



July 2026 Newsletter



I cannot quite believe that this is the final newsletter of the academic year. As always, July has been a busy and exciting month, filled with a wide range of activities, events and memorable experiences for the children to enjoy. There has certainly been no slowing down as we approach the summer break! We have lots to share with you in this edition and hope you enjoy reading about the many wonderful things that have been happening in school over the past few weeks.

KS2 Production

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, KS2 took to the stage at Denver Village Hall to perform their end-of-year production, *Sakura and the Spirits of Philosopher's Park*. The performances were absolutely fantastic, showcasing the incredible talents, confidence and enthusiasm of our children.

The singing, acting and storytelling were of an exceptionally high standard, and it was a joy to see the children performing with such energy and pride. From the opening scene to the final curtain call, they captivated the audience and demonstrated just how much hard work had gone into preparing the production.



A huge thank you goes to everyone involved in making the performances such a success, including staff, volunteers and families who supported rehearsals and helped behind the scenes. In particular, we would like to thank Mr Lawrence for creating and directing yet another original and very special production. His creativity, dedication and passion for the performing arts provide our children with unforgettable opportunities, and we are extremely grateful for all of his hard work.

Most importantly, well done to all of the children, who were a credit to themselves and to the school. They should be incredibly proud of what they achieved.



Y6 Leavers' Buffet

Following Wednesday's wonderful performance, we welcomed our Year 6 leavers, their parents and invited guests back to school for a celebratory buffet. There was a fantastic spread of food, and we are incredibly grateful to all of the Year 6 parents for their generosity in providing such a delicious feast.

The parents had also clubbed together to organise inflatables for the children to enjoy, which proved to be a huge hit and provided a fun way for the children to celebrate the end of their primary school journey together.

It was particularly lovely to welcome back last year's Year 6 pupils and hear about how they are settling into their new schools and the opportunities they have embraced since leaving Denver. It is always a pleasure to see former pupils return and share their experiences.

A huge thank you also to The Friends of Denver School for providing the drinks and helping to make the evening such a special occasion. The event was a wonderful way to celebrate our Year 6 pupils and wish them well as they prepare for the next exciting chapter of their education.



Fun Day

On Sunday, our school choir delighted the crowd at Denver Fun Day with a selection of songs from this year's Key Stage 2 production. The children performed brilliantly, singing with confidence, enthusiasm and smiles, and were a wonderful credit to our school. Thank you to all of the choir members who gave up their time to join us and take part in the event. We are also grateful to the organisers of Denver Fun Day for once again inviting us to perform and for supporting our links with the local community.



A special thank you goes to Mr Lawrence for all of his hard work and dedication with the choir throughout the year. His enthusiasm and commitment have helped the children develop their musical skills and confidence, and we are very grateful for all that he does. Well done to everyone involved!

Team Cup

Throughout the year, the children have been earning certificates in their team colours, with these being collected and added together each week to determine the winners of the Team Cup. This year, the Blue Team were crowned champions with an impressive total of 333 certificates. Congratulations to all members of the Blue Team on this fantastic achievement!

Move Up

Last week, we held our annual 'Move Up' afternoons, giving children the opportunity to spend time with their new classes and teachers ahead of September. The transition sessions went very smoothly, and it was lovely to see the children enjoying time with their new classmates, settling into new routines and getting excited about the year ahead.

We were also delighted to welcome our new Reception children, who experienced their first taste of life at Denver School. It was wonderful to see them exploring their new environment and beginning to build relationships with staff and other children.

On Friday afternoon, we welcomed our new Reception parents to school for our intake meeting, where we shared information about starting school and answered any questions families may have had.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children and their families to the Denver School community in September and are excited to begin this next stage of their learning journey with them.

Class 2's Visit to Bewilderwood by Mr Cawley

Thursday 2nd July was a day filled with excitement and anticipation for Class 2 as we set off early for our trip to Bewilderwood in Horning. Arriving at around 10:30am, the adventure began with a boat ride to meet Mildred, bringing to life the stories and characters we had been exploring in our literacy lessons over the previous few weeks.

The weather was kind to us, the children were beautifully behaved, and the day was packed with opportunities for exploration, imagination and fun. From start to finish, the children embraced the experience with enthusiasm and curiosity, making the most of everything Bewilderwood had to offer.

Apart from arriving back a little later than planned, the day passed without a hitch and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited, and I hope that the memories of this special trip stay with them for years to come.





