



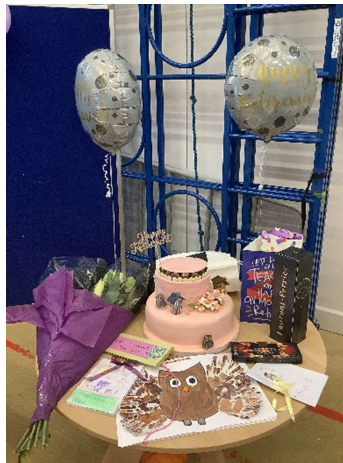
# July 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year. As always, July has been an incredibly busy month with lots of activities and events for the children to enjoy. We have lots to share with you and we hope you enjoy this final instalment.

## **Farewell to Miss Pennock**

This week we said a sad goodbye to Miss Pennock, who retired after 17 years working at the school. We celebrated with an afternoon tea in the school hall. Mrs Fenn made a wonderful cake which included things close to Miss Pennock's heart – namely owls and chocolate! A huge thank you to Mrs Fenn, Miss Cronin, Mia and Emie from Y6, and members of The Friends who provided the food and refreshments – it really was a lovely spread! Miss Pennock was presented with a bottle of champagne from the parents, and a John Lewis voucher and flowers from the staff. We wish Miss Pennock all the very best for the future. We will really miss her at Denver.



## **A Final Message from Miss Pennock**

I would like to express my gratitude for all the support I have received over my 17 years at Denver School. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated staff who are committed to the children's wellbeing and learning. I would also like to thank the parents who have taken the time to work with me over the years to ensure positive future outcomes for their children. Many adults have volunteered in my class, and they have provided a valuable service and undertaken tasks that have benefited the children, and their role has not gone unnoticed, and it is very much appreciated.

I was overwhelmed and humbled by the attendance at the afternoon tea to celebrate my retirement. A huge thank you to the Friends for organising it, and to the many parents who also contributed. I would like to single out Emie and Mia for making a mountain of cheese straws which proved very popular. My cake was amazing, thank you Mrs Fenn, and the scones were also a treat, thank you Miss Cronin. The cards I received from the classes were moving, with some tearjerking comments – thank you children. I received many gifts and cards from the children, parents and the school staff, both current and past. Thank you all for your generous contributions.



Once again, a final thank you to Denver School for allowing me to be part of their community for the past 17 years.

### **KS2 Production**

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, KS2 performed their end of term play, Jenny and the Jump Jive Juves: A Rebel Without a Clue. This year's extravaganza was set in the 1960s and the costumes were absolutely brilliant! Thank you to the parents for providing these. Once again, the performances were held in Denver Village Hall. The singing, acting and dancing were all absolutely fantastic. You could see from their faces how much the children enjoyed performing. They should certainly all feel very proud of themselves – we were certainly proud of them as they really did let their light shine. A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved and in particular to Mr Lawrence for another original and very special production.



### **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 inflatables for the children to enjoy. 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.



### **Farewell to Y6**

It is that time once again to say a fond farewell to our Y6 children. They have been a great group of pupils and we will be very sad to say goodbye to them. We hope they have many happy memories of their time with us at Denver and we wish them all the very best for the future. We wish Finley, Eliza, Charlotte, Grace, Emie, Amber, Oliver, Mia, Alfie, Sonny, Mia, Ella, William, Louie, Sophia and Ella-Rose all the very best in their new schools. Good luck Class of '24!



### **Denver Fun Day**

Last Sunday, our school choir performed a selection of songs from the KS2 production at the Denver Fun Day. They were absolutely brilliant; we had lots of positive feedback about their performance from a whole range of people. Thank you to all the choir members who were able to join us, Denver Fun Day for once again inviting us and to Mr Lawrence for his hard work with the choir this year.



### Art Exhibition by Mr Bonham

This term we held the Denver VC Primary School Art Exhibition. The main part of the exhibition was held in the school hall but there were also displays of work at St Mary's Church (where teas and coffees were provided).

