



June 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the June newsletter; I cannot quite believe we only have 3 weeks left until the end of term! The weather has been glorious recently and thankfully allowed our many planned events to happen. As always, we have lots to celebrate and share with you, including some amazing sporting achievements in the sports section...

Class 1 Outdoor Area

I am excited to inform you that work to improve Class 1's outdoor area has started today. The project is due to take approximately 2 weeks to complete and during this time Class 1 will not be able to use their outdoor area. Mr Rackham and Mrs Blount will greet the Class 1 children each morning on the main school playground. They will then take the children into school via the side white entrance doors. Class 1 children should also be collected from the playground at the end of each school day.

This project is being funded by a generous CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) grant from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. We cannot wait to share the new outdoor area with you on its completion.

CPR Training

We were extremely fortunate to have a representative from the East Anglian Air Ambulance visit school today to deliver CPR and AED training to the children. This important lifesaving skill was taught to all classes in an age-appropriate manner and the children really enjoyed learning a new skill. Many thanks to the trainer, Jack Parkin, for leading such engaging sessions for the children.



Staff News

It is with sadness that I announce Miss Cronin's retirement at the end of the summer term. She has worked across all ages and supported many children in her 26 years of committed service to the school. She has willingly taken on many responsibilities in school, including covering PPA and teaching cookery; she has even been Chair of the Friends. Sue will be greatly missed by the whole school community, but we wish her well in her retirement. If you would like to contribute to a gift to mark Sue's retirement, please send any donations to the school office.

Sun Protection

With the high temperatures we have experiencing recently, please ensure that all children are protected from the sun by ensuring 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 for your support with this.

Active Travel Survey

Earlier this year, our school was awarded a grant from Norfolk County Council's Road Safety and Public Health Teams to support our ambitions in promoting safer, healthier, and more active journeys to and from school.

As part of this initiative, we are inviting you to take part in a short survey to share your views on active travel such as walking, wheeling, cycling, or scooting to school and if you have seen any health and wellbeing benefits in your child(ren) by choosing safer and more active travel habits. Your feedback will help us understand what encourages or prevents families from choosing active travel, and how we can better support you and your children in making these journeys easier.

The survey is being run by Norfolk County Council, and your input is incredibly valuable in shaping future improvements. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by **Friday 18 July 2025**.

If you have any questions about the survey or our active travel plans, feel free to get in touch with the school office. Thank you for your time and support in helping us build a safer, healthier school community.

Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/rLQKGrBic3>

Active Travel Survey for Parents
and Carers - Denver CE VC Primary
School



Uniform Orders

Our school uniform is available to purchase online directly from our suppliers at <https://gooddies.co.uk>. Uniform can be ordered throughout the summer holidays to home addresses or if you would rather it be delivered to school then it would need to be before 22nd July.

After School Clubs

The last week for after school clubs (sports and outdoor learning) will be the week commencing Monday 7th July. Before and after school care will continue until the end of term.

Denver Supertots Playgroup

The last sessions for our Denver Supertots Playgroup this term will be held on Fridays 4th and 18th July, from 9.30 - 10.30am. 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 23rd 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 theme for this year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#) is: **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**. This exciting new theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

The annual Summer Reading Challenge is delivered in partnership with public libraries across the UK, and it is free for children to take part. Throughout the summer, children joining 'Story Garden' can discover new books, participate in free activities at their local library, and explore the link between reading and the great outdoors, where nature and imagination come together.

This year's Summer Reading Challenge features artwork from award-winning illustrator **Dapo Adeola**, whose stunning illustrations will bring the Story Garden theme to life; creating an enchanting world where children can find magical creatures, plants and flowers to inspire their next reading adventure.

Recent research shows that children's enjoyment and engagement in reading is in decline, despite research from the OECD showing that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more important than either parents' educational background or household income. The Summer Reading Challenge supports children to get excited about reading throughout the summer, helping to maintain their reading at a time when engagement can often dip.

The impact of the Challenge is clear:

- 95% of participants continue reading at least once a week after taking part
- 70% report increased reading confidence

Who is it for?

The Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at children from 4-11 years old. It supports this age group and their families by:

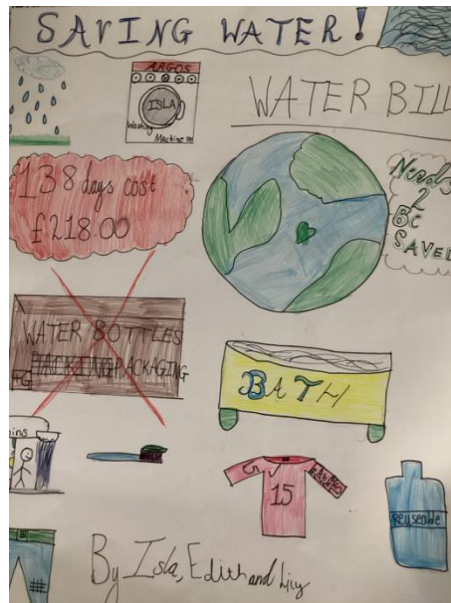
- Preparing children to get back to the classroom in the autumn.
- Supporting the move into a new year group or key stage.
- Boosting children's confidence and self-esteem by supporting independent reading.
- Providing free access to books and fun family activities during the summer.

The Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge launches on **Saturday 5 July 2025**. Children can sign up at Downham Market library to join the adventure and discover the magical world where stories grow. For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.

Climate Champions

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, in collaboration with Groundwork UK, are currently engaging children from Year 5 and above in schools across its area about raising issues relating to climate change and taking steps to reduce its impact. This also supports our work in elevating our school's 'Eco-schools' status. Mrs Henden and Mr Cawley attended training sessions run by staff from Groundworks UK. This enabled Mrs Henden to deliver a series of lessons relating to climate change and its impact to Class 4.

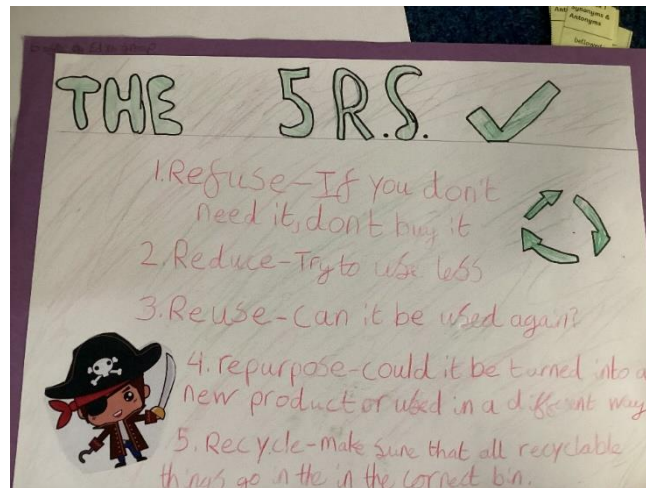
The aims were for children to produce physical resources such as posters to promote their ideas and also to deliver an assembly to the whole school to raise awareness of the issues followed by the implementation of an action that we can make as a school to make a difference.



The children learnt about how carbon emissions come from a range of everyday actions and needs: food, water, waste, energy, biodiversity and transport. Importantly, the children learnt about how they can be active citizens to combat this.



They then delivered a whole school assembly to share their learning and introduce our challenge: to try as much as possible to use active travel to and from school every day with the incentives of stickers, Dojo points and a bug hotel for the overall winner. Their assembly, which was recorded, has now been forwarded to a judging panel from the West Norfolk Borough Council and Groundworks that will compare Class 4's assembly and posters to those of other schools across this area. The outcomes will be shared at the end of the month with a prize (not yet specified) awarded to winners.



Outdoor Learning Update by Mr Cawley

4th June

They say never work with children and animals, so today we decided to work with both! Phillipa's parents very kindly travelled to school in a John Deere Gator, loaded with three four-month-old lambs and introduced the children to the three lambs. The children absolutely loved asking questions and discovering lots of interesting facts about the lambs. They also had the opportunity to pet and feed them. We have had piglets in, lambs in... who knows what will be next? Has anyone got a pet elephant?

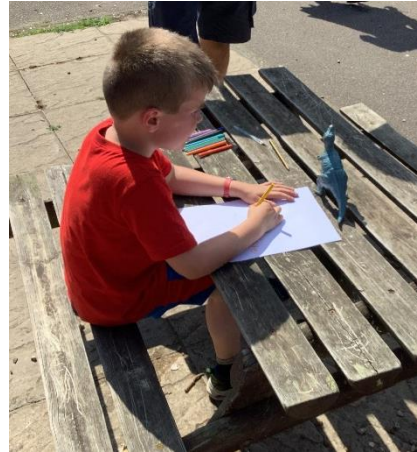




18th June

What a scorcher! This week, the ODLC used the weather to our favour. We used the sunny afternoon to draw shadow pictures by tracing round the shadows cast by toy dinosaurs on paper to create a picture; then we learned how to create a paper boat, which we tested on a makeshift pond! It turned out that the children were better at following instructions than the adults (myself included!). It would not be a true end to the session if the children didn't go home smoky, muddy or wet; so tonight, wet it was! Looking forward to more water-based fun as the warm spell continues.





