



# October 2019 Newsletter



I cannot quite believe that half term is nearly upon us. We have been very busy in school since September and I would like to share with you in this newsletter some of the exciting things that have been happening so far this year.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term and find some time to relax before the build up to Christmas really begins!

## Learning Café

Class 1 held a very successful first Learning Café on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Parents/grandparents of children in Class 1 were invited in to school to engage in some activities alongside their child. The story 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson was used as a stimulus and the children/parents made fantastic Gruffalo masks together which are proudly on display in the classroom. We would be grateful if those who attended would return any feedback forms by half term to help us inform the next Learning Café planned for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We held a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning in school on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, raising an impressive £339.01. Thank you to all those who attended – it was lovely to see so many of you there. Thank you also to Miss Palmer and members of the Friends for helping set up and organise the event; the Y6 children also proved fantastic helpers on the day. The raffle was very successful with a wide range of prizes kindly donated by staff members. Thank you to all involved for helping us to raise money for such a valuable cause.

### **Harvest**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the local foodbank. As you can see from the photo below, we had an amazing response and the donations provided a lovely backdrop to our Harvest assembly led by Judith.



### **Judith's Retirement**

As many of you will be aware, the Reverend Judith Grundy is retiring at half term. She has been a key figure over the years in ensuring such strong links between the school and the church community. She led her last assembly on Tuesday and I know that the children will miss her weekly visits in to school. On behalf of the children, staff and governors, I would like to thank Judith for everything she has done for the school over the years. She will be sorely missed by the whole school community.

### **Playground Extension**

Over the half term break, providing the weather conditions are suitable, we are having the area at the end of the playground re-surfaced with a fibre fall surface. Organising the project has been a lengthy process with a few hurdles along the way, although I am excited that this area will now be transformed, enabling it to be used in PE lessons, and to provide a dedicated area for Playground Challenges. The project has been supplemented by a significant grant of £10,000 from the Sugar Tax, as well as the Sports Premium grant received by schools. If inclement weather does not allow the project to be finished over the break, there may be some temporary disruption when the children return. Please bear with us if this is the case.

### **Staff News**

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Collins has recently returned to school. She will be spending some time in the office and also supporting in Class 3 from after half term. It is lovely to have her back in school again. We also have a Level 3 Teaching Assistant student, Chloe Loveridge, starting after half term. She will be working in school 3 days each week and will provide support across the school during her placement with us.

### **Certificates**

In order to provide more instant feedback to parents about children's progress, we have been sending out some new certificates at the end of the school day. Lunchtime stickers and certificates are also being awarded to children who have a really positive lunchtime, are helpful to others or show good manners. Special Headteacher postcards sent home by post from myself will be awarded to those children who have really stood out, going above and beyond; the first of these postcards was sent home last week. We hope that this instant feedback will be useful in helping parents to celebrate their child's successes.

### **Parent Information Sessions**

Thank you to those parents who provided feedback from the Parent Information Sessions. Your views are much appreciated and will help us to plan for future sessions.

### **Parent Consultation Evenings**

Thank you to all parents who attended Parent Consultation Evenings this week. These are always an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. We hope you also found it useful having the opportunity to meet with some members of both the Governing Body and the Friends.

### **Suggestions Box**

If you have any suggestions or comments you would like to share with us, or indeed positive feedback, please remember that we have the Suggestions Box in the main entrance hall. So far, we have not had many suggestions entered, although we are very keen to take one or two of these to highlight in each newsletter. If you do place a suggestion in the box, please add your name to it – this way we can respond to individuals and give feedback.

### **Big Book Boost**

The online bookseller 'Book People' have introduced a new way in which parents can earn rewards for their school. If you make an online purchase over £10, you will be given the option of selecting Denver Primary at the checkout. £1 will be donated to the school for every order over £10. A leaflet giving further information will be sent out shortly.

### **Dinner Money**

We would like to thank all parents who pay promptly for their children's meals. Increasingly, however, we have a number of instances where considerable sums of dinner money have not been paid. We ask that parents do not let dinner money debts mount up as this causes difficulties for the school. Where possible, please pay in advance for meals. Cheque payment is ideal as this provides a record of payment and avoids having cash in school. Thank you for your cooperation.

New lunch menus will start after half term. Please share these with your child and ensure they are aware of both the meat and vegetarian options available each day.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Author Visit – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

We have arranged for the author E. R. Reilly to visit the school on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to inspire the children to write their own stories. Eamonn will be leaving a selection of his books in school, should anyone want to purchase one. If you would like more information about Eamonn, please visit his website at [www.er-reilly.co.uk](http://www.er-reilly.co.uk). A letter will be sent out with more details about how to purchase books on the day of the visit.

### **Guy Fawkes – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

This year we would like to engage with the Round Table's 'Make Your Own Guy Fawkes' competition. A few parent volunteers have agreed to help make a school Guy Fawkes after school in the hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 3.15-4pm. There are cash prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup> (£100), 2<sup>nd</sup> (£50) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (£25) placed entries and the 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner also earns £100 for their school. We ask that parents stay with their children for this activity.

### **Maths Information Session – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Miss Pennock will be leading a Maths Information Session on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 9am in the ICT Suite. This will be aimed at parents of children in Classes 1 and 2 and will give some ideas about how maths is taught in school, resources used and how you can support your child at home. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

### **Open Morning – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

We are hosting our first Open Morning aimed at the new Reception starters for next September on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Parents who have a child due to start school next year will be able to book an appointment to come in to school with their child to spend some time in Class 1 and see some of the fantastic learning that takes place. If you are a parent of a child due to start school next September, or know of someone who is, please contact the office to book an appointment.

