

November 2021

Newsletter



Welcome to our November newsletter. With only 3 weeks now until we break up for Christmas, life is very busy in school. Whenever I write these newsletters, it always surprises me what we have achieved in school each month, and this month, as you will see, was no exception.

Class 4 Space Centre Visit

Last Friday, the children in Class 4 visited the National Space Centre in Leicester to further their learning in their science Earth and Space topic. The children spent time exploring the interactive galleries and a real hit was the 'Weather Pod' where the children were able to broadcast weather forecasts. They also had time to explore the Rocket Tower. The highlight of the day was the Planetarium, a large 3D cinema, where the children watched a film called 'Astronaut.' The effects were very powerful and the children genuinely felt as though they were moving through space. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children and we are incredibly grateful to The Friends of Denver School for funding the coach. A huge thank you also goes out to the staff and volunteers, along with the children for their enthusiasm and good behaviour.



Remembrance

On November 11th, we held a special assembly in school to mark Remembrance Day. We also welcomed a special visitor, Trigger the poppy horse, who wore a blanket covered in beautiful poppies. Trigger's visit helped the children to understand that it was not only people who died in wartime, but also animals – in fact a staggering eight million horses, donkeys and mules were killed during the First World War. The children really enjoyed meeting Trigger and I know the visit made remembrance more special to them.



Grace, in Class 3, whose dad is a serving member of the armed forces, laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the school at the memorial in Denver on Remembrance Sunday.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week took place from 15th-19th November and the theme this year was 'One Kind Word'. We started the week by having an Odd Socks Day to celebrate that we are all unique. The day sent out an important message that all children should be allowed to be themselves and free from bullying. The children were also encouraged to share kind words with each other and we even created a Mexican wave in collective worship to illustrate the ripple effect of how one kind word leads to another. Well done to all the children for promoting this very important message, and of course for wearing such brightly coloured odd socks!



Downham Rotary Club Dictionary Donations

Downham Rotary Club have kindly donated a number of dictionaries to be shared between Class 3 and Class 4. The illustrated dictionaries are fantastic resources which I am sure will be well-used by the children. A huge thank you to the Rotary Club for their generosity!



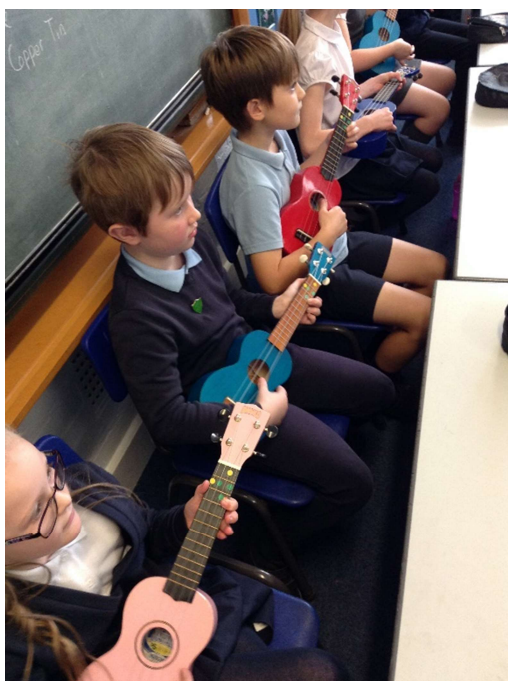
Children in Need

On 19th November, the school was filled with a wide array of colourful outfits as we held a non-uniform day to support this year's Children in Need appeal. Mrs Fenn kindly made some delicious Pudsey biscuits which were sold at break time. Thank you to the members of the School Council who collected money on the day and also sold the delicious biscuits. In total we raised an impressive £152.99 – an amazing effort! Thank you for helping us to support such a good cause.



Ukulele Fun

Throughout the autumn term, Class 3 have been lucky enough to take part in ukulele lessons with Mr Draycott from Norfolk Music Hub. They have been taking part in group songs and some have even been brave enough to try solos. Here are some photos of them in action.



Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all parents who engaged with our recent parent consultations. It was also lovely to invite parents/carers into the classrooms to look at work and the displays. It is really important that we maintain a good dialogue between home and school so we can support each child effectively and help them to thrive. If for any reason you have missed this opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, please contact us and we will arrange for them to contact you.

