



April 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the April newsletter. I hope you all had a relaxing Easter break and are ready for the busy summer term ahead. Although we have not had many days in school during April due to the Easter break, we still have a lot to celebrate and share.

New Sheds by Mr Cawley

Back before Christmas, we identified the need for a little more storage space for our PE equipment. The idea of some sheds for storage prompted me to investigate the possibility of tapping into the local building site's (Prosperity) charity fund, to see if we could access funding to provide a shed. Initially, I was seeking funding for a flatpack shed that I would erect, and we could use on the playground to store PE equipment and playground games. The company were excellent. A site visit was arranged, the site manager listened to our needs, and not one but three sheds were agreed on. When he said that he would send a team to do the ground works, I never envisaged two builders, two 6-ton dumpers, Harris Fencing and a digger to descend upon the school for a week! Once completed, the site sent a team of chippies to complete the build. This was topped off with a visit from the decorating team to paint the sheds in a hard-wearing coating to ensure a long life.

Not finished there, when they discovered the intention of turning the old PE room into a SEND sensory room, they sent further carpenters to box in the electrics in preparation for a transformation that will serve to enhance the school experience for many children that pass through Denver Primary. The quality of work, the professionalism of the workmen and the generosity of the company has been second to none. We are hoping to arrange a press afternoon to officially hand over the sheds and say thank you to Persimmon for all their donations and hard work. It just goes to show that in so many ways, "From tiny acorns, grow mighty Oaks!





Young Carers by Mrs Wright

The Young Carers in school had their first official meeting just before Easter. We were lucky to have been awarded a grant from Norfolk County Council to help us buy resources and fund these sessions.

We ordered a selection of new games for the event but unfortunately these did not arrive in time, so Mrs Wright set up an obstacle course in the hall which went down a treat. The children also took part in making their own chocolate nest cake (including a chick) to take home for Easter.

Feedback from the children after the session was all positive and are all looking forward to their next session.

" I loved making the cake and it tasted lovely."

"It was nice spending time with my brother and sister in school."

"My favourite bit was going on the spinning chair and going dizzy."

"I liked the trampoline and tunnel best."



Staff News

This term we have welcomed Miss Paula Boddy to our staff team as a Teaching Assistant.

New Pupils

We have had two new pupils join our school this term, Charlie (Y4) and Lyla (Y5). Both pupils used to come to our school before moving to Spain a few years ago. It lovely to welcome them back to our Denver community.

Gardening Group Update by Mrs Collins and Mrs Meloy

This last month we have concentrated on digging over the ground and sowing some vegetables and flowers. One week, the group made their own easter decorations. We had eggs, bunnies and weird vegetable shapes. The next week we painted them and then hung them up to make an Easter tree. We have also continued to look after the guinea pigs and give them a weekly clean out. This time is a great excuse for giving them lots of cuddles. Last week, the children made up marker sticks, writing on them what they were planting. We planted lettuce, carrots, cucumber, pumpkins, tomatoes and brussel sprouts!



Outdoor Learning Update by Mr Cawley

2nd April

Despite missing the 'official' date of Shrove Tuesday, we at ODLC decided that it was only fitting to allow the children the chance to enjoy some homemade pancakes in the last session of the spring term. The children recalled the 'fire triangle' and all helped to prepare the cooking area. Ben Groom kindly volunteered to be head chef, although I am sure that he

wished he had longer arms by the end of it, as it was a warm job! By all counts, the children rated the pancakes on a par with the efforts of with many Michelin Chefs, so a congratulations and thank you must go to Ben. It was great to see so many satisfied children, and as always, their behaviour was fantastic, allowing us to enjoy this session safely.



23rd April

The first week back for outdoor learning club was the opportunity to allow the children to help move the materials from my van to our new SEND room that we are having built, courtesy of the builders that provided our sheds. We also practised our teamwork skills in moving some timber to our new outdoor classroom to make the benches a safer place to sit. The children worked fantastically together and got the job done! They say a picture tells 1000 words so you can see quite clearly the hard work that these children put in and the communication skills that were practised. Maybe next week won't be quite such hard work!



Code of Conduct for Parents and Carers

I would just like to remind you all that we have a Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers which we expect all to follow. This can be found on our school website under About Us, Policies. If you have an issue or concern regarding an emotive or difficult situation, please raise this via a meeting, arranged through the office, either with the class teacher or Mrs Jones as the school gate does not afford the privacy and confidentiality necessary in some situations.

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. April's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	93.6%
Class 2	93.1%
Class 3	87.2%
Class 4	93.1%

Well done to Class 1 for having the highest attendance for the month of April!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95%**, which is below our school target of 97%. We recognise that there still seems to be a number of bugs going around, including chickenpox, however we ask that you please continue to support us to improve school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Lateness

Please remember that any child arriving at school after the gate closed at 9am will be marked as late on the attendance registers. If a child arrives after 9.10am then the absence is recorded as unauthorised.

