



# April 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to our April newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Easter break and have been making the most of the lovely sunshine. It has been a really positive start to the summer term, and we are looking forward to the many exciting events ahead, especially our celebrations for the school's 150th anniversary.

## Crazy Hair Day

On April 24<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Crazy Hair Day, and the children (and adults!) certainly did not disappoint. It is always a favourite on the school calendar, and this year was no exception. The corridors were filled with bright colours, wild creations and plenty of smiles — it was wonderful to see such amazing imagination and effort from everyone.



### Olly Day's Road Safety Magic Show

On Monday 22nd April, Class 3 had the fantastic opportunity to enjoy the Olly Day Road Safety Magic Show. The session was a brilliant mix of important safety advice, clever magic tricks and plenty of classic Dad jokes. Olly talked about different types of road crossings and how to choose a safe place to cross. He demonstrated the importance of wearing a cycle helmet by dramatically breaking an egg, and he explained why wearing bright, visible clothing — especially at night — helps keep us safe. Class 3 were fully engaged throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



### SIAMS Inspection

After the Easter break, we were delighted to share with you our highly positive SIAMS inspection report which recognised that Denver Primary School is *“living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.”* The inspector praised the clarity and impact of our Christian vision, noting that it has been *“carefully crafted by leaders, governors and staff”* and is clearly seen in the way pupils are supported to *“discover, celebrate and value their unique potential.”* The report highlighted our inclusive culture, the strong relationships across the school community, and the way our values underpin support for all pupils, including those with SEND and those who are vulnerable. It also celebrated our invitational collective worship, our nurturing ethos, and the school’s role as *“a firm anchor within its neighbourhood.”*

We are incredibly proud of this outcome and grateful to our pupils, staff, governors, families, St Mary’s Church and the Diocese of Ely for contributing to such a strong and affirming inspection. The SIAMS report can be found on the school website.

## Staff News

At the end of term, we said a sad goodbye to Mrs Karen Meloy and one of our Y6 pupils, Arthur. We wish both Karen and Arthur all the very best in their new schools

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Preparations for the school's 150th anniversary are now in full swing. Mr Lawrence has been busy interviewing current and former pupils and staff to capture their memories for a special commemorative film. We also gathered for a whole-school photograph to mark Denver in 2026, and details on how to order a copy will be shared with you soon. We are very much looking forward to our celebration day on 11th June. Please do spread the word — we would love to welcome pupils, families and staff, past and present, as well as the wider community.



## 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.

This month, William and Barney in Class 3 completed a charity bike ride in West Dereham to raise funds for prostate cancer. Sophia in Class 4 also took part, completing a 5k walk. Well done to them all for being such fantastic courageous advocates.



### Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term is forgiveness, and we are exploring what it means to forgive others, to seek forgiveness ourselves, and to move forward with kindness and understanding. Through collective worship, class discussions, and stories from the Bible, the children are learning how forgiveness can help us build stronger relationships and a more compassionate school community.

### 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. April's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	96.6%
Class 2	97.0%
Class 3	97.1%
Class 4	92.5%

Well done to Class 3 for achieving the highest attendance for April!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.7%**, 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.

### 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.

### INSET Days

Schools are being encouraged to explore the possibility of grouping the existing INSET days, which currently take place throughout the year, into a single week within the academic calendar. This could mean extending an existing half-term break or the end-of-term holiday. To make this possible, staff training would take place during twilight sessions after the school day, rather than on the INSET days currently spread across the school year. We are aware that some schools already follow this model and, for example, finish a few days earlier for the summer holidays.

The aim of this change is to give families more flexibility and potentially reduce the impact of increased costs during peak school-holiday periods.

All schools have five INSET days each academic year. We are proposing to keep the INSET day on 1 September 2026 so that staff can complete essential annual safeguarding training. The remaining four INSET days would then be grouped together and added to an existing holiday period.

Recently, we asked parents to share their preferred option through a Teams form, indicating which holiday period you felt these additional days should be attached to. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. We are now collating the results, which will be presented at the next Governing Body meeting for approval.

