



MAY 2021

NEWSLETTER



I cannot believe that we are now halfway through the summer term as it doesn't feel like we have had much in the way of fine, warm weather yet. Fingers crossed for some sunshine over the half term break! It has been a busy half term in school, and although very little has changed in the way of restrictions for schools, we are slowly trying to introduce more and more back into school life.

Oakes Court

You will remember from the last newsletter that the children sent Easter messages and cards to a local care home, Oakes Court. The residents were so pleased to receive these and expressed an interest in becoming pen pals with some of the children. I asked the children who were interested to ask for a resident's name and I was so impressed by the response - 20 children wrote a pen pal letter, and in their own time. What a fantastic sense of community spirit! We are eagerly awaiting the responses.

School Garden

Our wellbeing gardening group have been extremely busy this term and just look at what they have achieved! We now have a variety of vegetables growing, including potatoes, broad beans, onions and beetroot, along with sunflowers and a number of other plants. It is just wonderful to see the school garden becoming more established and I'm sure you will agree from the photos below that the gardeners are doing a fantastic job.



Cycle Shelters

As part of our ongoing aim to promote both physical and mental health with our children, I am very pleased to inform you that we will soon be installing some new cycle racks and shelters to enable the children to cycle to school, should they so wish. The shelters will be positioned on the school field, near to the conifer hedge. Work to install the concrete bases will take place over the half term break and we are hoping that the project will be finished in

the next half term to allow the children to start cycling to school before the summer holidays. More details will follow as the project nears completion.

Staff Update

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our Cook Manager, Jill Palmer, today. Jill has worked at Denver for almost 20 years and been at the very heart of our school community. We would like to say a huge thank you to her for her hard work and dedication to her role and the school over the years – she will be greatly missed! Here is a little something Jill wished to share in the newsletter...

Dear Denver Parents and Children

As you all know, I am leaving Denver School kitchen on Friday 28th May, after nearly 20 years, due to the changes which Norse have made – and I feel it is the right time for me to go. I would like to thank all of you for your support and kindness over the years. It is certainly going to be a very sad day. On a happier note, I am really looking forward to volunteering in school so I will still be able to see everyone and remain part of the Denver School family.

Thanks again to everyone!

Jill



Although we are so sad that Jill is leaving, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Fenn, who currently works as the Catering Assistant in the kitchen, will be taking over as Cook Manager after half term. We wish her well in her new role and know that she will carry on Jill's fantastic work.

Uniform

Please can we ask that you check your child's uniform over the half term break as we have had a number of parents contact us about various missing items. We strongly recommend that all items of uniform are named, particularly in the summer months when children are likely to take off their jumpers – it makes it much easier for us to identify lost items.

Eat Them to Defeat Them Campaign

After half term we are engaging with this year's Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign to encourage children to eat more vegetables. It is award-winning and proven to make eating vegetables more fun. This week the children will have brought home their missions packs, including a reward chart and stickers so that parents can encourage them to eat their fruit and vegetables at home.

We were very excited this week to be contacted by ITV News wanting to come into school to film the children engaging in the campaign. A film crew will be coming in on Tuesday 8th June to film the children at lunchtime eating their lunch. The first item in the campaign is the tomato, therefore tomatoes will be on the menu for school dinners. We would encourage those children who have a packed lunch to include tomatoes in their lunchboxes during the week. Children will receive stickers in the lunch hall each day for trying the fruit/vegetable of

the week. If you do not wish for your child to be involved in the filming, please email the office by Monday 7th June.



School Photographs

We are aware that some parents found the school photographs quite expensive this year, therefore we will look around at different photographers for next year to ensure that prices are reasonable for our parents.

Stranger Danger

Following a reported incident of a child attending a local primary school being approached by a stranger on their way to school this week, we recommend that you all talk to your child about the importance of stranger danger and keeping themselves safe over the half term break, something we have already done in school this week.

Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Competition

The children have now all designed their own stamp to honour the heroes of the coronavirus pandemic and these have been sent off. There were some absolutely wonderful designs and it was lovely to see the range of heroes the children had chosen to honour.