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 (**10 sessions or 5 school days of unauthorised absence within a 10-school week period**). An absence request should be completed **before** any holidays 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.

School Lunches

Our new menu started this term, and we have already had lots of positive feedback from the children, particularly for the sausage pastry pinwheel. Just a reminder that the price of a school lunch has increased to £2.75 per meal. The new menu can be found on the school website in the parents /carers section.

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.

Sun Protection

During the summer term the children will spend more time outside. To help protect them 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. Thank you.

Supertots

Our Denver Supertots Playgroup will take place on the following Fridays (9.30-10.30am) this term:

- 2nd May
- 16th May
- 6th June
- 20th June
- 4th July
- 18th July

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.

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term is tolerance and we will be exploring with the children how important it is important to respect each other's differences.

Update from The Friends

We are back! We hope everyone had a fantastic easter break. Hopefully not too much chocolate was consumed.

It has been a rare quiet month for the Friends as we look to get prepared for the upcoming VE Day celebrations in school on Thursday 8th May, where some of our members will be joining with staff to host games and educational activities for the children (and willing parents!). We look forward to it being a fantastic celebration and we look forward to seeing lots of parents/guardians on the day.

We also have the Denver Yard Sale coming on the Sunday 18th May, which always proves to be a popular event for the village and local community. There is still time for people to get stalls booked if anyone would like to host a stall, and we look forward to seeing the village buzzing with activity on the day. Don't forget to pop by the village hall for tea, coffee and bacon sandwiches.

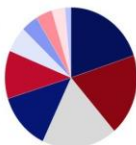
Also, a quick congratulations to Libby (Class 3), for guessing the closest correct answer, and winning the Easter Bunny's jar of sweets. Well done, we hope you enjoyed them.

And lastly, we would like to share our 2023/24 breakdown of how the Friends raised funds and what those funds went towards over the school year. We are always looking for new avenues of fundraising and as you can see it all goes back into the school and helps to benefit the pupils and staff. Have a fantastic May everyone.

Friends of Denver 2023-2024 data





Thanks to fantastic support from Denver families, the community and ad hoc volunteers we have

raised
£6,792.38



- Donations
- Sponsored Walk
- Christmas Fayre and fundraiser
- Photos - Class and School
- Denver Yard Sale
- Miscellaneous Fundraisers
- Grand Opening of Classroom
- Denver Fun Day Tombola
- Disco
- Name the Stuffed Toy

How we spent £6,735.63 supporting the children...

 Fully funded Pantomime trip to all KS1 and KS2 children.	 Grand Opening of our Outdoor Classroom free to all Denver families.
 Mini Monsters creepy crawly roadshow visit to the school.	 Funded school trips (Eaton Vale; Snettisham Park; Norwich Synagogue; and more).
 Help funding new playground equipment.	 Organising school disco and funded tickets.
 Supporting parents and providing hot drinks during the school's main events.	 Father Christmas' helper and his gifts.
 Ties and Prefect badges for all Year 6 students.	 Book bags for all reception children.

How can you support the Friends?

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email us, give us your opinion; • Join us on any meeting; • Ad hoc volunteering; • Baking goods for events; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donating to: Account name: Friends of Denver Village School Sort code: 20-46-65 Account number: 90026174 |
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Ben. G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

Sports News

London Mini Marathon

Over the course of the last two weeks, we have been taking part in a nationwide initiative: the London Mini Marathon for Schools. Each class has been taking part to achieve a distance of two miles (16 laps of our school field). A certificate will be awarded to commemorate this to all who have met the target in Celebration Assembly.

Area Netball Finals

Our cluster netball champions progressed onto the area finals on Tuesday of this week where they performed extremely well coming 5th out of 80 teams. Well done to the team of Amelia, Isla, Jack, Rosie, James, Oliver, Seren and Hope!

Forthcoming Events

Great Cressingham Victorian School Visit – 1st May

Class 4 will be going back in time to the Victorian Era when they visit Great Cressingham Victorian School on 1st May.

Neurodiversity Workshop – 1st and 8th May

Joanne Turner from the Schools and Community Team will be running a Neurodiversity Workshop on Thursdays 1st and 8th May. The sessions will run from 9-10am and refreshments will be available. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

Crucial Crew – 2nd May

The children in Y6 will be visiting King's Lynn Fire Station on 2nd May for the Crucial Crew event where they will learn how to keep themselves safe in a variety of different scenarios.

Tri-golf Tournament – 6th May

A group of children from Classes 2 and 3 will be taking part in the cluster tri-golf tournament on 6th May.

VE Day Celebrations – 8th May

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, we will be having a special event in school, including a street party on the afternoon of Thursday 8th May. Parents and carers are invited in from 2pm to join in with the celebrations. To help get into the spirit of the day, we will be having a non-uniform day and would like the children to wear red, white or blue, or indeed a combination of the three. Fingers crossed the weather stays kind to us.