### **Children in Need – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The School Council have chosen Children in Need as this year's charity to support. They have organised a non-uniform day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November and are asking the children to dress up in brightly coloured clothing (spots or Pudsey themed optional) for a suggested donation of £1. Cakes/biscuits will also be sold for 50p each.

### **Reading Information Session – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

We have also organised a Reading Information Session on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, aimed at parents of children in Reception and Year 1. The session will explain how we teach early reading in school and explore ways in which parents can support children at home. Again, we hope to see many of you there.

### **Class Assemblies – 27<sup>th</sup> November and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Class 4 will be organising the first of our class assemblies on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November to share some of what they have been learning about in school. The assembly will start at 2.45pm and finish in time for the end of the school day. All parents/grandparents are welcome to attend. Class 2 will also have their class assembly later this term on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Bag2School – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

The Friends of Denver School are organising a clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School, the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools. This provides you with the perfect opportunity to sort through your wardrobes and cupboards and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided. Bags need to be brought in to school on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please see the letter sent out earlier this week for further information.

### **Christmas – 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

This year we have made a few changes to the Christmas arrangements. The EYFS/KS1 Nativity will take place at school this year, rather than in the church, starting at 9.30am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The children will be able to perform on the stage in the school hall and all parents/grandparents will be welcome to come along and watch one of the highlights of the school year. We will continue to have a traditional whole school Carol Service starting at 6pm at St Mary's Church, Denver, also on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Christmas Fair – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

The Friends are currently busy organising an exciting Christmas Fair in school on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 3-5.30pm. There will be a number of craft stalls selling Christmas gift ideas, so it's the perfect opportunity to come and get all your stocking fillers. A Scholastic Book Fair will run at the event and the children in Class 4 will also be organising games/stalls. The Christmas Fair is open to the whole community and all proceeds will go to the Friends to provide extracurricular opportunities for all the children in school. More details will follow after half term. Please save the date!

## **Sports News**

### **Clubs**

We are endeavouring to offer as much as possible in the way of clubs this year and I am pleased to inform you that Premier Sport (who we currently work with to provide the Golden Mile) will be running a free 4 week before school Dodgeball Club for both KS1 (Years 1 and 2 only) and KS2 after half term. The Y1/2 club will take place on Mondays and the KS2 club on Wednesdays, both starting the week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> October. Places for both clubs must be booked online via Premier Sport, details of which have been sent home in a letter.

### **Sporting Stars**

Thank you to those people who have already contributed towards our 'Sporting Stars' display. Please remember to bring in any appropriate photos or certificates and pass these on to Mrs Henden to be added to the board.

### **Football Fun with Norwich Community Sports Foundation**

On 7<sup>th</sup> October, we were delighted to welcome Tom Arnit from Norwich City Community Sports Foundation in to school to lead some football themed sessions in each class. The focus of these sessions was to improve dribbling and passing skills, and maintaining control of the ball. The skills learnt were then applied in a series of games which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

### **Cluster Netball Tournament**

Our netball club were really pleased to re-join the local cluster netball tournament this year. They took part in the first of a series of three events to be held this academic year last Wednesday and played the following matches:

Denver vs Riverside 0-0

Hillcrest vs Denver 0-0

Denver vs Magdalen 2-0

Denver vs Watlington 1-1



In extra-time they were able to spend time practising their skills with the School Sports Coordinator. They were excellent representatives of the school - well done to the whole team!

### **Class 3's Handball Tournament**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, some children from Class 3 represented the school in a Handball Festival at Lynnsport. This was part of the OMNES Games (which means 'for all') run by West Norfolk School's Sport Partnership. The event gave the children the opportunity to have fun, meet new friends and fall in love with a new sport. Further events will follow throughout the year.

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

**Autumn Term**

October 2019	21 <sup>st</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school Author visit
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	School photographs. <b>Please notify the office by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October if you do not want your child to have a school photograph taken.</b>
November 2019	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Flu immunisations YR-Y6
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Maths Information Session - 9am in ICT Suite
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Open Morning
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Reading Information Session – 9am in ICT Suite
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Thu	Christmas Fair 3-5.30pm
	21 <sup>st</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>		Scholastic Book Fair
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Class 4 assembly 2.45pm
December 2019	5 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Class 2 assembly 2.45pm
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 1 Learning Café
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Christmas Coffee Morning – details to follow
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Christmas lunch
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9.30am in the school hall Whole school Carol Service – 6pm at St Mary's Church
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Pantomime for Y1-Y6
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Last day of term
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	School closed for staff Professional Development Day

**Spring Term**

January 2020	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Class 1 assembly 2.45pm – details to follow
February 2020	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>		Half term break
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2020	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 3 assembly 2.45pm – details to follow
April 2020	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Last day of spring term
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thu	School closed for staff Professional Development Day

**Summer Term**

April 2020	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
May 2020	8 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	School closed for Bank Holiday
	11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>		Key Stage 2 SATs
	25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>		Half term break
June 2020	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>		Statutory Phonics Screening Check for all children in Y1 and those in Y2 who did not meet the standard in Y1
July 2020	21 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	Last day of summer term
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	School closed for Staff Professional Development Day