Clubs

Just a reminder that this week (29th November – 3rd December) is the last week for clubs this term, with the exception of Performance Club and Y6 Booster which both end on the week commencing 6th December, and Craft Club which continues until the end of term. I would like to thank all the people who have lead after school clubs – we really do appreciate it. Clubs will resume again in January and a letter will be sent out at the beginning of term giving further details.

Christmas Decorations

Last week, we decided it was time for the Christmas decorations to be put up and the children at Before School Club were tasked with the role of putting up the Christmas tree - I am sure you will agree they have done a great job!



Christmas Cards

This week we have dusted off the Christmas post box ready for the children to post all their Christmas cards to their friends and staff members. Please ensure that envelopes clearly show the recipient's first and the initial of their last name, along with their class, to ensure that cards can be delivered successfully. Cards can be brought into school to be posted from now until the last day of term, Friday 17th December.

First Admission to School

We have been asked by the Local Authority to remind parents that applications for children starting school in Reception next September need to be made by 15th January 2022. The easiest way for parents to apply is online at www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk or they can request an application form from the Customer Services Centre on 0344 800 8020. If anyone is interested in their child starting here at Denver next September, or knows of anyone else who is interested, please contact the office to arrange a visit.

Attendance

The Government remains very clear that schools must aim to have the highest attendance possible for all their pupils in order for them to achieve their maximum potential. An attendance below 90% is regarded as persistent absence. Over the course of the autumn term there will have been a possible 140 sessions, both morning and afternoon. Any child who has been absent for more than 14 sessions or 7 whole days, will therefore fall into the persistent absence category. We recognise that there have been some rather nasty bugs circulating this term, along with the continuing difficulties posed by Covid-19, however any attendance under 90% still remains a cause for concern. We want to ensure that all children attend school regularly, unless they are too ill to do so, to ensure that their learning is not impacted. If your child is absent from school, please inform the school on a daily basis to keep us informed.

Colder Weather

Just to remind you that it can be quite cold in school due to the need for us to have windows and doors open for ventilation, especially with the recent cold spell. Please send your child/ren to school in warm clothing, for example jumpers, long sleeves, vests, thick tights etc. Thank you.

Pupil Safety Questionnaire

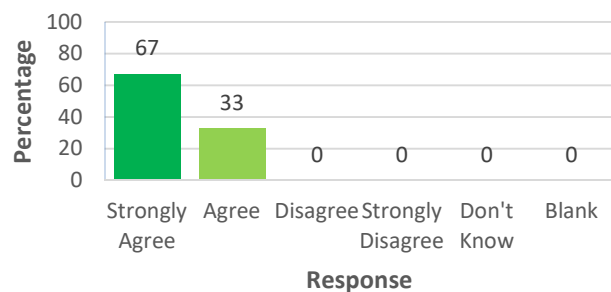
Earlier in the term, our wellbeing ambassadors, Sonny and Kaylee worked with me to develop the following Pupil Safety Questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed by the children across all classes in school, with questions being explained individually to the younger children, and reassuringly the majority of the children feel safe in school.

		Yes	No	Don't Know
1	I feel safe at school.	95%	0%	5%
2	I feel safe when I am not at school.	86%	4%	10%
3	I have trusted adults I can talk to.	96%	0	4%
4	I understand what bullying is.	91%	4%	5%
5	I know what to do if I am being bullied, or a friend is.	94%	2%	4%
6	I know how to keep myself safe online.	87%	1%	12%
7	I know what to do if something worries me when I am on the computer.	90%	2%	8%
8	I know what to do if there is a fire at school	99%	0%	1%
9	I know how to prevent germs being spread.	95%	0%	5%
10	I am happy at school.	90%	5%	5%

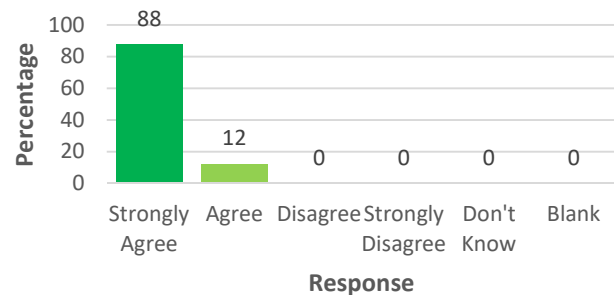
Parent Questionnaires

I would like to thank all the parents who completed the recent Parent Questionnaire. We received 49 responses in total. Your feedback has been extremely valuable and we appreciate you taking the time to share your views. We are also looking closely at the comments made by many of you to identify ways in which we can continue to improve as a school. Here are the results, which I hope you will agree are overwhelmingly positive:

