



# June 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the June newsletter — the penultimate one of this academic year. June has been a particularly special month for our school as we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has been wonderful to welcome past pupils and staff back into the building and to hear them share their memories and stories with us. We still have plenty to look forward to in July, which is always a busy and exciting end to the academic year.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Event

This month has marked a major milestone for us as we celebrated the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Despite challenging weather conditions, the celebration event held on 11<sup>th</sup> June was extremely well attended, with children and families enjoying a wide range of activities, entertainment and stalls throughout the afternoon. The children also enjoyed a special street-party lunch in the school hall, adding to the sense of occasion. Time capsules filled with items important to the children today were buried, offering future pupils a snapshot of what school life in Denver was like in 2026. Deputy Lieutenant Nick Pratt, himself a former pupil, attended the celebration and delivered a speech to mark the occasion.



There are many people we would like to thank for organising the event and helping to make it so memorable, including the vendors, entertainers, activity providers and community groups who contributed to such a vibrant programme. A special thank you must go to the Friends of Denver School, who spent countless hours preparing the event and worked incredibly hard on the day to adapt plans at the last minute due to the weather. Their dedication and creativity were invaluable.

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary marks an important chapter in Denver School's long history, and the success of the celebration reflects the strong community spirit that continues to define the school today.



### **Celebration Church Service**

A church service was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate 150 years of the school. Bishop Graham attended, and it was wonderful to welcome two former headteachers, Margaret Pearson and Linda Allison, along with former vicar Judith Grundy, who joined the congregation. Current pupils shared readings and prayers, and candles were lit to represent the past, present and future of the school.



Members of the church prepared a beautiful afternoon tea for everyone to enjoy. Thank you so much to Reverend Nigel and all the kind volunteers for organising such a special and memorable service.

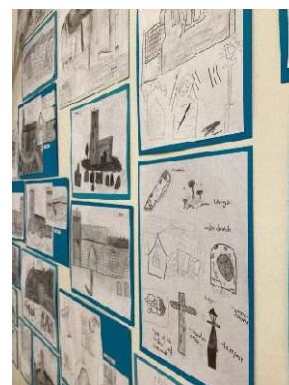


### **Art Exhibition**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, Denver held its Art Exhibition. The event showcased the wonderful artwork the children have created throughout the year — from castle buildings to insect models, sketching to painting, and clay work to plaster creations. As well as being displayed in the hall, some pieces were exhibited in the church so that the wider community could enjoy and celebrate the children's work.

Thank you to the Friends for providing refreshments during the event, and a special thank you to Carole Reich and Janet Wilde for running a small art group this term and helping to prepare

the work displayed in the church. A huge thank you also to Mr Bonham for organising the exhibition, and to Miss Cronin for her support in helping to display the children's work.



### **Changes to Staffing**

We have made some changes to our class structure from September. Mr Cawley will be teaching **Class 1**, and Mr Rackham will be teaching **Class 2**. Mr Bonham will continue to teach **Class 3**, and Mrs Henden will continue to teach **Class 4**. We will be holding our *Meet the Teacher* sessions early in the autumn term, giving you the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and hear more about the year ahead.

### **Heatwave**

Thank you for your support last week during the high temperatures we experienced. The weather forecast for the next few weeks continues to look very warm, so we kindly ask that children come to school each day with sun cream applied, wearing a hat, and bringing a water bottle. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep the children safe in the sun.

### **Reports**

The class teachers are currently busy preparing end-of-year reports for the children, and these will be sent home on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July**.

### **Marketplace Event**

We are hosting a **Family Hub Marketplace Event** on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00pm–4.00pm** in the school hall. This is a fantastic opportunity for families to meet a range of professionals and discover the support available within our local community. Representatives will include:

- Family Hub
- School and Community Team
- Educational Psychology and Specialist Support (EPSS) Autism Support Team
- Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Support Team
- Parent Carer Service Norfolk
- ...and many more services offering guidance, resources, and information for families.

We warmly encourage you to come along, explore the stalls, and speak with the teams who can offer support tailored to your family's needs.



## Marketplace Event Denver Primary

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July  
2:00pm-4:00pm

Come along and meet representatives from the

Family Hub

School and Community Team

Educational Psychology and Specialist Support (EPSS) Autism Support Team

Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Support Team

and more who can share information about a wide range of support, resources and services for your family

We look forward to meeting you!