25th June

This evening's ODLC was all about river! Let's tie some Geography in with some warm weather fun! The children had to lay the riverbed (the foil), realise that water flows downhill, then start the flow to realise that the banks needed support to hold the water! Once the flow was there, they extended the 'river' with drainpipes, floated paper boats down its length, dammed the river with mud and sticks, and even went on to create simple bridges over the water! A great learning opportunity for budding plumbers and Environment Agency staff alike! Next time, we might even introduce a meander!



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. June's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	94.9%
Class 2	93.8%
Class 3	96.4%
Class 4	94.6%

Well done to Class 3 for having the highest attendance for the month of June!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **94.9%**, which is below our school target of 97%. 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.

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.

Footwear

For safety reasons, please can we ask that children do not come to school in open-toed sandals. Thank you for your support with this.

Earrings

Just a reminder that earrings need to be removed for PE lessons; it is our policy not to tape over earrings for safety reasons. The summer holidays are always a good time for children to have their ears pierced as there is time for them to settle so they can be removed for PE lessons.

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term is perseverance and we have been exploring in Collective Worship and in lesson time how we can show perseverance even in difficult times.

Pentecost

A group of our children were involved in leading a church service for Pentecost at the Methodist Church in Downham Market. Lily, Fred, Ottilie, Raife, Sammy and Monty all acted out a scene in the service, as can be seen in the photo below. Well done to them all.



Worship Ambassadors Leading Collective Worship

On 10th June, our Worship Ambassadors (Jack, Isla, Seren and Jake) planned and delivered a collective worship on our Christian value for this half term, perseverance.



They planned this with the help of Carole, our Chair of Governors. They decided on having an acrostic poem using the letters for perseverance, as can be seen below.



Jake said a 'hand' prayer and they chose the song 'Living and Learning' to conclude the worship. Well done to our fantastic worship ambassadors!

School Lunches

We politely request that all lunch balances are brought up to date, particularly before the end of the summer term. If you would like an update on your child's lunch balance, please email the school at office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk Unfortunately, if your child's lunch balance reaches £30 then we will not be able to provide them with a lunch until the balance has been cleared. If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals, you can find more information and an application form on our school website [Denver VC Primary School - School Lunches](#)

Denver Fun Day

Denver Fun Day is taking place this year on Sunday 20th July. This is always an excellent community event and once again our school choir will be performing. The organisers have requested cakes for the cake stall; if anyone is bake to some cakes to be sold on the day, please bring these into school on Friday 18th July.

Summer Disco and Dance

Denver Playing Field Association is organising a Summer Disco and Dance on Friday 18th July from 7.30-11.45pm at Denver Playing Field, to raise funds for a new playground. Tickets are £18 each. If you would like tickets or more information about the event, please contact John on 07780 617065 or Richard on 07935 412817.

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

Thank you to those parents who attended the 'Understanding Your Child's Behaviour' course this half term. We hope you found this informative.

Update from The Friends

As we fast approach the end of another school year, we at The Friends are still working hard. Although it was a quiet month for us in June, things are still happening behind the scenes.

Firstly, I would just like to send a massive thank you to all the children, parents and staff who helped us to raise £1285.40 for the sponsored walk. A brilliant total which will go into providing lots of activities for the children.

We shall be heading into school this Wednesday (July 2nd) to start taking photos for the end of year, these include class and year group pictures. Please look out for us after school in the near future to view these. They will be available to purchase, hopefully with orders being filled before the end of term.

We will also have a stall at the upcoming Denver fun day (July 20th), please pop by to say hello. We will be running a tombola and we will also have a range of preloved uniform. Speaking of preloved uniform, if anyone requires any, please see our online form which is available on the school's website.

Ben. G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

Sports News by Mrs Henden

Dynamos Cricket Tournament

On 2nd June our team of 2nd placed finalists in the cluster Dynamos cricket tournament proceeded to the next round against the top teams from across the West Norfolk region. The event again was held at the Downham Market Memorial Field. The children had a successful event coming a very impressive third place overall. Well done! Thank you once again to Luke Fenn and Mrs Williamson for taking the children to the event and for Luke's coaching.