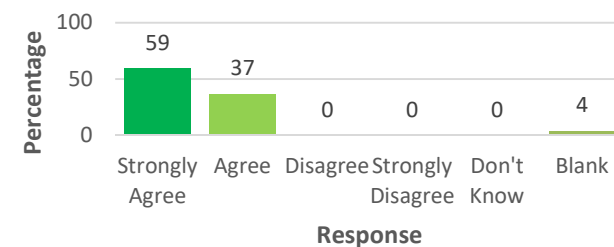
My child is happy at this school



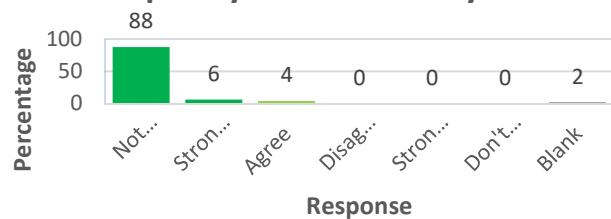
My child feels safe at this school



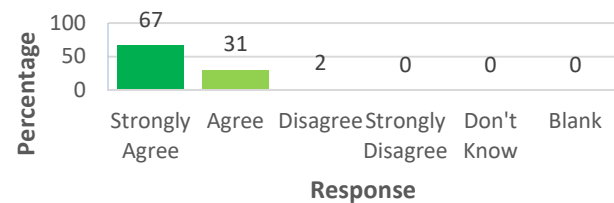
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved



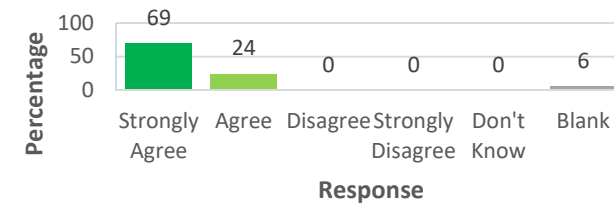
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively



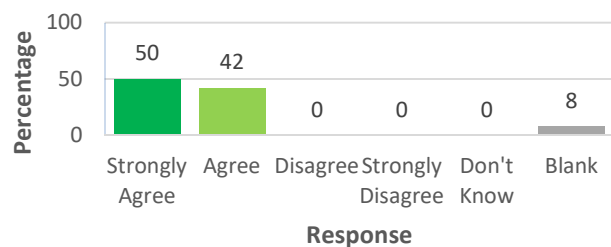
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year



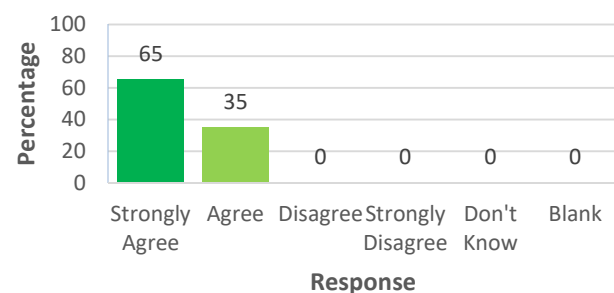
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly



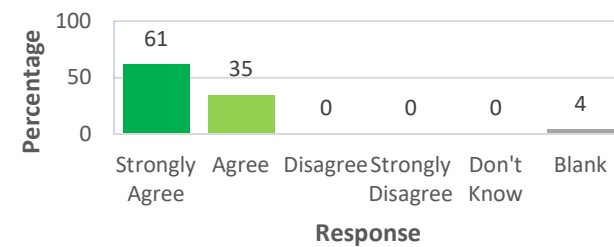
The school has high expectations for my child



