



March 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the March newsletter. It's hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the spring term and that Easter is nearly upon us. We have so much to celebrate and share this month, and we hope you enjoy reading our March update.

Easter Service

This afternoon, we visited St Mary's Church in Denver for our Easter Service. The children shared the Easter story through songs, readings, and prayer, and offered words of encouragement as part of the Bishop's Lent Challenge. We also presented some of the creative prayers produced during our recent RE enrichment day. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special celebration of Easter.

Easter Cards

Congratulations to Matthew W, Lily G, Roman and Aoife, whose Easter card designs were selected to be sent out across the Ouse Valley Benefice. They were each presented with a gift voucher during our Easter service in recognition of their wonderful work.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Friends organised an Easter Egg Hunt on Monday afternoon. The children dashed around the playground in search of colourful hidden egg halves and received an Easter egg when they found a matching pair. Thank you to the Friends for organising another fun activity for the children to enjoy.



SIAMS Inspection

On Wednesday 25th March, we welcomed our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspector into school. It was a very busy and productive day, during which the inspector gathered evidence by speaking with children, staff, parents, governors, and representatives from St Mary's Church and the Ely Diocese. We will share the full report with you as soon as it is published.

Mothering Sunday Posies

Continuing a long-standing school tradition, the ladies from St Mary's Church joined us on Friday 13th March to help the children make beautiful posies for Mothering Sunday. We were also delighted to welcome a group of students from DMA, who came along to offer their support. A huge thank you to Jo Walton and Ben Groom, along with the church team, for all their hard work in preparing everything. We are also grateful to Morrisons in Downham Market for their generous contribution towards the flowers, and to the Stow Estate for providing the greenery. We hope all the mums enjoyed receiving their posy. To support the work of our Eco-Committee in promoting recycling, please return all plastic trays to school so they can be reused next year.



Eat Them to Defeat Them - Gigi

As part of our support for the "Eat Them to Defeat Them" campaign this year, we welcomed a visit from Greenyard Frozen in King's Lynn, who arrived in their VW Buzz van packed with free samples of a new fruit and vegetable-based gelato called Gigi. The gelato was a big hit with children, staff, and parents alike. A huge thank you to Laura Dixon, one of our parents, for organising the visit, and to Greenyard for generously providing the samples.



Children's Society

A huge thank you to the children for helping to raise £111.14 for The Children's Society through collecting coins in their Christingle pots.

150th Anniversary Celebrations

As this year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of Denver VC Primary, we would love to speak with any past pupils, young or old, about their time at the school for a short documentary to commemorate the occasion. If you know of anyone from years gone by who would be willing to speak to us and be filmed, please do contact me at my production company Kakapo Arts kakapoartsltd@gmail.com

Don't forget we will be honouring this remarkable legacy with a series of events, including a special commemorative day on 11th June, that will bring together pupils, families, staff—past and present—and the wider community. A poster giving more information will be shared with you soon.

After School Care Update

The children in after-school care have been busy baking recently and particularly enjoyed making cake pops and chocolate bunnies. We are also delighted to share that we have secured a £300 grant to purchase new resources that will support inclusion within our wraparound provision. Well done to Mrs Mills for completing the training that enabled us to receive this grant.



British Science Week

As part of British Science Week, the children took part in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Organisation Challenge. Their task was to create a paper tree using only scissors and paper — no glue or fasteners allowed. Instead, they explored a range of paper-engineering techniques such as cutting, folding, pleating, rolling and slotting to construct their designs.



Children in Class 4 also joined the Picture News Online Worship for Science Week, where they learned about the different layers of the sea. Experts demonstrated this by using liquids of varying densities to model the layers, helping the children deepen their understanding while also reflecting on aspects of spirituality, including beauty and beyond.

World Book Day

At the beginning of the month, we celebrated World Book Day. As always, the children and staff arrived dressed as their favourite book characters and took part in a range of activities to celebrate reading. Parents and carers were invited into school at the end of the day to share a story with the children, and Mrs Fenn kindly baked biscuits for everyone to enjoy. As this year is the National Year of Reading, it was wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited about books, and to watch them sharing stories with others.



Courageous Advocacy

Courageous advocacy is the act of **speaking out against an issue of injustice**, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. We encourage children to think of issues they would like to speak out against and support them to become courageous advocates.

We are so pleased that so many children are being inspired to become courageous advocates in a variety of ways. Matthew W has rescued and re-homed several battery hens, Max and Sienna have been litter-picking in their local community, and Cassie helped to save a baby squirrel. Well done to our fantastic courageous advocates — we hope their actions encourage others to speak up about injustice too.