Y3/4 Mini Tennis Tournament

Well done to our four tennis players (Monty, Lily, Raife and Lauren) from Class 3 who represented the school in the area mini tennis competition for lower Key Stage 2. Many thanks to their parents for kindly taking them to the event providing plenty of encouragement.



Girls' Cricket Tournament

Following on from the mixed tournaments, a cricket festival for girls early was arranged for schools in the Downham Market cluster. Our team of 8 travelled to Downham and Stow Cricket Club's grounds at Stow Hall, Stow Bardolph on Tuesday 10th June.

Though the event was in a non-competitive format, the team won all of their games. Edith was singled out as player of the tournament and Isla was given a medal for the best bat after scoring a six. Excellent achievements! Thank you once again to Mrs Williamson who supported the team.



London Mini Marathon Trophy

We were delighted to receive this lovely trophy in recognition of everyone's efforts to complete the mini-marathon at the end of April. Well done to all the children who helped to achieve this. Here's to next year...



West Norfolk Rugby Club Tournament

All the schools in the area that engaged with a block of tag rugby coaching sessions with qualified rugby coaches earlier in the academic year were invited to West Norfolk Rugby Club, North Wootton, on Friday 6th June to compete against each other.

There was a tournament for Year 5 and one for Year 6. All teams had 7 members with a minimum of 3 girls on the pitch at any time. To make sure everyone had a fair turn, different children went on for each match.

The children in Year 5 performed very well earning a solid fourth place. The Year 6 children won all of their matches except for the last one which they lost 4-3. That one try by the tournament winners, Fairstead, who had also been undefeated to that point, resulted in Denver being the runners up by one point!

Though we got soaked by the continuous and, at times, torrential rain it was a great experience. Members of the women's rugby squad were there to cheer on the children. We look forward to James Burroughs returning in September for some more coaching sessions. Thank you to Mrs Collins and Mrs Cross for coming along and supporting us.



Success at Quad Kids

On Monday 23rd June, our squad of 10 Year 6 children travelled to Lynnsport to take part in the Quad Kids area finals. The team consisted of five boys and five girls who each had to compete in all 4 events (75 metre sprint, 600 metre endurance, a throw and a standing long jump) to earn points towards the team total. Denver were the winners of the tournament and Evie was named female athlete of the tournament. Fantastic! Thank you to Mrs Williamson and Luke Fenn for taking the children.



Sports Day

Sports Day on Tuesday 24th 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 usual 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.

Once again it was 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.



We would like to express our thanks to Miss Cronin for organising the day, all staff and parent/governor helpers and Luke who gave up their time and especially to Class 4 who did a tremendous job of running each activity. A huge thank you also goes out to Mrs Henden for running a very successful sports day once again.

Y6 Mini Tennis Tournament

Well done to our four tennis players (Rosie, Seren, Max and Oliver) who travelled to Lynnsport for the area mini tennis competition for upper Key Stage 2. In the first pool they came second and then when into the final rounds, finished a very impressive 4th place out of the area that covers 80 schools. Super work! Many thanks to their parents for kindly taking them to the event and providing support and encouragement.



Sporting Stars

Congratulations to Indi (Class 3) and Ivy (Class 2) for their fantastic success in recent Street Dance competitions. The girls came 2nd in their team at Peterborough and 1st in their team in Colchester. Indi also came 3rd in her duos and also performed at the Downham Market carnival. We are very proud of both girls.





Forthcoming Events

Area Sports – 1st July

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

Class 2 Visit to West Runton – 10th July

Class 2 are looking forward to a trip to the beautiful beach at West Runton on Thursday 10th July. Let's hope the sun shines for them!

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. A letter has been sent out explaining all of the arrangements. Tickets for 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 last few weeks of term are always extremely busy, so please do make a note of all the diary dates below. I have also included the term dates for the next academic year. We look forward to welcoming you to these.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2024/2025

Summer Term

July 2025	1 st	Tue	Area Sports
	4 th	Fri	Supertots
	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

2025/2026

Autumn Term

September 2025	3 rd	Wed	Children return to school
October 2025	27 th – 31 st		School closed for half term
November 2025	3 rd	Mon	Children return to school
December 2025	19 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2026	6 th	Tue	Children return to school
February 2026	16 th -20 th		School closed for half term
	23 rd	Mon	Children return to school
March 2026	27 th	Fri	Last day of spring term

Summer Term

April 2026	14 th	Tue	Children return to school
May 2026	4 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	25 th – 29 th		School closed for half term
June 2026	1 st	Mon	Children return to school
July 2026	17 th	Fri	Last day of summer term