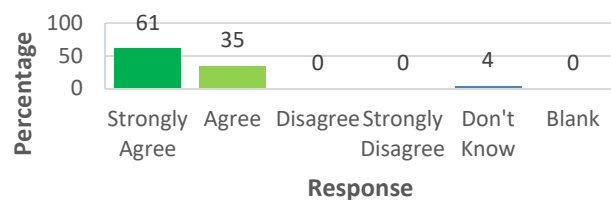
My child does well at this school



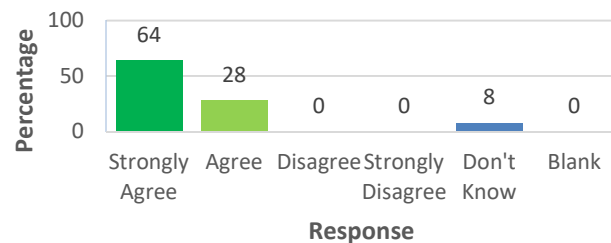
The school lets me know how my child is doing



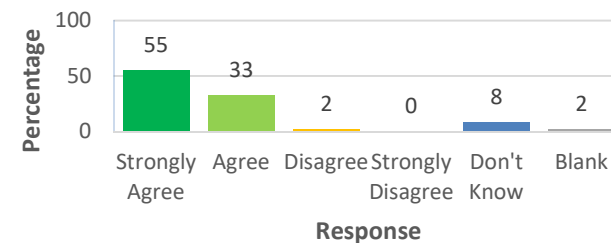
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school



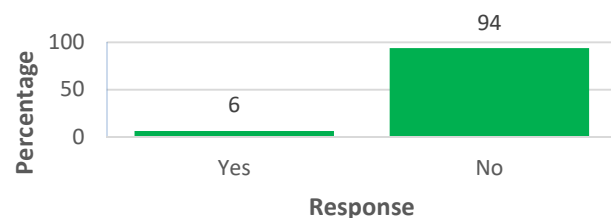
The school supports my child's wider personal development



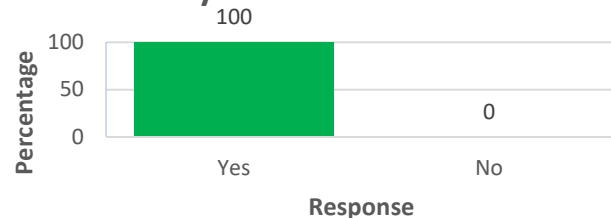
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school



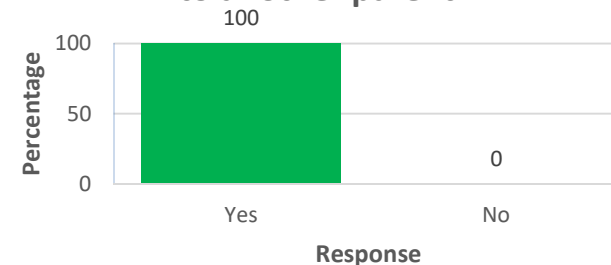
Does your child have special education needs and/or disabilities?



My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed



I would recommend this school to another parent



Covid-19

I am sure you will all be aware of the news of the new variant that broke over the weekend. Some measures have now been re-introduced for schools, including limiting visitors and asking staff to wear face masks in communal areas. These are, once again, uncertain times for us all as we do not know what will happen over the next few weeks. At the moment we plan to continue with the majority of events we have planned for the end of term, although please understand that changes, although extremely difficult to make, may be necessary, depending on local and government guidance. We will keep you fully informed over the next few weeks. In the meantime, please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible by following the measures we have in place and keeping us informed of any cases within households.

Crisp Packets

We are collecting empty foil crisp packets to support a local challenge to turn these into blankets for homeless people. A collection box will be placed in the school hall.

Friends' Update

Class 1 Photographs

The sale of photographs of our new Reception children raised an impressive £80.28. A huge thank you to all who ordered these lovely mementos.

Bags2School

The recent Bags2school collection raised a pleasing £36.00. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.

Easy Fundraising

Funds from Easyfundraising stands at £18.67 for this term. Easyfundraising is a really simple way to raise funds for The Friends of Denver School just by shopping as you normally would online. Access hundreds of websites through their app and anything you purchase, a donation will be made to The Friends at no additional cost to you. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/frdsofdenversch/ for more information and to join.