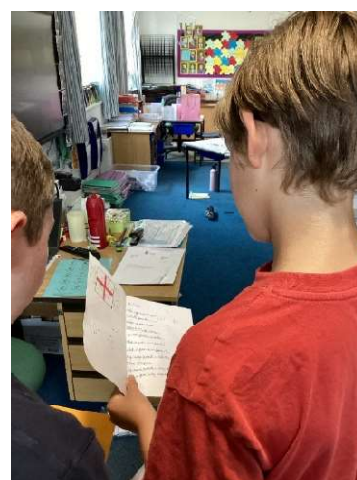


### Behaviour Policy Feedback

Back in September, we made changes to our Positive Behaviour Policy. As we approach the end of the academic year, we are seeking feedback from parents and carers about the policy and its impact. Please do take a moment to complete the form that has been sent out, as your feedback will help us make any necessary adjustments for the new academic year.

### French Pen Pal Correspondence

As part of our French learning earlier in the year, Class 4 wrote letters to introduce themselves to pupils at Saint Victor, a primary school in Paris. The aim was not only to practise our French but also to establish pen-pal links. We were delighted to finally receive some wonderful cards from our French counterparts, and we will be writing back to them soon to keep the communication going.



### Sponsored Walk

The school field was the setting for a glorious, sunny afternoon for our annual sponsored walk on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Children from each class, and some families and siblings too, fought the beginning of the heatwave (with the help of some water guns to cool off) to walk as many laps of our Daily Mile track as possible to raise valuable funds for the Friends. An obstacle course provided more fun. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part or provided sponsorship. The event raised over £1400 – wonderful!



### **The Living Wall - A Whole-School Leaf Art Project**

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we are embarking on a whole-school art project to create a permanent tree sculpture for the wall outside Class 4. Each child has now made their leaf out of clay and glazed it, and we are very excited to see the next stage of the project as the tree itself begins to take shape on the wall. A huge thank you to Jonathan Webster, Alice Webster, Carole Reich and Janet Wilde for their support with this project, and to the Friends for kindly funding the materials.

### **Courageous Advocacy**

Courageous advocacy is the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voices are not heard. We encourage children to think about issues they feel strongly about and support them in becoming courageous advocates. This month, Albert and Arthur demonstrated a wonderful example of kindness and advocacy by donating their basketball hoop to another child who had their hoop stolen — a truly thoughtful and generous act.

### **Christian Value**

Our Christian value for this half term has been **justice**, and in our collective worship we have been exploring how we can help to create a more just and fair society.

### **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. June's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	95.5%
Class 2	97.4%
Class 3	94.9%
Class 4	96.8%

Well done to Class 2 for achieving the highest attendance for June!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.1%**, 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**

Thank you to everyone who recently took part in our consultation regarding grouping the existing INSET days into a single week within the academic year. The majority of parents and carers (64%) were in favour of the proposed changes to the October half term. Therefore, please find below the confirmed term dates for the academic year 2026/27:

### **2026/2027**

#### **Autumn Term**

September 2026	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
October 2026	19 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
November 2026	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
December 2026	18 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of autumn term

#### **Spring Term**

January 2027	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
February 2027	15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thu	Children return to school
March 2027	25 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Last day of spring term

#### **Summer Term**

April 2027	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
May 2027	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	31 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
June 2027	7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2027	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thu	Last day of summer term

We will evaluate the effectiveness of these changes throughout the year and review them accordingly.

### **End of Day Collection**

Thank you to everyone for accommodating the recent changes to our end-of-day collection routines. The new system is working well and helps us ensure that all children are collected safely.

### **Lockdown Drill**

Last week, we tested our emergency procedures in school with a lockdown drill. The drill went very smoothly, and the children were extremely sensible, following all instructions carefully.

### **Supertots**

The final Denver Supertots Playgroup session of the year will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Clare Gunns, the students from DMA, and our regular volunteers for running the group so brilliantly throughout the year. We plan to continue again next year and look forward to welcoming both current families and new children.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free activity for children aged 4-11 delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music UK. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's skills and confidence over the summer holiday.