Eaton Vale Residential

Class 4 children had an amazing time at their residential to Eaton Vale (just outside Norwich) from 29th June – 1st July. Straight after arrival, the staff entertained the children with games. Then it was time to unpack into our dorms (some of us had packed for a month!). The children absolutely loved being able to share rooms and sweets, especially on the first night where there was very little sleep because of the excitement.



The activities were plentiful and varied: canoeing, cave bus, pedal go-karts, crate stacking, teambuilding, Eggbert's Escapades, buggy building, trapeze, archery, Bingo and the obstacle course. There was also plenty of down time to enjoy the grounds within the woodland, playing games. It was an excellent adventure: fears were conquered, friendships were both challenged and strengthened and we learnt so much more about each other.



Enormous thanks go to Mrs Henden, Mrs Collins, Mrs Williamson and Mr Rackham for taking the children on the visit and making it such a positive and memorable experience.



Staff News

Today, we said goodbye to Mrs Writer, who has worked in Class 1 this year. We would like to thank her for her hard work, dedication and the care she has shown to our youngest children during her time at Denver. Mrs Writer has been a valued member of our team and will be greatly missed by both staff and pupils. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role and for the future. Good luck, Mrs Writer – thank you for everything you have done for our school community.

KS2 SATs Results

After a slight delay, we finally received the KS2 SATs results yesterday, and we are absolutely thrilled with them. The results are a testament to the hard work, resilience and commitment shown by our Year 6 children throughout the year. They approached the tests with maturity and determination, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. Congratulations to every member of Y6 – your efforts have truly paid off, and you should all be very proud of yourselves.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We will be, once again, organising ‘Meet the Teacher’ events in the first few weeks of the autumn term to give parents/carers the opportunity to meet our class teachers and learn more about the forthcoming year. More information will be sent out at the beginning of the new term.

Out of School Hours Communication

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently over the summer break, 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.

Reports

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parental feedback form sent home with the end-of-year reports. We greatly value your comments and feedback and appreciate the strong partnership we share with our families.

Clubs

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in running our school clubs this year. We are grateful that so many people give up their valuable time to offer extra-curricular opportunities for our children. I would like to offer my particular thanks to Luke Fenn who has once again run our football and cricket clubs this year, ably supported by Mrs Fenn, as well as accompanying many of our sporting fixtures. Thank you, Luke!

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun is a summer holiday activity scheme run by Active Norfolk in partnership with Norfolk County Council for children aged 5-15. These sessions are available for all children and free to those eligible for means-tested free school meals. There are also places available for vulnerable children. To find out the available activities near you and information on how to book places, visit:

<https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>



Courageous Advocacy

Courageous advocacy is the act of speaking out against injustice or raising awareness on behalf of those whose voices may not always be heard. At Denver, we encourage our children to think about issues they feel passionate about and to take positive action to make a difference in the world around them.

On Friday 10th July, we held a special non-uniform day to raise awareness of and show support for people living with dementia. This event was inspired by Eve in Class 3, whose great nan is living with dementia. Eve has been passionately raising awareness of the condition and wanted to encourage our whole school community to support this important cause.

Children came to school dressed in blue and yellow, the colours of the forget-me-not flower, which is widely recognised as a symbol of dementia awareness. It was wonderful to see so many children taking part and showing their support.

Thanks to the generosity of our families, Eve raised over £150 for the local charity Downham Dementia, helping to support the valuable work they do within our community. We are incredibly proud of Eve for using her own family's experience to help others better understand dementia and for raising awareness of a condition that affects so many people. She has demonstrated great compassion, courage and determination and is a wonderful example of courageous advocacy in action. Well done, Eve!



In another wonderful example of courageous advocacy, Robyn has been growing her hair for nearly a year with the aim of donating it to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real-hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

Robyn has shown great determination and commitment to this cause, and her hair is now almost long enough to be donated. We are hopeful that, by the end of the summer holidays, she will be ready to make her donation and help make a real difference to the life of another child.

If you would like to support Robyn in her fundraising efforts, please click on the link below. We are incredibly proud of Robyn for her kindness, generosity and willingness to help others. She is a wonderful example of how even a small act can have a big impact, and she truly embodies our value of being a courageous advocate. Well done, Robyn!

https://www.gofundme.com/f/3ghryh-the-little-princess-trust?utm_campaign=natman_sharesheet_dash&utm_medium=customer&ts=1783454057&utm_source=native_options

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 have celebrated the class with the highest attendance each week in our celebration assembly and each month in our newsletters. July's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	97.0%
Class 2	99.6%
Class 3	97.0%
Class 4	96.5%

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

Our school attendance for this year is **95.6%**. Thank you for your continued support 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.

