



October 2021

Newsletter



The first half term of the year has absolutely flown by! The children are now settled in their new year groups/classes and I know they are really enjoying being able to mix with each other once again. This newsletter will reflect on what has been happening in school over the last month, but also looks forward to the busy half term ahead.

Shoe Box Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items for the Rotary Shoebox Scheme. We have managed to fill an impressive 27 shoeboxes so far, although I know this number will rise as we have received many more donations this week. Thank you to everyone for supporting this scheme, what a fantastic effort! These will be sent to countries across Central and Eastern Europe to spread a little happiness to those less fortunate than ourselves. A huge thank you to Jo Walton, one of our Foundation Governors, for making up the shoeboxes.

Harvest Assembly

On 7th October, we held our Harvest assembly in St Mary's Church, Denver. It was so lovely to see all the children back in the church once again, and for many it was their first time. The School Council members offered readings and Class 4 shared a selection of harvest acrostic poems and a prayer they had written as a class. A massive thank you to former Denver pupil, Thomas Burt, who kindly played the organ for us. We hope to visit the church more throughout the school year.



Foodbank Donations

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we asked the children to bring in items to donate to the local foodbank and we were thrilled by the fantastic response. Here is a photo of the School Council with your very generous donations, thank you!



School Choir

The school choir have been working hard this term and they treated the school to a wonderful performance in our Collective Worship this week. One of the highlights was a song specially written about this term's Christian value of kindness. We all thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were particularly impressed by Sophia's solo.



Staff News

I am pleased to inform you that Chloe Loveridge has joined our staff team as a Teaching Assistant. She has been volunteering in school for the past 3 years and therefore knows the school well. She will be working in Class 4.

School Lunches

The new autumn/winter lunch menu will start after half term. This is available on the school website. School lunches are now £2.35 each day.

It's Good to Grow

Just a reminder that we are collecting the Morrisons 'It's Good to Grow' tokens to inspire our children to get outdoors, grow, learn and enjoy fresh produce. Every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll receive a Grow Token which we will be able to exchange for free gardening equipment to get our children growing. To start collecting Grow Tokens you need to download the MyMorrisons app and choose Denver VC Primary.



Open Morning

Last Friday, we hosted a successful Open Morning for new Reception starters for next September. The parents and children were given a tour of the school by some of our Y6 pupils, and then spent some time in Class 1. If you know of anyone who could not make the open morning but would like to arrange a visit to the school, please get them to contact the school office to arrange this.

Ely Cathedral Schools' Day – 18th October

On Monday, the children in Class 3 joined many other schools across the diocese for an online Ely Cathedral Schools' Day. The aim of that day was to investigate the refugee experience and the vulnerabilities that come with being forced to flee your home. Despite a few initial technical difficulties, the children eventually managed to join the live sessions. Ella-Rose said that she enjoyed watching the sanctuary video because it made her feel lots of emotions. Millie, Eric and Grace all enjoyed creating an emotion chart about how the two characters, Edyth and Byrtha, would have felt having to leave their home.

Class 4 RSHE with Norfolk Constabulary

As part of our ongoing learning about British Values and mental wellbeing, in their RSHE lesson last week Class 4 joined a large number of Norfolk Schools in a TEAMS meeting with PC Hazel Taplin of Norfolk Constabulary. The main focus of the session was to encourage people to have mutual respect for one another regardless of our many differences. The session was arranged to raise awareness of Hate Crime Awareness week.

The children learnt that children from age 10 are considered to have enough knowledge of right and wrong that, in the eyes of the law, they have 'criminal responsibility' and can be arrested for deliberate acts of malice. A range of scenarios such as using abusive language and taking things without permission were discussed. Hazel made sure to reassure children that normally if children do carry out such acts it is enough to have a discussion to resolve the issue rather than to make an arrest.

They also learnt about what constitutes a 'Hate Crime'. These occur where people deliberately carry out crimes against people because they are different. These differences could be nationality and culture, race, religion, choices and opinions, sexual orientation, image and identity and disabilities (including those such as autism and ADHD which are not always obvious to see).

They learnt that in law through the Equalities Act 2010 there are protected characteristics that it is considered an offence to aim negative behaviours at. These include:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex

The session concluded with signposting to a range of agencies that are available to help, including Childline and the Norfolk Constabulary website and emergency numbers 999 and 101.

Covid-19

As I am sure you are aware, Covid-19 cases are rising across the country, including in Norfolk. Schools have been advised to have a renewed emphasis on the general preventative measures which we know help to reduce Covid-19 transmission within schools. These include staff and pupils staying at home when unwell; taking a PCR test if they have symptoms of Covid-19; ensuring that schools and classrooms are well ventilated; and ensuring good hand hygiene. Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible by following these measures and keeping us informed of any cases within households.

Colder Weather

As mentioned above, one of the key preventative measures we have to reduce Covid-19 transmission is to maximise ventilation in school by having doors and windows open wherever possible. We have been rather fortunate of late with the unseasonably mild weather we have been experiencing, although as we head into colder weather we recommend that the children wear appropriate clothing, for example jumpers, long sleeves, vests, thick tights etc. Children will also be allowed to wear coats in classrooms if the weather is particularly cold.

Illness

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, please remember that they should not return to school until 48 hours since their last bout. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bank Holiday

Due to the extra bank holiday for Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which falls with the May half term break, the children will not return to school until Thursday 6th January following the Christmas break.