### **Wraparound Care**

From this Friday, all bookings for our wraparound care provision (Before School Care and the 3:15 Club) will need to be made through Arbor. This change will help streamline the process for families and ensure bookings are recorded accurately.

Unfortunately, due to rising costs, we have had to make a small increase to our fees. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

### **Key Changes**

- **Booking Platform:** We are moving all wraparound care bookings to the Arbor Parent Portal/App. This will make it easier for families to manage bookings and for staff to track attendance.
- **24-Hour Notice Required:** All bookings must now be made at least 24 hours in advance. We are no longer able to accept walk-ins or late bookings, as staffing and ratios must be planned ahead.
- **Updated Pricing:**
  - Before School Club: £4.00 (1 child), £7.00 (2 siblings), £9.50 (3+ siblings)
  - 3:15 Club: £5.00 per child (until 4:20pm) £7.00 per child (until 5:00pm)

We hope these changes will make the system more efficient for everyone, and we thank you for your cooperation as we transition to Arbor for all wraparound care bookings.

### **Young Carers Update**

Our next Young Carers session will take place on 20 April. We are also delighted to share that our Young Carers have been invited to a multi-sports activity day at Lynnsport on 9 June.

### **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 continue running throughout the summer term, with the exception of 13<sup>th</sup> May due to SATs week.

## Guides

Congratulations to Isabella in Year 5, who has recently been enrolled in Guides. We hope she has a wonderful time and enjoys all the opportunities it brings.



## Outdoor Learning Update from Mr C

### **Bugs, charcoal and plenty of mud! 15<sup>th</sup> April**

The first of our sessions with the *ginormous* KS1 group was a tale of many adventures. To keep everyone engaged (and to make sure the adults survived the afternoon!), the children rotated through a range of activities. They explored the mud area, used charcoal from the fire to create brilliant artwork and treasure maps, helped water our new trees, and even went on a mini-beast hunt. We finished with a lively game of sardines — although I'm still not quite sure how Max thought hiding in the blue donations bin was going to work for him.



**Discovery,  
mud! - 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
When the  
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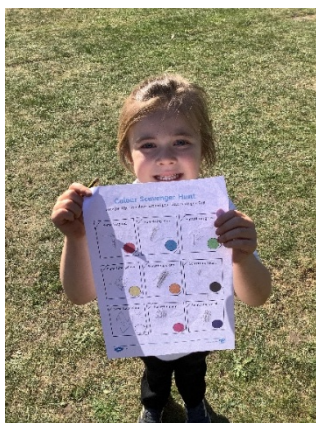
**kites and more  
April**  
wind is blowing  
kite-making  
wind inevitably



drops! However, the stillness didn't discourage any of our budding aviators. They worked with great focus and creativity to design and build their own kites, determined to get them airborne regardless of the weather.

While one group crafted their kites, another took part in a colourful treasure hunt, searching high and low for every shade on their list. A third group embraced one of our club's most popular pastimes — mud creations! This week they added a new twist: using a clever setup of guttering to channel water straight into their mud-making area. Very messy, very inventive, and very good fun.

One thing is certain: the children's enthusiasm never depends on the weather!



**Planes,  
no trains  
and no automobiles (but more  
mud!) - 29<sup>th</sup> April**

Following the success of last week's kite-making, we continued our airborne adventures by creating a fleet of special paper planes. Although all the planes followed the same design, the children experimented with different materials and sizes — and quickly discovered that bigger doesn't always mean better when it comes to flying!

The mud was still very much in evidence (everywhere!), but that didn't stop the fun. The children also enjoyed lively games of *Drop the Stick* and *Sardines*, making the most of the outdoor space.

One thing is certain: Tesco may need to restock their washing powder after this week's activities.