Maths Flex Homework

We are very aware that there have been many technical issues with Maths Flex throughout the year, although we believe that the majority of the problems have now been resolved. The maths nuggets set on Maths Flex each week in both Class 3 and 4 need to be completed by all children as this is their homework. If the children cannot complete these for whatever reason, paper homework will be set.

Walk to School Week – 17th-21st

Well done to all the children (and indeed their parents/carers) who took part in Walk to School Week from 17th-21st May. It was a great effort by everyone to be more active during the week and we hope that it will encourage the children to want to walk to school more often.

Contact Tracing

Over half term, if any of the children develop symptoms and test positive for Covid-19, please inform us as soon as possible to enable us to work with PHE and Track and Trace to contact those who may need to self-isolate. If you need to contact the school for this reason, please email office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk.

Emails

The school office have asked me to remind all parents to check their emails regularly, particularly as we are sending out more and more communication this way. Thank you.

Communication with Teachers

We are really pleased that online communication channels between parents and the class teachers are working well, although we respectfully ask that emails are not sent to the class teachers after 6pm for their wellbeing and to protect their work-life balance.

Y6 Leavers' Hoodies

The children in Y6 have all had the opportunity to purchase a leavers' hoodie, displaying all of their names, to help them to remember their time with us here at Denver. We are hoping that the hoodies will arrive soon so the children can wear them in school during their last half term with us.

Denver Cricket Club

Please can we ask that the children do not climb or play on Denver Cricket Club's sight stands before and after school, thank you.

Denver Car Boot

The Playing Field Committee continue to work hard to raise funds to improve the car park through the Denver Car Boot. The next car boot is Sunday 6th June, and then fortnightly after that. Sellers can set up from 8am, buyers from 9am. Entrance costs 20p for buyers over 16 years of age and pitch fees cost £5.00. Each car boot finishes at 12 noon. There's no need to book, just turn up, apart from 18th July, Village Fun Day - details on how to make a booking for that to follow.

Friends' Update

Balloon Race

Thank you to all those who purchased balloons for the May Day virtual balloon race. The event raised a super £48.64.

Bingo Fun

The Friends organised their second virtual bingo night on Saturday 8th May and it proved to be very popular once again, raising a great profit of £128.00. A huge thank you to Matt Valentine for being the amazing bingo caller and to all the families who joined us for a fun evening.

Father's Day Cards and Coasters

The Father's Day cards and coasters raised a pleasing £48.98 for the Friends. The children's designs were very impressive and I'm sure you dads out there will be pleased to receive them on Father's Day. Thank you to all who supported this event.

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile has also raised £7.66 this term.

So that makes a grand total of... £233.28 raised by the Friends this half term, and that's without the Sponsored Walk money. What a fantastic amount! Thank you to the members of the Friends for their hard work in organising these events for the benefit of the children and the school.

Sport Update

Cricket

This half term, we were lucky enough to run an after school cricket club for children in Class 4. The club was run by Martyn Wardle and one of our former pupils, Erin Folker. The children really enjoyed developing their batting, bowling and fielding skills, and particularly loved playing matches. A huge thank you to both Martyn and Erin for giving up their valuable time.

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

This half term, Class 3 have been engaging with the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind programme run by The West Norfolk School Partnership Programme. The weekly lessons, which were made up of both classroom sessions and physical activity, were designed to encourage the children to lead an active lifestyle and to eat healthily. The children explored which foods were better to eat and which foods they should be eating less of. They also learnt the importance of drinking to keep their bodies healthy. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and here are some of their comments:

'When we had Sam for PE we learnt that we should try to eat 5 fruits and vegetables a day.'
Emie

'In the sessions with Sam we wrote in our booklets all about healthy eating and then we would do PE. Sam was very kind and explained about healthy eating. Lots of people really enjoyed it.'
Kayla

'Keeping healthy isn't just about eating, it is about exercise as well.'
Saffron

'We did fun games like cup stacking. We played a memory game where Sam stacked the cups, hid them behind a board and we had to remember them.'
Mia

'The final week we played dodgeball and I am really good at dodging but I am not so good at hitting people with the ball.' Jessica



Bikeability

At the beginning of May the children in Year 5 took part in four days of intensive cycle training, 'Bikeability,' organised by Outspoken Training to enhance both their PE skills and RSHE safety curricula.

