming visit from Mini Monsters creepy crawly roadshow plus much more.

If you are interested in joining The Friends next year then please either drop us an email on [friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) or look out for the AGM details in September. We hope that you will join us!

## **Sports News**

### **Mini Tennis**

A group of children from Y3/4 (Chase, Billy, Edith and Esther) took part in a mini tennis tournament at Lynnsport on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The Y5/6 event happened today with Finley, Mia, Rosie, and William representing the school. Thank you to the parents for providing transport to these events.



### **Sports Day 2024**

Sports Day 2024 on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June was a great success. The weather couldn't have been more favourable. The event was well-attended by spectating families whose cheers and claps of encouragement were very welcome. The afternoon began with the Key Stage 1 and Reception carousel. The younger children enjoyed a range of activities that used their fundamental movement skills organised by Young Leaders in Class 4 who set up the activities, supported the children and completed the scoring. Immediately after the carousel was the traditional track based KS2 event. This was also very efficiently organised by Year 6 children. After a succession of victories over recent years for the White team, it was finally Red team's turn to triumph. Congratulations to them but also to everyone who took part. Thank you to everyone who came to support this memorable day. Thank you to Mrs Henden and Miss Cronin for organising the day, all staff and parent/governor helpers who gave up their time and especially to Class 4 who did a tremendous job of running each activity.





## **Area Sports**

The annual Downham Market cluster Key Stage 2 Area Sports athletics event was held at Hillcrest Primary School on Tuesday 25th June. As with all years since Covid, all schools, regardless of size, were competing together so there was no overall winning school. Instead, children competed on an individual basis with only the event winners earning gold medals. Denver had many successes winning 4 of the medals. There were many other impressive results too with plenty of second and third places. Regardless of winning or not, all members of the team showed determination and good sportsmanship. Everyone taking part should be proud of their achievements.

### **Here is a list of our gold medallists:**

- Finley for Y6 hurdles
- Flora for Y4 endurance
- Flora for Y4 sprint
- Flora for Y4 standing long jump

Well done Team Denver!



### **Girls Only Football tournament**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June saw girls from across the Downham Market Cluster travel to Hillcrest Primary for an inter-schools tournament. Our group of girls took it in turns to play matches to represent the school in a round robin against all the other schools that attended and came back with silver medals. Congratulations! We are very proud of you.



### **Sports Stars**

#### **Gymnastic Fantastic**

Libby competed at Regional Gymnastics Finals on Sunday 9th June. There were eighteen amazing gymnasts from 5 different counties in her group. She was awarded 1st place Gold on floor. Congratulations Libby!



### **Top Scorer**

Finley in Class 4 was awarded the Under 11s top scorer at King's Lynn Football Academy at their recent presentation evening. Well done, Finley!



### **Football Star**

Eric in Class 4 was awarded the Coach's Player of the season for Downham Town U10s at their recent presentation evening. Congratulations Eric!



## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Eaton Vale – 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Next week, the children in Class 4 are going on their residential visit to Eaton Vale. They will take part in a variety of different outdoor and adventurous activities and I'm sure will make many happy memories. Fingers crossed for good weather for them!

### **Class 3 Visit to Norwich Castle – 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Class 3 will be visiting Norwich Castle on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

### **Quad Kids – 4<sup>th</sup> July**

The Quad Kids athletics event for Y5/6 children will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Lynnsport.

### **Art Exhibition – 4<sup>th</sup> July**

We are excited about our forthcoming art exhibition on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, starting at 3pm in the school hall. The children have been working hard to prepare work for the exhibition and they are excited to share their hard work with you. The field gate will be opened at 3pm and the children can be collected from their classrooms to visit the exhibition. Some of the children's work will be displayed in St Mary's Church and refreshments will be provided there. We hope you can all join us.

### **Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood – 5<sup>th</sup> July**

The children in Class 2 will be visiting Bewilderwood to support their learning on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Y6 Transition Morning at DMA – 8<sup>th</sup> July**

Our Y6 children transitioning to DMA in September will have a taster morning at the school on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> July. Please can parents arrange safe drop-off and collection of their children.

### **School Games Festival – 9<sup>th</sup> July**

We will be having our annual School Games Festival on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Move Up Afternoons – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July**

On the afternoons of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<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 12<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm.

### **First Aid Training for Y6 – 11<sup>th</sup> July**

We have arranged for First Aid training for our Y6 children on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Denver Fun Day – 14<sup>th</sup> July**

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall again this year and the school choir will be performing. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

### KS2 Production – 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July

Mr Lawrence has, once again, written an original play for KS2 to perform at the end of the year - Jumping Jenny and Jump Jive Jives. There will be two performances on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, both in Denver Village Hall. A letter has already been sent out with further details and information about how to book tickets.

### Mini Monsters – 17<sup>th</sup> July

The Friends have arranged for a visit from the Mini Monsters Creepy Crawly Roadshow on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The children will be given the opportunity to meet and even handle a selection of animals, including invertebrates and reptiles. More details to follow soon.

### End of Year Assembly – 19<sup>th</sup> July

Following tradition, we will have our end of year assembly on the last day of term, starting at 2pm.

### And finally...

The last few weeks of term are always extremely busy, so please do make a note of all the diary dates below; we look forward to welcoming you to these.

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

**2023/2024**

#### Summer Term

July 2024	1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon-Wed	Eaton Vale Residential Visit Class 4
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Class 3 Visit to Norwich Castle
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Quad Kids
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Art Exhibition
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Downham Market Academy Transition (am)
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	School Games Festival
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	First Aid Training Y6
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	New Reception Intake Meeting 2pm
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Denver Fun Day
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	KS2 Production
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	KS2 Production
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Mini Monsters Roadshow
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	End of Year Assembly 2pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term	

## 2024/2025

### Autumn Term

September 2024	4 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
October 2024	24 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term
November 2024	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
December 2024	20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of autumn term

### Spring Term

January 2025	7 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Children return to school
February 2024	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
April 2025	4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of spring term

### Summer Term

April 2025	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
May 2025	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
June 2025	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2025	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Last day of summer term