



# July 2020 Newsletter



I cannot quite believe that I am writing the last newsletter of the school year. I have missed sharing with you what has been happening in school and hope this final newsletter of the year gives you a summary of school life over the last few months.

## **June Re-opening**

It was lovely welcoming Reception, Y1 and Y6 into school again back in June. The children were all amazing, quickly settling down to the new routines in school, their resilience an inspiration to us all.

## **September**

I hope that you have all seen the letter regarding September emailed out earlier in the week. We are really excited about the prospect of having all our children back together again and have put in a number of measures to minimise the risk to both them and the adults in school. Our risk assessment will soon be available on the school website. If you have any questions or concerns about September, please contact me so we can discuss these.

## **Y6 Leavers**

I cannot believe that it is time to say goodbye to our Y6 children. Having taught them myself last year, I know what a fantastic year group they are and how much we will miss them. It seems so unfair that they have missed out on all the events we had planned for them, but we hope they enjoy their farewell picnic on the last day of term. Hopefully, all being well, we would like to invite them and their parents back to school at some point next year to say a proper goodbye to the school. Good luck to you all in your new schools and for the future - you will be missed!

## **End of Year Awards**

This year, we did not feel it would be fair to single out children for awards when they all have worked hard at home and coped with so much disruption during the pandemic. Mrs Mackinder's family still wanted to donate the money to the school that would normally go towards the Mackinder award and we decided to use this to enable us to award all children with a special 'Home Learning Superstar' certificate. The children will receive these before the end of term.

### **Home Learning**

I just want to say a huge well done to all our children and parents for surviving home schooling! Having supported my own son at home, I realise how challenging it can be; you should all be proud of what you have achieved together. From the many emails and photos we have received, it is clear that there's been some fantastic work happening at home. Well done everyone – you are all home learning superstars!

### **Times Tables Rockstars**

I am really pleased to inform you that we have secured an annual school subscription to Times Tables Rockstars. I know that many of the children have used this over the lockdown period and their times table recall has improved significantly as a result. Thank you to Miss Pennock for her hard work in setting this up and monitoring children's progress. I encourage the children to keep playing it over the summer holidays as a sound understanding of times table facts is key in being a successful mathematician.

### **Reports**

I hope that you will by now all have received your child's report. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the report, please contact me to arrange a meeting or telephone call from your child's teacher.

### **The Rainbow Run**

Well done to all the children, and indeed adults, who joined in with the WNSSP's Rainbow Run last month. We received many photos of the children clocking up the miles and created a colourful display in school to celebrate.



### **Sainsbury's School Games Award**

We are thrilled to have been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Gold award for the third year running. This award is quite difficult to achieve in a small school and highlights our commitment to delivering a high quality PE curriculum to our pupils. A huge thank you to Mrs Henden for her hard work in this area.

## **VE Day**

Thank you to all of you who shared photos of your VE Day celebrations with us. We are proud of our school display showing how the Denver School community joined together to mark such a significant event.



## **Mothering Sunday Posies**

Way back in March, the ladies of Denver Church gave up their time again to help the children make Mothering Sunday posies. The children always enjoy the visits from the ladies and produced some lovely posies, which I'm sure you mums appreciated. Thank you once again to the ladies for their support of the school this year – it really is appreciated.

## **Australian Fundraiser**

You will remember earlier in the year that the school, inspired by Finley in Class 4, raised a considerable amount of money to support the animals suffering due to the devastating bush fires in Australia. We have recently received a lovely thank you card from RSPCA Australia thanking us for our efforts. Well done to you all once again.

## **Behaviour Policy**

In September, we will be implementing a new behaviour policy, with a strong focus on positive behaviour strategies. We will be using Class Dojo to reward children and share their successes with you. I will write to you in September to give further details about the policy and how it will work in school.

## **Online Correspondence**

In the new school year, we aim to send out all correspondence e.g. letters, newsletters etc. via email. We have been doing this more recently and it is a much more effective way of communicating with you. Online correspondence will help us in our aim to become an Eco School by cutting down on the amount of paper we use. Paper copies will still be available on request.

**Online Payments**

You will have already received communication from the school office about making online payments to us from September. This is a more secure way to pay as it will enable us to avoid having cash and cheques in school and will be a more convenient way for you to send money to us. We will send out more information about this in the new term.

**Before School Club**

We had lots of positive feedback earlier in the year about starting a Before School Club and we are keen to have this up and running by October half term. More information will follow in the autumn term.

**Website**

I am really excited to inform you that we will have a new school website in September. It is currently being designed and I hope that you will find the new version much more user-friendly. Fingers crossed it should go live ready for the beginning of term.

**Volunteers**

We are very keen to have more volunteers in school to listen to readers, help on school trips etc. If you feel you have some time to spare, please come and see me in September. We would be grateful for any extra support.

**And Finally...**

I just want to finish by expressing my sincere thanks to the school community (children, parents, staff and governors) for the support I have received in my first year of headship. It has been a challenging year due to COVID-19, but I feel really proud of what we, as a school, have achieved. These have been unprecedented circumstances and we have all had to adapt quickly to new ways of working and supporting learning. Denver is a fantastic school, full of amazing children, and I feel very lucky to be part of such a strong community.

I had many things I wanted to achieve this year, many of which have not been able to happen, but I am really excited about implementing these in the year ahead. Things will be a little different in September, but I know we can continue to work together to support and do the very best for our children.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Take care and stay safe.

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

**Autumn Term**

September 2020	7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
October 2020	22 <sup>nd</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	School closed for half term
November 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
December 2020	18 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of autumn term

**Spring Term**

January 2021	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
February 2021	15 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2021	26 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of spring term

**Summer Term**

April 2021	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
May 2021	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	31 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> June		School closed for half term
June 2021	7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2021	21 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Last day of summer term