Class 4 and Class 1 looked at the work of Kandinsky. Class 4 used their imaginations to create pastel images and Class 1 created spirals using paint mixing techniques. The vast number of shades they created from so few colours was very impressive. Class 2 created bold images based on the comic strip images of Roy Lichtenstein. Class 3 created posters in the style of Andy Warhol.

Class 2 displayed the tile work that they completed using the pit-firing technique. They also showed their research and design ideas. Also on show were examples of Egyptian collars created on Class 3's recent trip to Norwich Castle, sculptures from Class 2 as well as print work from earlier in the year.

A huge thank you to Mr Bonham and Miss Cronin for organising the exhibition, and to all who came along to see the children's fantastic work.





### **Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood by Mr Cawley**

On Friday 5th July, the children from Class 2 excitedly embarked on their trip to BeWILDerwood. The weather was kind, the bus proved reliable and the children were an absolute credit to the school and their parents. The children choose, in their small groups, which areas they wanted to see, and how they planned 'their' day. This led to some fantastic teamwork, and it was heartwarming to see the children helping each other. There were more than one of those 'special moments' in which someone attempted something new, or something they were a little apprehensive of trying; after all, Twiggles and Boggles love big slides and tree top fun! There were lots of very tired children, but lots of very poignant memories made. It was a lovely way for the year ones to bid farewell to their Y2 friends.



### Eaton Vale by Mrs Henden

Earlier in the month all Class 4 children travelled to Eaton Vale Activity Centre, just outside of Norwich, for their outdoor and adventurous learning experience.



Activities throughout the stay included: canoeing, team building, archery, low ropes, trapeze, crate stacking, obstacle course, buggy building go karting and grass sledging.



In the evenings, the groups joined together for whole class activities which were called Eggbert's Escapades and Quiz night followed by some playtime in the grounds before time back to Icen House to either hang out in dorms or meet each other for games and a chat in the common room. A close eye was also kept on what was happening in the Euros!



All in all, it was an excellent three days where everyone learnt so much more about themselves and each other. The memories will last a lifetime. A huge thank you to Mrs Henden, Mr Rackham, Miss Waters and Mrs Williamson for taking the children.



### **Class 1 RE Day by Mr Rackham**

Class 1 had their last RE day of the year and this time looked at another religion of the world and introduced Islam. The class took part in a few fun activities including building our own Mosques and then trying some of the food eaten at Eid. The children loved trying new food and we definitely had some strong opinions on which we preferred! It was great to see everyone try the food.



### **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.

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

It would not be final club of this academic year without marshmallows, would it? As promised, the children enjoyed a fire built by themselves, and toasted an end to our club for a few short weeks, to mark the end of the summer term. The children confidently created the fire, starting with paper and working up to the larger pieces of wood, foraged from our field. In revision of the science taught last time, I was confidently informed by a child that 'we couldn't do this on the moon, as there is no oxygen'! Great to see that the children are still learning without realising it! Our fire and feast almost didn't happen though, as I was unable to buy the marshmallows in time; step in, Mrs Jones! A quick trip to Tesco's returned enough to feed everyone and still some were left for the siblings that welcomingly joined us with parents, upon collection. A lovely way to end what has been a very popular afterschool experience for so many. Until September...

### **Pet Day**

What started as an idea, has now turned into a reality with a twist! Pet Day was originally the chance for the children to bring in a pet and share their experience of ownership and looking after a living creature with their friends and the rest of the class. Then, very kindly, the Friends of Denver sponsored Mini Monsters ([www.minimonsters.co.uk](http://www.minimonsters.co.uk)) to allow the whole school to enjoy seeing animals that they might not have experienced first-hand before, such as lizards and snakes! With the children of Class 2 bringing a variety of different animals in to 'show and tell', they had a fantastic time sharing experiences, tips and knowledge with their friends. The children also took this further by being given the time in the afternoon to write about, and draw from direct observation, their own pets and those that others had kindly brought in.