Summer Bingo Challenge

In order to avoid the summer dip in reading, we would very much like all the children to complete the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge over the summer holidays. Certificates and Dojo points will be awarded in September for each child who completes a bingo sheet. This challenge is a great way to help the children to keep up with their reading during the long summer holidays; regular reading throughout the summer can really help to maintain literacy levels and make a difference to children's reading levels. Once again, will be creating a reading display in school to celebrate the children's engagement in the challenge, therefore we would be very grateful if you could send in photographs of them completing some of the tasks. The children have already received their bingo sheets – these can also be found under the 'Parent' tab on our school website.

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.](#)

Times Tables Rockstars

Please remember that the children continue to have access to Times Tables Rockstars. We would encourage them to use this resource over the summer holidays: a sound understanding of times table facts is essential in becoming a successful mathematician.

Denver Youth Club

Are you looking for ways to keep your child active, socialising and having fun away from screens? Our local youth group has a packed programme of activities planned for the new term, including bowling, skating, rock climbing, sports, dance, crafts, orienteering and much more. The group is open to children in Year 3 and above, with a free taster session on Monday 7th September from 6.30pm–8.30pm. The organisers would also love to hear from any parents interested in volunteering. Please see the attached flyer for further details.



Governor Update by Carole Reich (Chair of Governors)

As another successful school year draws to a close, I would like to thank our wonderful staff, pupils, families and governors for all they have contributed to the life of Denver VC Primary School.



This year has provided many opportunities to celebrate. One particular highlight was the positive SIAMS inspection, which recognised the way our school enables pupils and adults to flourish. Governors were delighted to see the inspector recognise what we witness regularly: a school community where children are encouraged to discover their gifts, work hard and let their light shine.

Throughout the year governors have continued to support and challenge the school as a critical friend, meeting with subject leaders, monitoring progress and helping to shape the strategic direction of the school for years to come. We have been encouraged by the dedication of staff and the enthusiasm of our children, who never fail to impress us with their achievements and attitudes.

We are also grateful for the support of our parents, carers, church and wider community whose partnership helps make our school such a special place.

On behalf of all the governors, thank you for another memorable year. We wish everyone a restful summer break and look forward to the opportunities and achievements that the new academic year will bring.

Carole Reich
Chair of Governors

Update from The Friends

And here we are at the end of another school year! My word, how the time has flown. It has been a busy and memorable year, packed with fantastic events, fundraising activities and special moments for our children and families (although perhaps the less said about June's weather, the better!).

We started July with our annual end-of-year photographs. These are taken by class and year group, both with and without teachers, and are always a lovely keepsake. Unfortunately, the extreme weather has delayed the process of preparing the photographs for display and ordering before the end of term. We will have everything ready as soon as school returns in September, and we thank you for your patience and understanding. Parents and carers of our outgoing Year 6 pupils will be contacted separately regarding photo orders. A huge thank you goes to Leslie B, who generously gives up her time each year to take the photographs for us.

We also hosted the Year 6 Leavers' Buffet for the Class of 2026. This is always a wonderful event and a fitting way to celebrate the children as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education. It was lovely to see the Year 6 pupils and their families enjoying the evening together after such a hardworking year. We were also delighted to welcome back last year's Year 6 pupils and hear how they are settling into life at high school. Congratulations to all of our leavers, and we wish you every success and happiness in the future. We will miss you all!

This month also brought an opportunity to meet the families of our new Reception children. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them into the Denver community and hope that some new volunteers may be inspired to become involved with the Friends and school life in the future.



Finally, we enjoyed another successful Denver Fun Day, where we ran our annual tombola stall. It was fantastic to see so many members of our school community enjoying the event, and we would like to thank everyone who donated prizes, volunteered their time or tried their luck on the day. Thanks to your support, we raised over £200, which will go directly back into funding events, activities and opportunities for the children.

As I step down as Chair of the Friends of Denver School, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group of volunteers and to support the school in the many ways we have. I know the Friends will continue to go from strength to strength, and I look forward to seeing all that they achieve in the future.

Have a fantastic summer break and thank you once again for your continued support.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

Farewell to Y6

It is that time once again to say a fond farewell to our Y6 children. They have been a great cohort of pupils, and we will be sad to say goodbye to them. We hope they have many happy memories of their time with us at Denver and we wish them all the very best at their new schools and for the future. Good luck Class of '26: Edith, Esther, Onur, Drew, Lorelei, Lyla, Chase, Flora, Sorry, Rowan and Jack!

