



February 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the February newsletter. I hope you all had a relaxing half term. With spring nearly upon us, it is lovely to be writing this newsletter with the sun shining outside. We hope the better weather continues. Here is a snapshot of what we have been doing in school during this short month.

Crazy Hair Day

Crazy Hair Day seems to have become a firm favourite in the school calendar with the children, and many of the staff too! We saw some very creative hairstyles on Wednesday this week, including a bottle pouring hair into a cup, a plant pot complete with plant, through to a box of breakfast cereal. A pleasing £62 was raised for the Friends and two raffle prizes were donated. Thank you to everyone who came to school with crazy hair!



Children's Mental Health Week

Before half term, we engaged in Children's Mental Health Week, the theme of which was 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. We started the week by exploring the theme in our collective worship and throughout the week the children explored how getting to know who they are can help to build resilience and help them to grow and develop. The children all engaged in activities centred around the theme, including creating their own islands of personality as shown below.

We also asked the children for ideas of new resources to re-vamp the Relaxation Reef box, and they did not disappoint. New resources have been ordered and hopefully they will arrive soon for the children to use during their break and lunch times.

Tips on how families can support children's mental health can be found on our website under the Parents tab.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 11th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for our children. We had a special collective worship themed around safe use of the internet and the children explored the theme in their computing lessons.

Staff News

Just a reminder that we are having Coffee and Cake on Thursday 13th March from 3.20-4pm to celebrate Miss Waters' time at the school. We hope that many of you will be able to join us in wishing Miss Waters well in her retirement.

Class 1's Learning Café by Mr Rackham

In Class 1's recent Learning Café, the topic was based around the new theme of space. Children and parents listened to the story 'Whatever Next?' by Jill Murphy and we thought about how the bear pretended to make a rocket out of a box. We decided to take this one step further and create our own rockets using junk modelling. Children worked with their parents to design, plan and make their own rockets which looked amazing! Thank you again to all parents for your continued participation in these events.



Class 3's Viking Longboats

The children in Class 3 were tasked with making a Viking longboat over half term as part of their history topic on the Vikings. We were so impressed at the effort they put into their models – well done Class 3!



Bishop Dagmar's Lent Challenge

As we head towards Easter, we will be participating in the Bishop's Lent Challenge, the theme of which is 'What do you want me to do for you? (Mark 10:51). This year's challenge is about understanding that Jesus healed people and will help the children to learn about the importance of their physical, mental wellbeing and spiritual health. We will be supporting the children to see the good things in life, to stop and take notice of the people around them, and encourage them to ask, 'What do you want me to do for you?' in order to help those in need. More details will follow soon.



Mothering Sunday Posies

Each year, the children make posies in school to present to their mums on Mothering Sunday. The ladies from St Mary's Church have once again kindly offered to help prepare the items needed and the School Council will purchase the flowers. The children will be making the posies on Friday 28th March ready for Mothering Sunday on 30th.

Young Carers

I am please to inform you that we have be awarded a grant of over £2000 to help us to run a monthly Young Carers group in school. More information to follow soon.

Lockdown Procedure

In the last week before half term, we practised our Lockdown procedure with the whole school. This was addressed in an age-appropriate manner in the different classes, and we were very proud of how sensible all the children were.

Lego Therapy

Joanne Turner from the School and Community Team has been running some Lego Therapy sessions in school for a small group of children this term. Those involved have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and we have been impressed at how well they have worked as part of a team.

Reading and Writing for Wellbeing Course

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the Reading and Writing for Wellbeing courses last half term. We are working with the tutor to explore further courses for parents this academic year.

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term is hope and we will be exploring with the children how important it is always to have hope and not to give up, even in difficult times.

Gardening Group Update by Mrs Collins

In gardening group, we have been doing a general clear up of the garden areas and giving them a god dig over ready to start planting in the next few weeks. Also, just before half term we made the most of the last day of term being Valentine's Day and we made our own hearts using wool, gems and googly eyes. As you can see from the photos below, we have some very artistic children. In the weeks to come we will be concentrating on some Easter crafts.



Outdoor Learning Update by Mr Cawley

The last of the Outdoor Learning Club sessions for the first half of the term was full of excitement and lots of learning! We were lucky enough to have a visit from a couple of piglets. So sweet, yet the children all discovered what they will grow into! Thank you to the person who made this possible (you know who you are!) A truly great experience for all the children and a learning opportunity for myself...carrying a piglet the correct way, by the rear legs...who'd have known!



They enjoyed their time with us, eventually, once they had stopped squealing. They were able to run free in our new mud area. It was the perfect place for them, and the perfect end to our club for this half term. Thank you to all who have helped and made it possible. Here's looking to this half term, and hopefully some warmer weather!



With the weather being so miserable, this week's outdoor learning session turned its attention to creating a den for the children to shelter in. We looked at some knots and lashings and the children worked together as a team to stretch out the tarpaulins and create the framework from large sticks. By working together, they were able to create something that everybody could shelter under. I am not sure I would have wanted to have spent the night under it though!



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.

At the beginning of the academic year, we sent out a letter from the Local Authority regarding school attendance. 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. The letter can be found on our school website. Please remember that significant changes have been made to the criteria for issuing fixed penalty notices.

Our Attendance policy can be found on our website under About Us, Attendance.

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

Class 1	94.5%
Class 2	95.5%
Class 3	94.8%
Class 4	96.4%

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

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.6%**, which is below our school target of 97%. We recognise that there are many nasty bugs doing the rounds, however we ask that you please continue to support us to improve school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Out of School Hours Communication

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently outside of school hours, 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.