### **Mini Monsters Visit Class 3**

Class 3 were lucky to be visited by Ed from Mini Monsters on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. He brought lots of creatures to show the children. The first was Gerald the Giant African Land Snail. His favourite food is cucumber which he locates using his tentacles. The children had the chance to touch or hold him. The children described him as 'hard, soft and sticky.'



We then met Mildred. She is a Giant Millipede. She has got 252 legs, not a million! She is not very fast. She has a hard exoskeleton to protect her and also produces 'stinky-juice'. The children said that she felt 'like a hairbrush and was tickly.'



We then met Trinny the Tarantula. Ed said she is one of the kindest and gentlest creatures he has ever known. She is 25 years old and has never bitten anyone. She is very delicate. The children said she is 'cute, furry, hairy and long-legged.' Trinny eats locusts and sometimes gets scared of her food.

Winston is a Bearded Dragon. He has a big spiky beard to protect himself. He can change colour to attract others and show feelings. He eats worms and they make him happy. 'He felt soft underneath and hard on top, he has a sticky tongue.'



Ghosty is a Ghost Corn Snake. She eats mice and uses her tongue to smell. The children said it felt like 'skin without the bones.'

Ed said that all these animals are from people who couldn't look after them anymore and he offers to look after them.

### **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.

### **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 Holiday Activities**

Information about a range of activities for the summer holidays in West Norfolk can be found at <https://www.visitwestnorfolk.com/news/summer-holiday-activities-in-west-norfolk/>

### **Summer 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.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

We would like as many of our children as possible to engage in the national Summer Reading Challenge, the theme of which this year is Marvellous Makers. 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 visited school last week to promote the challenge and encourage the children to sign up.

### **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 Sessions**

We will be, once again, 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.

### **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](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.

### **Support for Families**

The summer holidays can be a great time for families, but they can also be challenging and stressful. Sometimes you might need some extra support to manage and enjoy the time together. We sent out a leaflet from the LA last week detailing support you can access. The following link also signposts you to support.

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/article/60347/Support-services-and-offers-to-families-in-your-schools-over-the-summer>

## **Reports**

Thank you to those of you who have completed the online parental comment form sent home this week. We really appreciate your comments and feedback.

## **Wraparound Provision**

Just a reminder that our extended After School Care offer from 4.20pm - 5pm each day will continue in September, and if there is demand this will continue to 6pm. 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. All children 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)

## **Clubs**

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in running our school clubs this year. We are grateful that so many people give up their valuable time to offer extra-curricular opportunities for our children. Thank you!

## **Attendance Focus**

As you know, we are continually working hard to improve school attendance due to the impact that absence from school can have on learning.

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

Class 1	97.6%
Class 2	98.9%
Class 3	96.0%
Class 4	93.7%

Well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of July.

Our overall school attendance this year has been **96.1%**, which is above the national average. Thank you for supporting us in our drive to improve school attendance. Here is the breakdown by class.

Class 1	97.5%
Class 2	95.8%
Class 3	96.1%
Class 4	95.6%

Well done to Class 1 for having the highest attendance for this academic year.

## **Update from The Friends**

The Friends would like to say a huge thank you to Denver pupils, parents, carers, families and the community for their fantastic support with all the fundraising events this year. From school discos to sponsored walk, tombola prizes to the Grand Opening of the Outdoor Learning Area, we wouldn't be able to fund all of the fantastic extra-curricular events for the children without you! This year classes have enjoyed school trips, a visit to the pantomime, Christmas parties and a special visit from Mini Monsters earlier this week – all paid for by the amazing efforts of The Friends.

We would like to say a big thank you to both Julia and Amanda who are leaving this year as their children move on to Secondary education. Both have been an integral part of The Friends for many years and you'll both be missed.

There will be an AGM in September so please do come along and join the team.

