



October 2025 Newsletter



I cannot quite believe we are at the end of our first half term of this academic year! Here is a flavour of the amazing work that has been happening throughout the school in our October newsletter.

School Choir

On 3rd October, our school choir performed at Downham Home and Garden Centre's festive launch. It did feel strange singing Christmas carols this early in October, but the children were fantastic and helped to bring a sprinkle of festive cheer to the event. Thank you to Downham Home and Garden Centre for inviting us, and to Mr Lawrence for his continued hard work in developing the choir.



Harvest Festival

On Monday 13th October, the school participated in our annual Harvest festival at St Mary's Church, Denver.



The parents packed the church, and the children enjoyed readings, singing and a sermon which included some bread throwing from Reverend Nigel Moat.



The children participated with eagerness and excitement and Mr Lawrence and Fraser Reich led the singing of many songs that have been practised in assemblies and music lessons at school.



The children's enjoyment of the songs clearly gives testament to the scheme that we have adopted in school (Out of the Ark) which shows that the modern take on many of the hymns keeps the children interested whilst retaining the Christian values in the messages they deliver. Parents were able to join in the more traditional songs. Thank you to all who joined us for our Harvest service.

Foodbank Donations

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we asked for donations of produce from the children. We were so pleased with the many donations we received; your generosity will make a huge difference to local families. The donations were delivered to Downham Market Foodbank by some members of the School Council. Here they are photographed with Yvonne from the foodbank.



Be Brave RE Day

On Tuesday 14th October, we were visited by members of a Christian theatre group for an entertaining collective worship and workshop with the theme 'Be Brave'.

The collective worship involved characters called Esther and Donkey. They explored stories in the Bible where bravery had been shown. From the minute the children walked into the hall and were greeted by a huge box and a talking donkey, they knew they were in for a treat! They loved the stories, the acting and the lively song to finish off.



After the assembly was over, their enjoyment continued through a series of workshops for the different year groups. These sessions promoted physical movement and interpretation of Bible stories through participation in group activities of drama and movement. The children were encouraged to use their creativeness, and all had a truly wonderful experience!

The Bible story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was shared with groups representing the scenes of the story where the brave men stood up to the king and refused to idolise him.

The smiles say it all!





A huge thank you to the Friends for funding this wonderful experience.

KS2 Worship in St Mary's Church

On Wednesday 15th October, KS2 were invited to take part in an act of worship at St Mary's church in Denver. The theme was Ruth and friendship.

After singing with Fraser, the children were split into their classes. Class 4 watched a video telling the story of Ruth and then discussed it with Jonathan. Class 3 were told the story by Heidi. The children were then asked to make their own miniature baskets and place leaves within. Each leaf was labelled with something that was important to them. After a prayer the most challenging part was not losing the leaves in the wind back to school!

'In my basket I put gymnastics, family and cross country!'

Libby, Year 4

'I really liked watching the film in the church.'

Indi, Year 5

'It was good and I enjoyed making the basket!'

Eve, Year 3





Type 1 Diabetes

We would like to share an important health awareness campaign, the 4Ts from Diabetes UK, about the early signs of type 1 diabetes in children and young people. Below is a poster highlighting the "4Ts" symptoms of type 1 diabetes:

- Toilet - going for a wee more often, especially at night
- Thirsty - being constantly thirsty and not being able to quench it
- Tired - being incredibly tired and having no energy
- Thinner - losing weight without trying or looking thinner than usual

These symptoms can develop quickly (over just a few days or weeks, especially in children), and if left undiagnosed, can lead to Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) which is a serious complication of diabetes that can be life-threatening. Early recognition and prompt medical attention can save lives.

The message is simple but vital: if a child shows any of the 4Ts signs and symptoms, it is important to seek medical advice immediately.



Families Cambridgeshire Magazine

Below is a link to the Families Cambridgeshire Magazine, which has lots of great ideas for keeping the children busy over the half term break. The link can also be found on our website within the Parents/Carer section.

https://issuu.com/familiesonline/docs/families_cambridgeshire_september_october_25_issue?fr=sMDdmOTg3ODUyNDA