Children can pick up their Summer Reading Challenge pack and free magazine from their local library. They set their own reading goals and read anything they like from the library. They collect reward stickers as they achieve their reading goals. At the end of the summer, children who complete all their goals earn a certificate and a medal. For under 5s there is a mini challenge, so they don't miss out. [There is also a digital platform with different activities and digital rewards.](#)

This year's theme is Read to the Beat, giving everyone the opportunity to discover diverse musical genres and cultural influences through specially curated reading lists and engaging activities that celebrate the connection between storytelling and sound. [There will be lots of free children's activities in our libraries including professional music and dance artists.](#)

To sign up, just pop into your local library. Children will need to be library members - you can do this in a library or online. It's free of charge and children will receive their own library card for which there are no overdue fees. [Find out more about joining the library in branch or online.](#)

Nationally the Summer Reading Challenge has engaged over half a million children annually for more than 25 years. It starts on Saturday 4 July and finishes Saturday 12 September.

### **After School Clubs**

Clubs, apart from Before School Care and the 3:15 Club, have now finished for the year. A huge thank you to everyone involved in running clubs this year — your time, energy and enthusiasm have made a real difference to the children.

## **Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley**

### **Scaffolding for the Willow – 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

The first session for our KS2 children (with a couple of enthusiastic helpers!) encouraged them to think outside the box. So often in life we face challenges where common sense and a willingness to explore different possibilities should prevail — but sometimes we forget to look beyond the obvious. Today's task was designed to do exactly that. The children were challenged to use whatever they could find to build a structure tall enough to reach the willow. With tyres, drainpipes and straw bales at their disposal, they had to communicate clearly, work as a team and apply a healthy dose of common sense. Their creations were impressively ambitious, and despite their lofty engineering, everyone stayed safe and had a brilliant time. They all went home happy, proud of their achievements and excited for what's next.



### **Gazebos and Fire Lighting - 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Given the unfortunate forecast for our 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations, we were very grateful to have been lent some weather-busting equipment! The gazebo was retrieved from the car and skilfully erected by the KS2 outdoor learning group. They worked brilliantly as a team, getting the structure up without even glancing at the instructions. Time ran away from us this afternoon, so cooking and the main fire session were put on hold. However, we still had the chance to practise our fire-lighting skills, using firesticks to create small practice fires and remind ourselves of the three essentials: fuel, heat and oxygen.



### **'Fun' Cones and Fire - 17<sup>th</sup> June**

As we needed to swap to a Tuesday this week, we ended up sharing the field with the sports club — apologies for smoking you out! We practised striking our own fires, taking things up a level by using hay as our primary combustible material. Once the children had mastered their new techniques, they used them to create a fire for cooking our 'fun cones'. These were ice-cream cones filled with small marshmallows, milk chocolate chips and white chocolate chips, topped with a large marshmallow and wrapped in foil before being placed in the embers. We quickly discovered that next time we might turn the heat down a little... or not leave them in quite so long! Despite a few blackened cones, the children still enjoyed a fantastic session and a very sweet treat.



### **Fun in the Sun – 24<sup>th</sup> June**

The last of our clubs this year finished with some unexpected heat, and after the scorching Sports Day it only seemed fitting to carry on the team theme — with the added twist of a little H<sub>2</sub>O to cool things down. It was so hot that even the iPad shut itself down! We launched into a series of team races using sponges and water, and by the end of the session we were all soaked, cooler and very happy. It was a brilliant way to end the year.



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the adults who have helped make this club possible; without their support it simply wouldn't run. A huge thank you to Jo, Peter, Will, Kelly and Ben. Team Insanity! See you next year. Mr C

### **Governor Update 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 delighted to be celebrating the school’s Outstanding SIAMS inspection, a real recognition of the hard work of staff, pupils and the whole school community. The report praised the strong leadership and the way the school enables everyone to flourish.

“Alright Gov’nor?”: Yes, because children approached their SATs with calm confidence and resilience. Staff preparation ensured the week ran smoothly, and pupils showed positive attitudes that made everyone proud.

“Alright Gov’nor?”: Yes, we continue to explore plans for a school-based nursery provision. This remains a complex but exciting journey, and we are grateful for the support being gained as we move forward.

“Alright Gov’nor?”: Yes, our 150th anniversary celebrations—a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together and celebrate the school’s rich history.

“Alright Gov’nor?”: Yes, our Art Exhibition was a lovely celebration of the creativity of the children.

“Alright Gov’nor?”: Yes, well done to everyone for the sensible approach to the searing temperatures ensuring all were kept safe.

“Alright Gov’nor?”: Yes, as always, we are proud of our school. The dedication of staff, enthusiasm of pupils and support from families continue to make it a very special place where children can truly let their light shine.