Thank you again! The Friends 😊

## **Sports News**

### **School Games Gold Award**

We are thrilled to have again been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award! This is an impressive achievement for a small school, and we are extremely proud of this achievement. 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 continued hard work in promoting PE, sport and the School Games values in school.

### **Get Set For PE Paris Pursuit by Mrs Henden**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, a festival was held in honour of the forthcoming Paris Olympics. Young Leaders from Class 4 planned and ran a series of activities for the rest of the school.



Children were organised into six groups – two for each house team. Everyone met in the hall for the opening assembly. Children from Class 3 had made an amazing poster to advertise the event. Children from classes 1 and 2 had made flags and found out some facts about Paris and France. In the assembly more was learnt about the Olympics, Parisian landmarks and their significance to the forthcoming Olympics. Some French words were shared that Young Leaders would use while leading their activities to encourage the younger children.



Then it was off to the outdoors. There were five activities in all. Three of these were personal challenges directly related to the Paris Pursuit challenges outlined in the school's new Get Set For PE scheme. The first: to complete throws that accumulated to 400 metres (the distance around the track in the Olympic stadium). The second: to complete 300 jumps of their choice to represent the height of the Eiffel Tower. The third: to run at least 4 laps of the Golden Mile track to be the equivalent of the journey that will be taken along the River Seine during the opening ceremony.



The remaining challenges were team challenges. 'Boccia' was where groups worked together to throw into different targets to score points and 'Dominoes' involved using tri-golf putting skills to clear a group of cones in succession to score tens. Red B were the winners of both!



Well done to everyone who took part and especially to the Class 4 Young Leaders who organised it so well. The most admirable thing was seeing them gently encouraging and supporting the younger children who visited their activities.



Thank you to all children for having a go and all staff for lending a hand to escort groups around, motivating them to try. It was a very positive afternoon and a great way to enrich our PE, geography and French learning throughout the school.

### **Key Stage 2 Rounders Festival 2024**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July, classes 3 and 4 joined together for our annual Key Stage 2 rounders festival. The children were organised into their house teams to compete against each other in a round robin tournament. After the teams had played each other, there was a stalemate: both Reds and Whites had each earned a draw and a win. Therefore a tie break round was held with the White team emerging as the winners by 11 points to 7. Well done to everyone who took part!



### **Thank You**

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

The Governing Body continue to be a fantastic support for the school, holding us to account and providing strategic direction. We are grateful to them all for their hard work.

Thank you to Rev'd Nigel, Heidi Moat and all involved with St Mary's Church for the many ways in which they provide support for the school. We always enjoy inviting in the ladies from the church to make Christingles and Mothering Sunday posies.

Thank you also to all those involved in running Supertots, particularly the students from DMA.

We have many volunteers who give up their time to listen to readers, help with outdoor learning club, go on school visits and much more. We really appreciate the time they give up to support the school.

And finally, I want to thank an amazing group of people who give up so much of their time to organise events and activities for the children to enjoy - The Friends of Denver School. Their fundraising has been very impressive this year and we are so lucky that they give up hours of their valuable spare time to support us.

In particular, I would like to thank Amanda Dawson and Julia Covell from The Friends who will be leaving us this year as their youngest children move to secondary school.

Julia has been Treasurer for many years now and has kept a very good eye on the finances, ensuring there has been enough money to support so many projects and opportunities. Thank you, Julia, we are extremely grateful for your support.

Amanda Dawson has supported the school in so many ways over the last 14 years, as governor, Chair of Governors and also Chair of the Friends. Amanda has worked tirelessly to ensure that Denver has continued to improve as a school, always with the best interests of the children at heart. We will all miss you, Amanda!

**And finally...**

Denver VC Primary is a wonderful school and one we are all so proud to be a part of. Thank you to everyone who helps the school and all those within it to 'let their light shine'.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and a relaxing break! Here's hoping that this recent good weather continues!

I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September for another busy school year at Denver VC Primary.

Best wishes

Louise Jones

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

**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