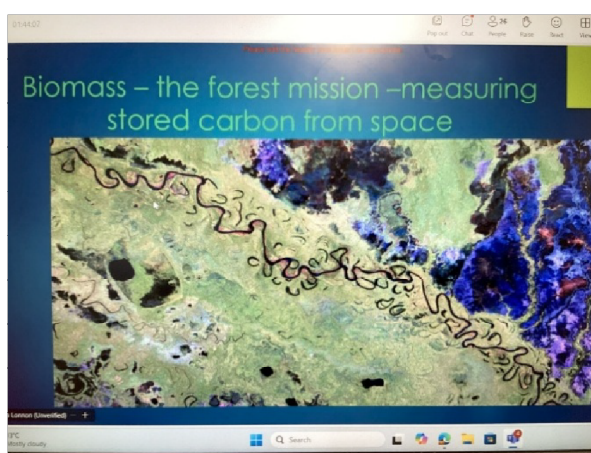
International Space Week by Mrs Henden

To mark International Science Week 2025 and in conjunction with our learning in RE about the links between science and faith (and theories about creation), Class 4 children watched a webinar by astrophysicist Victoria Loddon. The webinar was called 'Earth from Space' and covered the topic of how satellites support life on the planet. This links to the Christian idea that humans are the custodians of God's creation and how the work of space scientists have a role in this.

We learnt that satellites are used to track wind and weather patterns so that people can be better prepared for forthcoming storms. The satellites also help people to understand where wildfires will spread to so that people can safely evacuate. It also helps firefighters to know where to focus their energy. Satellites that study soil quality enable scientists to support farmers in growing crops for harvest to ensure that living things have adequate supplies. It also helps to prevent areas of land becoming a desert because of over farming.

We also found out that satellites can track where masses of water are gathering so that they can be drained off before they end up causing landslides or floods.

Space scientists also have a role in protecting the planet from the effects of climate change by actively finding ways to reduce carbon emissions. They use their satellites to track methane levels around the globe so that things can be done to bring levels under control in fighting global warming. They also keep track of icebergs and icefields which can raise sea levels and temperatures leading to loss of habitats from flooding.



Acceptable Use Agreement

Just a reminder that all parents/carers need to complete an acceptable use agreement by clicking on the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/1fv1Kcmt5v> We ask that these are completed by the end of the half term break. Thank you for your support with this.

Learning with Parents

A huge thank you to those parents/carers in YR who have been recording their children's reading through the Learning with Parents app. We are trialling this with our YR parents this year with the hope to extend this to other year groups in future years.

Staff Update

I am pleased to inform you that Mr Rackham is recovering well from his surgery on his knee and will hopefully be returning to school after half term. I would like to thank Mrs Powell and Mrs Blount for their hard work in providing continuity for Class 1 in Mr Rackham's absence.

Poppy Appeal

Members of the School Council will be selling the poppies and associated merchandise for this year's Poppy Appeal after lunch each day over the next few weeks. Please can the children bring any money into school in a purse, wallet or named envelope to ensure it does not get lost.

Christian Values

Each half term, we focus on a different Christian value and this value permeates through the curriculum and our Collective Worship. Our Christian value for the first half of the autumn term has been friendship and we will move onto generosity after the half term break.

Shoe Box Appeal

Just a reminder that if the children would like to donate an item which could be included in a shoebox or fill a whole shoebox, these donations need to be in after the half term break. For more information about the scheme and lists of suggested items, please visit www.rotaryshoebox.org

Relationships, Health and Sex Education and Citizenship (RSHE) Update from Mrs Henden Class 2

So far this term during their RSHE lessons Class 2 have been learning about their feelings and how they can recognise and celebrate their strengths, achievements and set themselves simple but challenging goals. Next, the children were able to identify how they have grown and that they will continue to change as they get older.

In the 'relationships' lesson they discussed what bullying was, understanding that it is never the right thing to do and unacceptable. 'My beliefs' lesson was all about how everyone is unique and understanding that is a good thing a something to be proud of and celebrate.

During the lesson about my rights and responsibilities the children drew on the previous lesson about bullying and again knew and understood what physical contact is acceptable and that unkind or physical contact is not.

Finally, in the 'Asking for help lesson' the children learnt the difference between secrets and surprises including the importance of not keeping a secret that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.

Class 3

We have been looking at our own self-esteem, talking about our aspirations and making

paper chains about them. We have also awarded ourselves our own certificates celebrating our talents. After half term we will be looking at our own emotions and feelings and how we respond to others.

Class 4

In Class 4 RSHE this month we have concluded our learning about body image and the media by thinking of ways that we can build our confidence in how we look and where to seek help if we are worried. We also explored the correct definitions for terms relating to how a person identifies themselves and the groups of people who have protected characteristics by law so that they are treated equally and without discrimination.