### **Governor Update by Carole Reich (Chair of Governors)**

Our Spring Term ended with the school having the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) which was a stressful day for all staff and governors. The team pulled together, as ever, and the children were articulate, friendly and responsive, they all truly 'let their light shine'. Church schools have an additional inspection to the Ofsted inspection, which looks at the reasons the school was established and whether we are living up to the tenets outlined in our Trust Deeds. Happily, the inspector recognised that the school "is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish." A number of strengths were outlined to our delight. [Inspection Report](#)

The one area for development was described as to: "Extend pupils' exploration and understanding of varied ways of learning across a range of religions and worldviews. This is to enable them to have opportunities to be inspired and to widen their perspectives." One might be surprised, in this increasingly secular society, that this was identified as an area for development. However, I was struck on hearing King Charles III address to the US Congress that today the need to understand other faiths and cultures is paramount in helping people to live together in peace.

*"And, Mr. Speaker, for many here – and for myself – the Christian faith is a firm anchor and daily inspiration that guides us not only personally, but together as members of our community. Having devoted a large part of my life to interfaith relationships and greater understanding, it is that faith in the triumph of light over darkness which I have found confirmed countless times.*

*"Through it I am inspired by the profound respect that develops as people of different faiths grow in their understanding of each other. It is why it is my hope – my prayer – that, in these turbulent times, working together and with our international partners, we can stem the beating of ploughshares into swords."*

It is important to stress that at no time does, or should, the school be encouraging children to 'nail their colours to the mast' of any faith in a way that denigrates other faiths but to encourage us all to be open minded and curious about other viewpoints and faiths. In the

exploration of spirituality, during the last two terms, it has been amazing to see that by giving people a vocabulary to explore issues of the spirit (however, we might define this) the discussion and openness have been remarkable.

In the inspectors final meeting with us she described how she saw the school and that she felt our vision is definitely living and breathing within our school and community:

*“Guided by our vision, “Let your light shine” (Matthew 5:16), we aim to discover, value, celebrate, and praise each individual, upholding Christian principles, and fostering hard work and mutual respect. Our vision is embedded throughout our Christian values of hope, peace, wisdom, tolerance, thankfulness, perseverance, compassion, friendship, generosity, forgiveness, justice and love, focusing on one each half term. We strive to develop the whole child—academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually—through high-quality education, individual support, and opportunities for reflection. Our goal is to nurture caring, responsible, and independent pupils and adults who respect others and contribute positively to their communities.”*

I hope you will join with me in commending that school for doing so well in articulating how they meet their role as a church school.

Carole Reich  
Chair of Governors

### **Update from The Friends**

We're back! We hope everyone had a fantastic Easter break — and that not too much chocolate was eaten.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Denver Yard Sale, whether by volunteering, baking, running a stall or simply coming along to browse and buy. Thanks to your generosity, we raised just under £400, which will go towards activities and opportunities for the children in school.

Our Crazy Hair Day was another great success, raising £70.20. The children's weird and wonderful hairstyles were brilliant to see, and we know they take time and effort to create, so thank you again for getting involved.

Looking ahead, May brings our Sponsored Walk, which all children will take part in. We'll also have our very own obstacle course for anyone feeling brave enough to try it. We hope to see many of you there — we'll be selling tea, coffee, water, soft drinks and, hopefully, some delicious baked treats.

May is also SATs month for our Year 6 pupils. Everyone at the Friends wishes them the very best of luck. We know they'll do brilliantly.

Have a wonderful May, and we look forward to catching up with you all next month.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

### **Sports News**

### Tri-golf Festival by Mrs Williamson

The annual tri-golf festival was held at Holy Cross, North Runcton on 28<sup>th</sup> April. 10 children from Class 2 and 9 children from Class 3 went. They enjoyed a fun filled morning experiencing putting and chipping a golf ball into various targets. By the end of the session their golf skills had improved immensely. Lily G and Tarran were the first children to achieve a splashdown.



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### tbball Tournament by Mrs Henden

Following on from previous successes for England Lionesses in international competitions, West Norfolk Schools Sports Partnership continues to encourage grass roots football for girls. Ever since girls only football has been introduced in the area, we have ensured that we have engaged with our area's Downham Market Cluster competition run by WNSSP.