### **Update from The Friends**

We’re fast approaching the end of another school year, and if this recent weather is anything to go by, the summer holidays are shaping up to be a scorcher.

First, I’d like to say a huge thank you to all the children, parents and staff who helped us raise over £1,400 in our sponsored walk. This is a fantastic achievement, and the money will go directly towards providing exciting activities and opportunities for the children.

Another big thank you goes to everyone involved in organising and supporting our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on the 11th. Despite the challenging weather, we managed to get the event over the line. Thank you to all parents, carers and pupils who attended in such difficult conditions, to the vendors and activity providers who braved the rain, and to everyone who kindly lent gazebos to create some much-needed dry spaces. British summertime at its finest.

We have begun taking photographs for the end of the year, including class and year-group pictures. Please look out for us after school over the coming days to view these. They will be available to purchase, and we hope to have orders completed before the end of term.

Finally, we will have a stall at the upcoming Denver Fun Day on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Please do pop by to say hello — we'll be running a tombola, with all funds raised going straight back into the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

## **Sports News**

### **Sports Day**

Sports Day on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June was a great success. The weather was fortunately good for us with a breeze and a morning session to manage the growing temperatures. The event was very well-attended by spectating families whose cheers and claps of encouragement were very welcome.



The morning 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 Class 4 children.



For the first time in many years, it was Blue Team's turn to triumph. Congratulations to them, and well done to everyone who took part. Thank you to Mrs Henden for organising the event so expertly, and to all the staff, adult helpers and Luke for ensuring the morning ran so

smoothly. A special thank you also goes to Class 4, who did a tremendous job running each activity.



I would also like to extend a huge thank you to the Glover Group for the wonderful Sports Day sign by the side of the track. It added a lovely touch to the event and helped make the day even more special.



### **Mini-tennis at Lynnsport**

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, a team of four children from Class 3 travelled to Lynnsport to take part in a mini-tennis tournament. They all played very well and showed great sportsmanship. Well done to Bonnie, Eve, Alexander and Barney. Thank you also to their families for taking and supporting them.



### **Quad Kids Tournament**

The annual Quad Kids tournament for the King's Lynn area took place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Lynnsport. It is named Quad Kids because each of the 10 children have to take part in all four disciplines (endurance, sprint, throw and jump) to score points for the team.

Here are the full standings:

1st Place - Whitefriars 1379 points

2nd Place - Hunstanton 1320 points

3rd Place - Sandringham 1283 points

Joint 4th Place - Denver & South Wootton 1236 points

6th Place - Holly Meadows 1209 points

7th Place - West Lynn 937 points

8th Place - 886 points

Many congratulations to Flora who was the overall best female from the whole competition. An amazing achievement. We are very proud of all of them for showing great teamwork and encouragement.



### **Class 3 Football Tournament**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Class 3 were lucky enough to take part in a football tournament at Hillcrest. Each team were assigned a country to link with the World Cup. Our teams were Argentina, Brazil, Spain and Belgium. The weather was great, the children were super and a great time was had by all.

### **Forthcoming Events**

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

Class 2 are getting very excited about their trip to Bewilderwood this Thursday. The weather is looking perfect, and we hope they have a fantastic time.

#### **Non-Uniform Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

We are having a non-uniform day this Friday and, rather than asking for a £1 donation, the Friends have requested that children bring a prize for the tombola stall taking place at Denver Fun Day. Thank you for your support.

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

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

#### **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 (and any other children who would like to join in) will be performing at 11:15. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

### **KS2 Production – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Rehearsals are now well underway for the end-of-KS2 production, which this year is entitled *Sakura & The Spirits of Philosophers Park*. We are very much looking forward to sharing the play with you and celebrating the children's hard work.

### **School Games Festival – 16<sup>th</sup> July**

All children will take part in our School Games Festival on the penultimate day of term. This is a pupil-only event, and we look forward to giving them a fun and active end-of-year experience.

### **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...**

The last few weeks of term are set to be extremely busy, so please do make a note of all the diary dates below. We look forward to welcoming you to these events. Thank you, as always, for your continued support for the school.

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

**2025/2026**

#### **Summer Term**

July 2026	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Eaton Vale Residential – Class 4
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thu	Bewilderwood Trip – Class 2
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fri	Non-uniform Day
	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
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	KS2 Production – 5pm in the Village Hall
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	KS2 Production – 5pm in the Village Hall
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	School Games Festival 1-3pm
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	End of Year Assembly 2pm – St Mary's Church
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term