We have been learning about the cognitive triangle of how thoughts influence our feelings and consequently, our behaviour. We discussed ways to turn a negative thought into a positive one. We then built on the idea of positive thinking by looking at scenarios to realise that just because something is thought, it does not mean it is a fact or reality. Once again, this continued with a discussion of how we can manage those thoughts with things like feelings journals, worry dolls and talking to someone. A problem shared is a problem halved.

Our 'ask it basket' has been very full this month so we have been working through these worries and questions in our wellbeing worship each Thursday.

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 school 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. We have also updated the Attendance policy; this can also be found on our website under About Us, Attendance.

To promote good attendance, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance each week in our celebration assembly and each month in our newsletters. October's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	97.3%
Class 2	97.3%
Class 3	94.4%
Class 4	96.7%

Well done to Classes 1 and 2 for having the joint highest attendance for the month of October!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.6%**. Thank you for supporting 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, 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.

Uniform

We have had significant numbers of children misplacing items of uniform during this half term. Please can you ensure that all uniform, including coats, is named so that lost items can be returned to their owners. Thank you for your cooperation.

Denver Supertots

Just a reminder that our Denver Supertots playgroup runs every Wednesday from 9.30-10.30am with support of the students from DMA. It was lovely to see some new faces in this week's session so please spread the word as we are keen to welcome new families.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parent consultation evenings are happening after half term on 10th and 12th November. These provide a valuable opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments can be booked via Arbor. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Young Carers by Mrs Wright

It was so lovely to have the first session with the Young Carers this Thursday. I thought it would be a nice idea to bring lots of colour into this session as the weather has been very gloomy lately and as it was this week I thought it would be nice to take part in some Diwali activities which is celebrated by both Hindus and Sikhs.

Hindus celebrate it as the festival of lights to honour the return of the Goddess Lakshmi Lord Rama, while Sikhs celebrate it as Bandi Chhor Diva, the day Guru Hargobind was freed from imprisonment.

The children were in great spirits and engaged in all the activities together. There was a choice of activities to choose from like colouring, Diya lamps, Rangoli patterns and books for them to read. Most were drawn to creating a Diya lamp from card or creating their own Rangoli patterns. It was lovely to see siblings working together and the older children helping the younger ones. It just showed how amazing every one of our young carers are and gives an insight into the qualities they have in order to do the role they do so well.

The new young carers notice board is also up in the main corridor just before Mrs Jones' office. On here the children will find information about where to get help and when the next session will be.



Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

01/10/25

Outdoor learning club started with a story in the Willow. We heard how squirrel had lost his acorns, which set the scene for the rest of the session. The children learned about tiny acorns and mighty Oaks and discovered the wealth of insects and animals that are reliant on this food source during the winter months. We collected a huge amount of acorns, for making into bread at later date...courtesy of our resident chef, Ben! We finished with a bubble wish, where the children could reflect on the session and make a wish, watching as it floated up into the darkening Autumn sky.



8/10/25

Engineering is a field that really interests me, and this certainly brushed off on the children this evening. We set about creating some 'model' shelters, that were potentially suitable for small animals such as hedgehogs and mice. The children listened with interest as I showed them how to create a self-supporting structure; for those that didn't fancy that, I showed them the importance of selecting the correct materials for the job, as they searched out sticks with 'Y' shapes to create a different type of structure. The children had a great time expressing their own design flair, and created some interesting shelters, supporting the idea and allowing for an individual take on the 'brief'. We finished with a 'bubble and a wish' which seemed a fitting way of drawing such a well-received session to a close.



15/10/25

Inspired by my neighbour's front door, this week's outdoor learning session concentrated on making some Autumn wreaths for the children to hang on their front doors. They were shown how to bend Willow without snapping it, and how to create the circle in which to decorate with as many Autumnal colours as they could find. We had browns, greens, reds and oranges making up a display that would be fit for sale in Dents garden centre! The children had a great session and got to take something home at the end of it! We finished by each blowing a bubble or two and stating what their favourite bit of nature was – with answers from storms and rainbows to mud and sheep! One more session for the younger children, then the club opens up to the older children until the Christmas break. Maybe next week I might need some marshmallows...



22/10/25

The final session saw the redemption of a promise, made possible only by a reprieve in the weather! The OLC enjoyed some baked apples and marshmallows on the embers of the fire that they had learned about, with a batch of freshly baked bread as a side. The children were really sensible and seemed to love the Cox's Orange Pippins that I collected yesterday – the very same variety that featured in the class novel we shared last year...Danny Champion of the World. As the nights draw in, the whisp of smoke greeted the parents and they took some very happy, sugar fuelled children home safe and sound. Sticky learning – it's the way! I would just like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped at club this half term. Without them, there would be no experiences like this for the children. Until next half term, Mr C.