Denver Supertots

Due to some timetable changes at Downham Market Academy, our Denver Supertots Playgroup will now only take place on alternate Fridays from 9.30-10.30am. There will not be a session this week, with the next one being held on 7th March and fortnightly going forward. All pre-school age children and their parents are welcome to attend for a small cost of £1.00 each child, with children under 1 being free. A variety of games and activities are planned, with refreshments provided for the children and adults.

Eat Them to Defeat Them

Once again, this year we will be engaging in the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign to promote vegetable consumption in children throughout the UK. The campaign launches on 10th March and will last for the remainder of this half term. The children will be encouraged to eat a different vegetable each week in school and will receive a sticker for doing so. The children will soon take home a pack containing a reward chart and stickers - please use the packs to encourage your children to eat more veg!



Update from The Friends

Hello everyone, we hope you all had a wonderful half term. How is it the end of February already?!

Things have started to pick up steam for The Friends now and we have got lots of things coming up. Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend and support the Valentine's disco. We managed to raise £111.20 and we have received lots of positive feedback which we will look to incorporate next time (yes, there will be a next time).

Secondly, another big thank you for letting the children go crazy with their hairstyles for 'Crazy Hair Day', it is always fun for the children (and staff) to let their hair down (pun fully intended). We managed to raise £62, so thank you all and thank you to those who donated raffle prizes too.

Congratulations also goes out to Jonessa, Class 3, for winning the absolutely massive teddy bear, which she named Muffin.

We shall be serving teas and coffees at both nights of Parents' Evenings next week, so pop over and have a chat if you have any queries or questions. We also have a large selection of pre-loved uniform, if you require any, please do not hesitate to ask.

We shall also be hosting our next meeting on Wednesday 12th March if any one fancies popping along. We can also add people in via teams if you cannot make it into the school.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School.

Sports News

Speed Stacking

On Monday 10th February, a group of children from Classes 2 & 3 travelled to Lynnsport to take part in a speedstacking event as part of the Omnes games. Speed stacking is a great way to help with hand eye co-ordination and it is always very popular with the children. They all enjoyed the session – you can see from the photos below how much concentration is required.





Sporting Stars

Dancing Star

Ivy, in Class 2, completed a Street Dance competition last weekend. She did extremely well coming 3rd out of 48 children for her solo dance. Well done, Ivy, what an impressive performance!



Forthcoming Events

Parent Consultations – 5th and 6th March

Next week, we will be offering face-to-face parent consultations on the 5th and 6th March. If you have not had a chance to book an appointment yet, please contact the school office. We hope that many of you will take up this important opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

World Book Day – 6th March

Next week, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. We have a number of exciting activities planned and will once again be asking that the children come to school dressed as a favourite book character. Mrs Fenn is preparing a special World Book Day lunch, and we would also like to invite parents into school from 3pm to read with your child/ren. Please enter the school via the field gate which will be opened at 2.55pm.

British Science Week – 7th – 16th March

It is British Science Week the following week and Mrs Henden, our science lead, is busy organising a range of fun challenges for the children to take part in.

Bee Netball Tournament – 10th March

A Bee netball tournament for children in Class 3 is taking place on 10th March. Go netballers!

Sensory Workshop – 13th March

We have arranged for a Sensory Workshop to take place on Thursday 13th March at 9am. This will be delivered by Joanne Turner from the School and Community Team. More details to follow soon.

Cluster Netball Tournament – 18th March

The cluster netball tournament for children in Y5/6 is due to take place on 18th March at DMA. Good luck to the team!

Sleep Workshop – 20th March

Joanne Turner from the School and Community Team will be running a further workshop on 20th March at 9am, this time with a focus on children's sleep. More details to follow soon.

OMNES Games – 24th March

Another OMNES games, this time New Age Kurling, will take place at Lynnsport in March. This is great opportunity for some children in Class 2 and Class 3 to try out a different event.

Big Walk and Wheel Week – 24th March – 4th April

During this week, we will be encouraging the children to walk, scoot or cycle to school. We hope to see our cycle shelter full!

Mother's Day Posies – 28th March

The ladies from St Mary's Church will once again be coming into school on 28th March to help the children make posies for Mothering Sunday.

Easter Service – 31st March

We are planning to have an Easter service in St Mary's Church on 31st March at 2pm.

Cluster Football Tournament – 4th April

On the last day of term, we will be sending 2 teams of Y5/6 children to the cluster football tournament at Hillcrest. Good luck to our footballers!

And finally...

Please remember that we have an open-door policy at school. If you are ever concerned about anything, please do make contact with either the class teachers or myself. We hope to see you all next week at Parent Consultations and at the many forthcoming events this term.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2024/2025

Spring Term

March 2025	5 th	Wed	Parents Consultations
	6 th	Thu	Parents Consultations
	6 th	Thu	World Book Day
	7 th – 16 th		British Science Week
	7 th	Fri	Denver Supertots
	10 th	Mon	Bee Netball Tournament
	12 th	Wed	Friends of Denver School Meeting
	13 th	Thu	Sensory Workshop – 9am
	18 th	Tue	Cluster Netball Tournament
	20 th	Thu	Sleep Workshop – 9am
	21 st	Fri	Denver Supertots
	24 th	Mon	New Age Kurling OMNES Game
	24 th – 4 th		Big Walk and Wheel Week
	28 th	Fri	Mother's Day Posies
	31 st	Mon	Easter Service – 2pm St Mary's Church
April 2025	4 th	Fri	Denver Supertots
	4 th	Fri	Cluster Football Tournament
	4 th	Fri	Last day of spring term

Summer Term

April 2025	22 nd	Tue	Professional Development Day
	23 rd	Wed	Children return to school
May 2025	4 th	Sun	Village Yard Sale
	5 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	7 th	Wed	Bag2School Collection
	26 th – 30 th		School closed for half term
June 2025	2 nd	Mon	Children return to school
July 2025	22 nd	Tue	Last day of summer term