Budding Photographer

Katherine in Class 4 entered this photo, which she took in her garden, into the RSPCA's Spring Young Photographers Competition, and she has now been shortlisted for the People's Choice vote — a fantastic achievement. I'm sure you will all agree that it is an amazing photograph. Good luck Katherine!



WOW Tokens

The Blue team achieved the most WOW tokens this half term and will receive their reward (a game afternoon) after Easter. Well done to the Blue team for letting their lights shine!

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term has been **compassion**. After the Easter break, our focus will shift to **forgiveness**.

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. Our Attendance policy 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. March's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	95.8%
Class 2	96.9%
Class 3	96.1%
Class 4	92.7%

Well done to Class 2 for achieving the highest attendance for March — for the second month in a row!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **94.5%**, which is below our school target. We ask that you continue to support us in improving school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Young Carers Update by Mrs Wright

Fantastic news for Denver VC Primary school Young Carers group this week! We were awarded the Young Carers in schools award. From when we first started the group in school we have been working towards this award, and we finally submitted our evidence at the beginning of March. We are immensely proud to have received this award, and we will continue to work with and support all our young carers and their families in the future.



With another term ending in the blink of an eye and our final Young Carers session of Spring term 2026 took place on Thursday 27th March! After such a busy term we felt, the children would enjoy doing what children do best and let them play!

We set up the games and toys we purchased especially for the young carers group in the hall, and they had free range to play with whatever they wanted to. Again, testament to the amazing young people they are it was a lovely session which ran smoothly and with all getting on and helping each other!

The children are looking forward to the Easter holidays and will be thinking about what they would like to do from the next session. We wish you all a happy and safe Easter and look forward to seeing you all in the summer term.



Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

Dens and Downpours - 04/03/26

The second of our outdoor learning club sessions for KS2 children allowed them to explore den building using the materials that we could find around the field (and a couple of things I dug out of the shed, such as tarpaulin!) The children chose their own groups and set about designing their structures, in the hope that when I tested them with a bucket of water, they would stay dry. Of the five structures, four kept their builders and occupiers cosy and dry; the fifth structure, however, was a lesson in what materials *not* to use, as the children soon discovered that porous felt made a terrible roof!



Catapults and Trees - 18/03/26

The penultimate KS2 Outdoor Learning session had the children problem solving and building. I gave them a screen shot from a video on 'how to make a catapult', showing only the bare minimum, then challenged them to recreate the device so that they could challenge their friends to hit a target and beat their own score. The children came up with many variations of the image, eventually realising that tension was the key! Lots of fun had by all, and their sense of achievement was enjoyed by all. We also planted the fruit trees that we applied for;

there are a selection of apple and pear trees and make an excellent addition to our outdoor space. A big shout out to the adults who did the hard work...I just took the photos!



Baked apples - take 2 - 25/03/26

The final of our KS2 Outdoor Learning sessions saw the children enjoying some more baked apples – a session previously enjoyed earlier in the year by our KS1 children. They identified the fire triangle, as we discussed the elements that make up the fire. We then moved our attention to safely using an axe to create kindling, then looked at the construction of the fire to ensure success! We had some visitors from the UEA who had heard about our club and wanted to have the chance to see what we were all about. They left with many great things to say, which was a testament to both the children, and our helpers, who without them, we couldn't run our club. Thank you all for your help this term, it is really appreciated. So a big thank you to Ben, Will, Jo, Peter and Kelly. See you next term.



Denver Supertots

Our Denver Supertots playgroup will continue to run every Wednesday morning from 09:30-10:30 after the Easter break. Please spread the word as we are keen to welcome new families.

Governor Update by Carole Reich (Chair of Governors)

Well, what a week it has been! The school's SIAMs (Church School) inspection was held and what a privilege to witness staff, children, parents, church representatives and governors pulling together to tell the story of this school. We are looking forward to hearing the outcomes of the inspector's investigation, which will be shared after Easter.

There were many things to celebrate on the day, but a highlight was to hear the prayer Class One had written together. I asked Mr Rackham how this came about and he showed me the mind map the children produced together after much discussion about what compassion looks like:



I was impressed by the insight the children had and felt the final prayer which was developed from further discussion captures. It made me feel that if we all followed such suggestions our world would be a much better place. I hope you agree!

Our Prayer for Compassion

Help us to have hearts full of compassion every day.

When we spot how someone is feeling, give us wisdom to understand.

When someone is sad, help us to reach out and check if they are okay.

When someone is angry, help us to be patient and find ways to help them.

May we always look for chances for helping someone in need.

In everything we, let this be where we show love to someone.

Amen

Carole Reich - Chair of Governors

Update from The Friends

Another term has flown by, and we've been busy preparing for the events coming up after the Easter break.