"Alright Gov'nor?" by Carole Reich (Chair of Governors)

Our regular feature in the monthly newsletter introducing you to the workings and concerns of school governors.

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, we are alright because as we approach the end of the half term the school is a joy to visit. The children are well behaved, focussed on their learning and having fun in and out of lessons.

"Alright Gov'nor?": No, we are not alright because we have not increased the number of governors this term. We have spaces for 3 parent governors, and we only have one of these spaces filled. Please consider putting yourself forward as it is healthier for us all to have a full governing body. We also want to co-opt someone who can help us as we navigate the complex area of cyber security. Let Mrs Jones or Mrs Smith know of your interest.

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, because we celebrated a lively and enjoyable Harvest Festival in church earlier this term. It is wonderful to see the children perform for the audience which can be very daunting when you stand up at the front.

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, we continue our journey to establish a nursery at the school. This is a complex process requiring a new building and the associated permissions. Please keep the school in your prayers as we navigate this process.

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, we have a wonderful staff team who all walk the extra mile to provide the learning opportunities, the support and the stimulation the children deserve. We are thankful that Mr Rackham will be back with us later this term, he has been missed!

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, as we develop strategies to meet expectations regarding our greener governance. We are exploring the best ways to enable the school to not waste energy to match the children's efforts when gaining the eco-schools awards.

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, when we look in the corner of the churchyard nearest the school, we see the results of the project between the church and school as they re-wild this area. Overtime we will see a resurgence of interesting wildflowers and creatures as they return to make their homes in a place relatively undisturbed.

"Alright Gov'nor?": Yes, we see SuperTots growing slowly but surely as people get used to the new Wednesday meeting day (9:30-10:30). The students from DMA come really well prepared to give the toddlers a great time and their parents a rest. The atmosphere is lovely!

Update from The Friends

Wow! Half term already, time is really flying by this school year!

The Friends helped with October's open morning. We served tea and coffee and got to chat with potential new parents and their children. It's always a pleasure to be able to chat with new parents and give them a parental insight into what makes Denver Primary so special.

On 14th October, the school hosted a Christian theatre group, which the friends helped to fund. I was privileged enough to witness some of Class 3's performance, the children were all joining in and it looked like so much fun. I was able to go into Classes 2 & 3 afterwards and

chat with the children to see what they thought about the activity. The feedback was very positive and we're hoping to be able to fund more of these types of activities.

We also hosted our first regular meeting of this school year and have started setting things in motion for the run up to Christmas.

I'd also like to say a massive thank you to all those who were able to donate old clothing and bits for the Bags 2 School collection, it has helped us raise £62.70, which will go back into the school to help with trips and activity days.

I would also like to confirm the Christmas Fayre date, which is on Thursday 4th December, more information will follow in due time.

We're always looking for new volunteers to help with events, so if you feel like joining our amazing group, please feel free to drop us an email (friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) or catch one of us on drop off or pick up every morning.

We hope everyone has a fantastic half term, see you all in November. Enjoy.

Ben. G - Chair of The Friends of Denver School.

Forthcoming Events

Bikeability Level 2- 3rd-6th November

Level 2 Bikeability training is being offered to Y5/6 children on the week commencing 3rd November.

School Photographs - 3rd November

The photographer will be in on the first day back after half term to take individual and sibling photos.

Flu Immunisations - 4th November

Flu immunisations will be offered in school on 4th November. Consent must be given via the link already shared with parents/carers.

Music Workshop - 5th November

Norfolk Music Hub will be delivering a music workshop to the whole school on 5th November.

Parent Consultation Evenings -10th and 12th November

Parent consultation evenings will take place on 10th and 12th November. Appointments can be made via Arbor.

Children in Need - 14th November

We will be supporting Children in Need again this year. The School Council are organising a non-uniform day and asking the children to wear bright colours or Pudsey themed clothing for a suggested donation of £1. More details to follow.

Pensthorpe Trip – 21st November

The children in Classes 1 and 2 will be visiting Pensthorpe on Friday 21st November. This visit is grant funded. Thank you to Nikki O'Mara from the Friends for organising this.

Tag Rugby Festival – 24th November

The cluster tag rugby tournament this year is being held on the afternoon of Monday 24th November.