Day 1 involved onsite training where the children learnt how to inspect and adjust their bikes and to perform manoeuvres in the safety and familiarity of the school grounds. Completion of day 1 training resulted in the achievement of the Bikeability Level 1 award.

Once this was successfully completed, the children then progressed to the local roads with the two instructors and Miss Waters. They were able to put into practice the skills taught on day one with real life hazards such as pedestrians and traffic (and, of course, the inclement weather!). They also learnt aspects of the Highway Code. The completion of these three days of additional training earned the children the Bikeability Level 2 award.

It was a delight to hear of the children's successes. Some of the children were very nervous at the start of the week but they tackled the challenges and made positive progress in self-belief as well as cycling competence.

We are immensely proud of the children who were an absolute credit to the school. Kevin and Rob, the instructors, remarked on numerous occasions how much they have enjoyed working with our Year 5 children. They referred to them as enthusiastic, skilled, delightfully polite, respectful, very well-behaved and sensible. As they left they fed back about how much they had enjoyed their 4 days at Denver, in particular, about what a warm, welcoming and friendly school we were.



Multiskills

Throughout this half term, Tom from NCSF (Norwich Community Sports Foundation) has been coming into school each Friday afternoon to deliver multiskills PE lessons to Class 3 and Class 4. Today was Tom's last day working for NCSF; his replacement Sam (who is already familiar with the school) will deliver multiskills lessons to Class 1 and Class 2 on Fridays after half term.

Forthcoming Events

It is still very difficult for us to plan events for the rest of this academic year, however here are some we have already organised.

Great British Spring Clean – 8th-10th June

We plan on engaging with the Great British Spring Clean event running from 28th May to 13th June. We contacted Norfolk County Council a few weeks back and arranged to borrow a community litter pick kit from Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th June. Small groups of children from each class will use the kit to collect rubbish both in the school ground and around the village to help to Keep Britain Tidy.



Sports Day – 22nd June

Just a reminder that our annual Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 22nd June this year. It will take a different format than normal with both KS1 and KS2 joining in with traditional races to avoid the mixing of bubbles. At this point, we still do not know if parents will be able to spectate, but we will try to achieve this if at all possible. Should the weather not be kind to us, we have a reserve date for Wednesday 23rd June.

Eaton Vale- 28th and 29th June

The Y6 children will be attending 2 day visits to Eaton Vale on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th June. The children will take part in a variety of different outdoor and adventurous activities and I know they are very much looking forward to it.

Bag2School

The Friends have organised another clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School on Friday 2nd July. So why not have a spring clean and fill some bags with unwanted textiles to help the Friends to raise money.

Parent Consultation Evenings – 14th and 15th July

Parent Consultation Evenings will take place via Teams on 14th and 15th July. More details will follow after half term.

Denver Fun Day – 18th July

The Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 18th July. The school choir will be performing between 12.15 and 1pm and The Friends of Denver School will also have a stall.

Y6 Leavers' Picnic

To say farewell to our Y6 children, we have arranged for a Leavers' Picnic on Tuesday 20th July from 3.15-4.30pm. More details will follow after half term.

And finally...

I hope you all enjoy a restful half term and are able to spend some time with your friends and family. The weather forecast is looking promising so let's hope we can all enjoy some much needed sunshine. Take care and stay safe and we will see you back in school on Monday 7th June.

Dates for your diary - please keep for future reference:

Summer Term

June 2021	7 th	Mon	Children return to school
	8 th - 10 th	Tue-Thu	Great British Spring Clean
	22 nd	Tue	Sports Day
	23 rd	Wed	Reserve Sports Day
	28 th - 29 th	Mon-Tue	Eaton Vale day visits for Y6
July 2021	2 nd	Fri	Bag2School collection
	14 th - 15 th	Wed-Thu	Parent Consultation Evenings
	18 th	Sun	Denver Fun Day
	20 th	Tue	Y6 Leavers' Picnic
	21 st	Wed	Last day of summer term