Sports News

School Games Festival

As part of our application for School Games Gold Award status, we hold an annual intra-festival to uphold School Games values. These values were practised through a range of activities organised and led by children in Class 4 using their 'Young Leader' skills.



Children in all three other classes were divided into 6 teams (2 per house colour) then visited 6 different activity stations throughout what was a beautiful and very enjoyable morning.

Young leaders from each group were responsible for keeping track of their scores then Katherine had the mighty challenge of collating these.

In 3rd place was White 1 who had Miss Boddy as their mascot.
In 2nd place was Blue 2 with Mr Cawley as their mascot.
In 1st place was Red 1 with a very competitive Mr Rackham as their mascot.

Each and every team should feel proud of themselves for taking part and making the penultimate day of term so positive.

Thank you to the adults who supported the children and special thanks to Class 4 for the smooth running of the festival. Well done!



School Games Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that we have once again been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award. This is a fantastic achievement and one that we are incredibly proud of, particularly as a small school. The award recognises our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality PE, sport and physical activity opportunities for all children, as well as our dedication to promoting the School Games values throughout school life.

This success would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of our whole school community. Thank you to all of our children, staff, parents, carers and volunteers who have played their part in helping us achieve this recognition.

A special thank you must go to Mrs Henden for her continued hard work, passion and dedication in leading PE and sport across the school. Her commitment to providing children with a wide range of sporting opportunities and promoting healthy, active lifestyles has been instrumental in helping us achieve this award once again. We are extremely grateful for everything she does and are thrilled that her efforts have been recognised through this achievement.

KS2 Rounders Tournament

On Friday 10th July, Key Stage 2 made the most of the cooler morning weather to hold our annual Rounders Festival. Children competed in their house teams, although this proved a little confusing as everyone was dressed in blue for our Dementia Awareness Day!

The festival followed a round-robin format, with each team taking turns to bat and field against one another. It was wonderful to see all pupils demonstrating a wide range of rounders skills throughout the morning. There were some excellent catches, confident batting performances and a number of impressive full rounders scored across the tournament.

Most importantly, the children displayed great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, making the event enjoyable for everyone involved.

Congratulations to the White team, who emerged as overall winners after winning all of their matches. A special well done also goes to our Players of the Tournament, Hector and Rebekah, whose outstanding performances and positive attitudes stood out throughout the competition. Well done to everyone who took part!



Thank You

There are so many people I would like to thank for the support they have given our school throughout the year.

Our Governing Body continues to be a tremendous source of support, providing both challenge and strategic direction while always keeping the best interests of our children at heart. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment, dedication and many hours of voluntary service.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Rev'd Nigel, Heidi Moat and everyone at St Mary's Church for the many ways in which they support our school community. We always enjoy welcoming members of the church into school, whether it is to help the children make Christingles, create Mothering Sunday posies or take part in other special events throughout the year.

Thank you to Carole Reich, Janet Wilde, Fraser Reich, Rev'd Nigel and Heidi Moat for faithfully leading collective worship throughout the year. Their contributions help to enrich the spiritual life of our school and strengthen our close links with the church.

We are also grateful to everyone involved in running Supertots, particularly the students from DMA, whose enthusiasm and support are greatly appreciated.

Our school is fortunate to have many volunteers who generously give their time to listen to readers, support Outdoor Learning Club, accompany school visits and assist in countless other ways. Their contribution makes a real difference to our children, and we are extremely thankful for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to thank an amazing group of people who give up so much of their time to organise events and activities for our children to enjoy – The Friends of Denver School. Their energy, commitment and enthusiasm have helped make this another fantastic year. Their fundraising efforts have been truly impressive, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group supporting our school community.

In particular, I would like to thank Ben Groom, who is stepping down as Chair. Ben has done a fantastic job leading the Friends and has been a tremendous support to the school. His hard work, dedication and willingness to give up so much of his time have made a significant impact, and he will be greatly missed. On behalf of the entire school community, thank you, Ben, for everything you have done for Denver.

And finally...

I cannot express how proud I am to be part of the Denver VC Primary School community; it truly is a very special place. Our children, staff, governors, parents, carers, volunteers and wider community all play an important role in making Denver the wonderful school it is. Thank you to everyone who supports the school and helps those within it to *'let their light shine'* each and every day.

As we come to the end of another successful school year, I would like to wish all our families a wonderful summer and a well-deserved break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 2nd. Have a fantastic summer and thank you, once again, for your continued support.

Best wishes,
Louise Jones
Headteacher

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2026/2027

Autumn Term

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

Spring Term

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

Summer Term

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