Christingle Service – 1st December

Our annual Christingle Service will take place on Monday 1st December at 2pm in St Mary's Church, Denver. The children will make Christingles, kindly supported by the ladies from St Mary's Church.

Christmas Fayre – 4th December

Our popular Christmas Fayre will return this year on Thursday 4th December. The children in KS2 will once again be making games for the children to play. More details to follow soon

Nativity – 15th December

One of the highlights of the school year is always the Nativity performed by children in Classes 1 and 2. This will take place this year on Monday 15th December at 2pm in the school hall.

Carol Service – 19th December

Our annual Carol Service will take place in St Mary's Church, Denver on the last day of term, Friday 19th December at 1.30pm.

Sports News by Mrs Henden

Class 3 Dodgeball by Mr Bonham

On Monday 6th October Class 3 tried Dodgeball. Throughout the year Class 3 will be having taster sessions of different sporting activities before having a go with children from other schools. This is part of the Omnes Games set up by The West Norfolk School Partnership Programme.

The 'Omnes Games' meaning 'For All' was designed to give those children who don't usually represent the school an opportunity to do so. The events are run as festivals, so no scores and results are recorded. Just an opportunity to come and play, have fun, meet new friends and fall in love with a new sport.

'I liked it it, it was really fun and everyone was working together.'

Libby, Year 4

'I really liked dodgeball and I only got out once.'

Tarran, Year 4

'I thought it was good but you need to be careful not to get hit!'

Bonnie, Year 3



OMNES Dodgeball

Following on from the dodgeball taster session for Class 3, a group of children from Class 2 and Class 3 visited Lynnsport on Monday 20th October for the first of the OMNES events for this academic year. They really enjoyed the session and were impeccably behaved! Here are some of the children in dodgeball action.



Cycle to School Week

During the week beginning 13th October, we took part in the national annual Cycle to School week. It was lovely to see so many bikes and scooters in our cycle racks. Those who took part received certificates in our celebration assembly last week. If anyone was forgotten, there are some spares. We hope that people will continue to actively travel to school as much as possible to keep earning rewards from our 'Active Travel' box in addition to the rewards that regular exercise brings to our health and wellbeing.

Most of our year 5 children will have a further opportunity to use their bikes as their Level 2 Bikeability training begins on 3rd November.

Downham Market Cluster Cross Country

On 21st October, 29 children travelled to Hillcrest Primary with Mrs Henden and Mrs Williamson for the annual cluster cross country event. These were the children that had achieved a top three finish in the school's own cross-country festivals held within our classes earlier this month.

Just as in the most recent years, numbers attending from across the cluster were high. Year 2 pupils raced 500 metres, years 3 and 4 raced 1000 metres and years 5 and 6 raced 1500 metres. A top ten finish in the event for children in Key Stage 2 gave automatic qualification to the next round, the SSP area finals to be held at Lynnsport Dutton Pavillion on 10th November.

Congratulations to our 11 qualifiers:

Eve (Y3)

Finn (Y3)

Monty (Y4)

Libby (Y4)

Rebekah (Y4)

Oliver (Y4)

Bryn (Y4)
 Osian (Y5)
 Lauren (Y5)
 Chase (Y5)
 Esther (Y6)

Children in Year 2 were once again able to compete at cluster level and we had excellent results with Elizabeth in 5th, Esme in 8th and Mae in 19th. In the boys' event, Max came 3rd, Sammy 4th, Jack 5th and Ralph 12th. Great potential for next year! Well done!

A special mention to our medallists with Libby getting gold for Y4 girls, a silver medal for Chase (Y6 boys) and bronze medals for Lauren F (Y5 girls), Monty (Y4 boys) and Max (Y2 boys). Congratulations! We are proud of everyone who took part. Great running!



And finally...

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and a well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November for what is always a busy half term in the run up to Christmas.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2025/2026

Autumn Term

November 2025	3 rd	Mon	Children return to school
	3 rd	Mon	School Photographs
	3 rd -6 th		Bikeability Level 2
	4 th	Tue	Flu Immunisations
	5 th	Wed	Music Workshop
	10 th -14 th		Anti-Bullying Week
	10 th	Mon	Parent Consultation Evening
	12 th	Wed	Parent Consultation Evening
	14 th	Fri	Children in Need
	21 st	Fri	Pensthorpe Trip
	24 th	Mon	Tag Rugby Festival

December 2025	1 st	Mon	Christingle Service
	4 th	Thu	Christmas Fayre
	15 th	Mon	Nativity
	18 th	Thu	Pantomime
	19 th	Fri	Carol Service
	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