We are so fortunate to have such an array of talent in the school that we were able to enter two teams into the tournament which was open to girls from years 4 to 6.

Denver Athletic (in red) displayed great courage and resilience finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> position. Very well done!



Denver Dynamos (in blue) enjoyed spectacular success winning all of their games. They scored a total of 44 goals without conceding any at all. They returned to school wearing huge smiles and gold medals. Congratulations!



### **London Mini Marathon**

Over the past two weeks, the children have been taking part in the London Mini Marathon by completing 16 laps of our Daily Mile track. Well done to them all for getting involved and showing such great determination.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Crucial Crew - 1<sup>st</sup> May**

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

#### **KS2 SATs Week - 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May**

The children in Y6 will be sitting their KS2 SATs from 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 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 - 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Class 1 are looking forward to visiting Snettisham Park Farm on 18<sup>th</sup> May. We hope they have good weather.

#### **Young Carers**

Our next Young Carers sessions will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **Cluster Cricket Tournament - 21<sup>st</sup> May**

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

### **Sponsored Walk – 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Our annual sponsored walk will take place at 2pm on the last day of this half term. Today, the children will be bringing home a sponsorship form in their bookbags. We look forward to seeing many of you there to cheer them on.

### **Y3/4 Football Tournament – 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Class 3 will be representing our school in a football tournament at Hillcrest on 5 June. We wish them the best of luck.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations – 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Please join us for the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on 11<sup>th</sup> June from 3-6.30pm.

### **Tag Rugby Festival at WNRFC – 12<sup>th</sup> June**

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

### **Bag2School – 12<sup>th</sup> June**

The next Bag2School collection will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Phonics Screen Week – 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June**

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

### **Art Exhibition – 17<sup>th</sup> June**

We will be holding an art exhibition at the end of the school day on 17 June to showcase the fantastic work the children have created throughout the year.

### **Sports Day – 24<sup>th</sup> June**

Sports Day will take place on 24 June, with a reserve date of 25 June in case of bad weather. Please note that this is a change from the date originally shared, as our Year 6 pupils will now be attending their transition day at DMA on the original date.

### **Eaton Vale Residential – 29<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July**

Class 4 are excited for their upcoming residential at Eaton Vale at the end of June. It promises to be a fantastic experience.

### **Active Kids – 29<sup>th</sup> June**

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

### **Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood – 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

Class 2 are looking forward to a trip to Bewilderwood on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Let's hope the sun shines for them!

### **CPR/AED Training – 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Representatives from East Anglia's Air Ambulance will be visiting school on 6 July to teach the children important CPR skills.

### **KS2 Production – 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. More details to follow soon.

### **Move Up Afternoons – 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July**

On the afternoons of 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm.

### **Denver Fun Day – 12<sup>th</sup> July**

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 – 16<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **End of Year Assembly – 17<sup>th</sup> July**

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

### **And finally...**

Our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATs during the week beginning 11th May. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best of luck. They have worked incredibly hard and are well prepared, and we have every confidence that they will do themselves proud.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable long bank holiday weekend ahead.

### **Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:**

#### **2025/2026**

#### **Summer Term**

May 2026	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	Crucial Crew – Y6
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>		KS2 SATs Week
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Class 1 Visit Snettisham Park Farm
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Synagogue Visit – Class 2
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Young Carers
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Thu	Cluster Cricket Tournament – Y5/6
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fri	Sponsored Walk
	25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Football Tournament – Y3/4
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Girls’ Cricket Tournament – Y5/6
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Tag Rugby Festival – Y5/6

June 2026	12 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Bag2School Collection
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Art Exhibition
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Quad Kids Festival – Y5/6
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Sports Day
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Reserve Sports Day
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Active Kids Festival – Y1
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4
July 2026	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thu	Bewilderwood Trip – Class 2
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	CPR/AED Training for Children
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Tea and Talk Marketplace Event 2-4pm
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	New YR Parent Meeting 2pm
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Young Carers pm
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	KS2 Production
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	KS2 Production
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	School Games Festival 1-3pm
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	End of Year Assembly 2pm
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term