KS2 SATs Week – 12th – 16th May

The children in Y6 will be sitting their KS2 SATs from 12th – 16th May. They have all worked hard and are well-prepared. We wish them all the best of luck – just do your very best, you can do it!

Class 1 Visit to Snettisham Park Farm – 16th May

Class 1 are looking forward to visiting Snettisham Park Farm on 16th May. We hope they have good weather.

Denver Village Yard Sale – 18th May

The annual Denver Village Yard Sale takes place on Sunday 18th May. Please note that the date has changed from the one mentioned in the previous newsletter. This is always a really good fundraiser for The Friends so please come along to support this event.

Dynamos Cricket Tournament – 22nd May

A group of children from Class 4 will participate in the Dynamos cricket tournament on 22nd May.

Y3/4 Mini Tennis – 23rd May

A group of children from Class 3 will be participating in the Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport on Friday 23rd May.

Sponsored Walk – 23rd May

Our annual sponsored walk will take place at 2pm on the last day of this half term.

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course- 5th and 12th June

Joanne Turner from the Schools and Community Team will be running two workshops on Neurodiversity on 5th and 12th June. All parents and carers are welcome; refreshments will be served.

Tag Rugby Festival at WNRFC – 6th June

Class 4 will be visiting West Norfolk Rugby Club for a tag rugby festival on 6th June.

Phonics Screen Week – 9th – 13th June

The children in Y1 will be doing the statutory phonics screen to assess their phonics understanding during this week.

Quad Kids – 23rd June

The Quad Kids athletics event for Y5/6 children will take place on Monday 23rd June at Lynnsport.

Sports Day – 24th June

Our annual Sports Day will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 24th June. All are welcome to cheer the children on.

Reserve Sports Day – 26th June

Should the weather not be kind to us, the Sports Day reserve date will be Thursday 26th June.

Y5/6 Mini Tennis – 27th June

On Friday 27th June it is Class 4's turn to participate in the Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport

Active Kids – 30th June

The final session of Active Kids for Y1 takes place on the morning of Monday 30th June.

Area Sports – 1st July

The annual cluster Area Sports will take place on the morning of 1st July. This will involve children from KS2.

KS2 Production – 14th and 16th July

Mr Lawrence has, once again, written an original play for KS2 to perform at the end of the year. There will be two performances on Monday 16th and Wednesday 16th July. More details to follow soon.

Move Up Afternoons – 16th, 17th and 18th July

On the afternoons of 16th, 17th and 18th 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 18th July at 2pm.

Denver Fun Day – 20th July

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 20th 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.

School Games Festival – 21st July

The children will all take part in our School Games Festival on the penultimate day of term.

End of Year Assembly – 22nd July

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

And finally...

The summer term is always extremely busy, therefore we have updated the diary dates below to make you aware of the many forthcoming activities and events happening throughout the term.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2024/2025

Summer Term

May 2025	1 st	Thu	Great Cressingham Visit – Class 4
	1 st	Thu	Neurodiversity Workshop
	2 nd	Fri	Y6 Crucial Crew
	2 nd	Fri	Supertots
	5 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	6 th	Tue	Tri-golf Tournament
	7 th	Wed	Bag2School Collection
	8 th	Thu	VE Day Celebrations
	8 th	Thu	Neurodiversity Workshop
	9 th	Fri	Y6 Crucial Crew
	12 th -16 th		KS2 SATs
	16 th	Fri	Class 1 Visit to Snettisham Park Farm
	16 th	Fri	Supertots
	18 th	Sun	Village Yard Sale
	22 nd	Thu	Dynamos Cricket Tournament
	23 rd	Fri	Sponsored Walk
	23 rd	Fri	Y3/4 Mini Tennis
26 th – 30 th		School closed for half term	
June 2025	2 nd	Mon	Children return to school
	5 th	Thu	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	6 th	Fri	Tag Rugby Tournament at WNRFC – Class 4
	6 th	Fri	Supertots
	9 th -16 th		Y1 Phonics Screen
	12 th	Thu	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	20 th	Fri	Supertots
	23 rd	Mon	Quad Kids – Y5/6
	24 th	Tue	Sports Day
	26 th	Thu	Reserve Sports Day
	27 th	Fri	Y5/6 Mini Tennis
30 th	Mon	Active Kids Y1	
	1 st	Tue	Area Sports
	4 th	Fri	Supertots

July 2025	14 th	Mon	KS2 Production
	16 th	Wed	KS2 Production
	16 th , 17 th 18 th		Move Up Afternoons
	18 th	Fri	Supertots
	20 th	Sun	Denver Fun Day
	21 st	Mon	School Games Festival
	22 nd	Tue	End of Year Assembly
	22 nd	Tue	Last day of summer term