Friends' Update

The Friends have been busy this term organising the calendar of fundraising events for this academic year. They are always looking for new members or people who are willing to help at different events, therefore if you would like to be involved, or can help out at a particular event, please talk to one of the members.

Fund Raising

Thank you to all the children who filled their raisin packets for our first ever 'Fund Raising'. The total amount collected was a fantastic £97.29! Thank you to all who supported this.

Class 1 Photographs

Photographs of our new Reception children are now available to purchase to raise money for the Friends. These will be available for Reception parents/carers to look at when they pick up their children at the end of the school day. Please can orders be placed by half term.

Bags2School

Just a reminder that the next Bag2school collection is organised for 11th November. This is an excellent opportunity to have a clear out at home and also raise money for the Friends.

Christmas Coffee Morning

The Friends are organising a Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday 10th December. If you have Christmas jumpers your child/ren have outgrown, please bring them along to school and pick up a larger replacement for a donation to The Friends.

Christmas Card Fundraiser

The children have been busy in school completing their designs for this year's Christmas card fundraiser. The designs and details about how to place orders will be made available after half term.

2022 Calendar

The Friends are hoping to produce a 2022 calendar with pictures drawn by the children. More details will follow after half term.

Forthcoming Events

School Photographs – 2nd November

School photographs will take place on Tuesday 2nd November. If you do not wish your child to have their photograph taken, please let the school office know by 1st November. Children should wear full school uniform; if they have PE on this day, they should bring their PE kit to school to change into.

Cross Country – 4th November

The cluster cross country event is taking place on Thursday 4th November. Children in KS2 took part in an intra-school cross country event last week and those who performed particularly well were chosen to go forward to the cluster event. Good luck to all of our runners!

Remembrance Assembly – 11th November

We will be having a remembrance assembly in school on 11th November. Poppies and associated merchandise will be available for the children to purchase daily after half term until 11th November.

Parent Consultation Evenings – 11th and 17th November

Our parent consultation evenings will be coming up soon after half term. These provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments will take place via Teams and will be available to book after half term. We will also be offering parents/carers the opportunity to come into school during our collective worship time (2.55-3.10pm) on the dates below to look through your child's work. We ask that parents/carers wear masks on the school site. The dates are as follows:

- Reception – 12th November
 - Y1 – 8th November
 - Y2 - 9th November
 - Y3 – 15th November
 - Y4 – 16th November
 - Y5 – 23rd November
 - Y6 – 25th November

Flu Immunisations – 12th November

Flu immunisations, for those children whose parents have completed the consent form, will take place in school on Friday 12th November. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Children in Need – 12th November

The School Council have once again chosen Children in Need as this year's charity to support. They have organised a non-uniform day on Friday 12th November and are asking the children to dress up in brightly coloured clothing (spots or Pudsey themed optional) for a suggested donation of £1. Donations will be collected by the School Council members. Biscuits, kindly baked by Mrs Fenn, will also be sold for 50p each.

Class 4 Space Centre Visit – 26th November

After the half-term break Class 4 will be studying Earth and Space in their science lessons. To further their learning, Mrs Henden has arranged for them to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester. This visit will include entry to the main learning exhibition zone and 'Rocket Tower' as well as entry to the Planetarium. This is a really exciting opportunity and we hope that they have a fantastic time. A huge thank you to The Friends for funding the coach.

Sports News

Fab Racing Double British Champion

Archie, in Year 6, has recently been crowned the Fab Racing Double British Champion. He raced in two classes of the Fab Racing Mini Bike Championships and was the only child to take the double title this year, all at the age of 10. Over the whole season, he has beaten two lap records and achieved pole position in all but one of his races. He also finished 193 points ahead in the AC40 Pro and 125 point ahead in the LC40 Elites. As Archie has won the championship in the Elite (Premier Class), he is now moving up to bigger bikes where I'm sure his success will continue. What a fantastic result, well done Archie!





Active Kids – 19th October

On Tuesday the Y1 children participated in the first Active Kids festival at Lynnsport. They enjoyed taking part in a variety of different multi-skills activities and their behaviour was exemplary. Here are some of the children in action:



And finally...

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing you back on 1st November. Take care and stay safe!

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| October 2021 | 25 th – 29 th | | School closed for half term |
| November 2021 | 1 st | Mon | Children return to school |
| | 2 nd | Tue | School Photographs |
| | 4 th | Thu | Cluster Cross Country |
| | 11 th | Thu | Parent Consultation Evening |
| | 11 th | Thu | Bag2School |
| | 11 th | Thu | Remembrance Day |
| | 12 th | Fri | Flu Vaccinations |
| | 12 th | Fri | Children in Need |
| | 17 th | Wed | Parent Consultation Evening |
| | 26 th | Fri | Class 4 Space Centre Visit |
| December 2021 | 10 th | Fri | Christmas Coffee Morning |
| | 17 th | Fri | Last day of autumn term |

Spring Term

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|---------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| January 2022 | 6 th | Thu | Children return to school |
| February 2022 | 14 th -18 th | | School closed for half term |
| | 21 st | Mon | Children return to school |
| March 2022 | | | |
| April | 1 st | Fri | Last day of spring term |
| | 20 th | Wed | Children return to school |

Summer Term

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|-----------|---|-----|--------------------------------|
| May 2022 | 2 nd | Mon | School closed for Bank Holiday |
| | 30 th - 3 rd June | | School closed for half term |
| June 2022 | 6 th | Mon | Children return to school |
| July 2022 | 22 nd | Fri | Last day of summer term |