A big thank you to Morrisons in Downham Market for donating flowers for the Mother's Day posies, and to the ladies from St Mary's Church for coming into school to help the children make them. We hope all the mums enjoyed their special gift. It was also lovely to welcome students from DMA, who joined us to lend a hand.

We had great fun running Easter egg hunts for each class at the start of the week. The children always enjoy these little bursts of excitement in the school day, and they are a pleasure to organise.

Congratulations to Eve from class 3 for winning the Easter Bunny competition — we hope Buff enjoys their new home.

After the Easter break, we'll be heading into mid-April and looking forward to celebrating the school's 150th anniversary. We can also confirm that the annual Denver Yard Sale will take place on 19th April. Keep an eye out for posters around the village — we hope to see many of you there.

Crazy Hair Day is set for 24th April, and we're excited to see the wonderfully wild and creative hairstyles that always make this event such fun.

The Friends will be hosting two meetings in April: the 150th Anniversary Committee meeting on 17th April, followed by a general Friends meeting on 24th April. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to the team.

Wishing everyone a fantastic Easter break.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School.

Sports News

Class 3 Try Kurling

On Monday 16th of March, Class 3 was able to try the sport of indoor Kurling. New Age Kurling is a form of the original curling game but adapted so that it can be played indoors on any smooth, flat surface, such as a sports hall, rather than on ice. It involves players sliding stones across a smooth surface, aiming to get them as close to a target as possible, with strategies and techniques similar to traditional curling.



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for the children afterwards included:

“It was very fun, Ben made the instructions really simple.” *Robyn*

“I really liked it and the Kurling stones were really cool.” *Ivy BB*

“Kurling was fun and we played different matches.” *Lily G*

“The Kurling was very tricky!” *Tarran*

Following this taster, two groups of children from both key stages went to Lynnsport on Monday 23rd March to take part in a Kurling festival. They thoroughly enjoyed the session and the opportunity to learn a new skill.

Netball Tournament - Class 3

Class 3 have been trying Netball in some of their PE lessons this term. A small group of children were chosen to play a small Netball tournament on 16th March with some other schools. The weather was good and a good time was had by all.

Comments for the children afterwards included:

“We had lots of fun and I would love to go again.” *Libby*

“I really liked the Netball because I got to try lots of different positions.” *Rebekah*

“I really enjoyed the trip I loved playing Netball with my friends.” *Finn*

Netball Tournament - Class 4

A squad of eight children from Class 4 went to Downham Alive Leisure Centre to compete in a cluster tournament playing in positions and using the rotation patterns required by England Netball. Although they did not make it into the top two teams to qualify for the area finals, they did finish a very creditable 3rd place. Very well done!

Sporting Stars

Champions League Mascot

Lauren in Class 4 had an exciting opportunity this week when she was a mascot at the Champions League quarter-final match between Arsenal and Chelsea. The game was televised on the BBC on Tuesday evening, and Lauren proudly led the Chelsea team out alongside their captain. Reflecting on the experience, she said, “It was a really good experience and I felt excited to walk on the pitch in front of such a large crowd.” The match ended 3-1 to Arsenal — the team Lauren herself plays for in their Under-10s Academy.



Football Star

Koah in Class 1 recently received this fabulous trophy from his team, Downham FC Minis, for his excellent defending. Well done Koah!



Forthcoming Events

Crucial Crew - 1st May

The children in Y6 will be visiting King's Lynn Fire Station on 1st May for the Crucial Crew event where they will learn how to keep themselves safe in a variety of different scenarios.

KS2 SATs Week - 11th - 15th May

The children in Y6 will be sitting their KS2 SATs from 11th - 15th 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!

Cluster Cricket Tournament - 21st May

A group of children from Class 4 will participate in the cluster cricket tournament on 21st May.

Tag Rugby Festival at WNRFC - 12th June

Class 4 will be visiting West Norfolk Rugby Club for a tag rugby festival on 12th June.

Phonics Screen Week - 8th - 12th June

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

And finally...

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school for the summer term on Tuesday 14th April, ready for what promises to be a busy and exciting term ahead.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2025/2026

Summer Term

April 2026	13 th	Mon	Professional Development Day
	14 th	Tue	Children return to school
	17 th	Fri	150 th Anniversary Working Party Meeting
	19 th	Sun	Village Yard Sale
	24 th	Fri	Friends' meeting
	24 th	Fri	Crazy Hair Day
May 2026	4 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	22 nd	Fri	Sponsored Walk
	25 th - 29 th		School closed for half term
June 2026	1 st	Mon	Children return to school
	11 th	Thu	150 th Anniversary Celebrations
July 2026	17 th	Fri	Last day of summer term