2022 Calendar

The Friends are currently working hard on producing a 2022 calendar with pictures drawn by the children. More details will follow soon.

Forthcoming Events

Denver Supertots Playgroup – 3rd December

We were really excited to be working in collaboration with sixth form students from Downham Market Academy to host our first ever Denver Supertots playgroup in school this Friday. However, after discussions with DMA about the safety of all those involved, we have reluctantly postponed this event until after Christmas. If you know of anyone who was hoping to attend, please make them aware and inform them that we look forward to welcoming them into school in the new year.

Decoration Day – 3rd December

This Friday will be our traditional Decoration Day in school where the children make Christmas cards and decorations to take home at the end of term. This is always an event in the calendar the children and staff really look forward to and I'm sure the children will be really proud of what they make.

Coffee Morning – 10th December

The Friends have organised a Christmas Coffee Morning on Friday 10th December. There will be a raffle with a number of impressive prizes, including a luxury Christmas hamper. Also, if you have any Christmas jumpers your child/ren have outgrown, please bring them along to this event and pick up a larger replacement for a small donation to The Friends. To keep everyone in the school community as safe as possible, we ask that all those attending take a Lateral Flow Test and wear a face mask.

Christmas Parties – last week of term

After their success last year, we have decided to once again organise for each class to have their own Christmas party in the last week of term. We hope that the parties will be a fun way to end the term and will help to get the children, and indeed staff, into the festive spirit.

Christingle Service – 13th December

On 13th December we will be taking part in a virtual Christingle service with Ely Cathedral. The ladies of the church are kindly preparing all the items needed to make the Christingles and the children will make these during the morning of 13th December.

Class 1 and Class 2 Christmas Play – 14th December

The children in Classes 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing this year's Christmas play, Bobby's Baby Brother. They will be performing this to parents in the school hall, rather than in the church, starting at 9.30am on Tuesday 14th December. The performance should last no longer than 45 minutes. We please ask that all those attending take a Lateral Flow Test and wear a face mask. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Christmas Lunch – 14th December

This year, Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday 14th December. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, please let the school office know their menu choice by Monday 6th December. For those who do not normally have a school lunch, the cost for KS2 is £2.35. All children in KS1 will receive a free lunch as usual. Please send online payment in the usual way.

Carol Service – 15th December

Our annual Carol Service will take place at 6pm on Wednesday 15th December in St Mary's Church, Denver. To limit the amount of people in the church for safety reasons, this year the Carol Service will be children in KS2 only. We once again request that all those attending take a Lateral Flow Test and wear a face mask.

Sleeping Beauty Pantomime – 16th December

We are really pleased to be taking the children in Y1-Y6 to see a production of 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Maltings, Ely on Thursday 16th December. This will be an exciting way to end the autumn term, particularly after such a challenging year. The children in Reception will be staying in school for a Christmas themed party. A massive thank you to The Friends of Denver School for generously covering the cost of the pantomime, including transport.

Christmas Jumper Day - 17th December

To help spread some festive cheer through the school, we are asking that all children come to school dressed in a Christmas jumper or Christmas themed clothing on the last day of term, Friday 17th December.

Carol Singing at Baytree, Hilgay – 18th December

We are always looking for ways in which we can further strengthen our links with the local community, therefore we have arranged for the school choir to perform a selection of Christmas songs from 11am – 12pm at Baytree Garden Centre, Hilgay on Saturday 18th December. This is an excellent opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit, whilst also supporting the local community. It also gives the choir a chance to showcase their hard work over the past term.

Sports News

Young Leaders

This half term, Joe from King's Lynn Community Football has delivered a series of three Young Leaders training sessions to Class 4. The aim of the sessions was to train the children to become sports leaders so they can lead playground games and challenges, sports events and multi-skills festivals throughout the school year to the other classes. The children really enjoyed the sessions and are looking forward to putting their new skills into practice.



Cross Country

The Downham Market cluster cross country tournament took place on Wednesday 10th October with five schools from across the cluster in attendance. The excitement of the children finally being able to compete in reality rather than virtually was palpable and our children certainly showed grit and determination, wanting to make the most of this opportunity.

There were 8 races and Denver collected an impressive 14 of the 24 medals on offer, an amazing achievement! All 22 of the children that attended earned a top ten finish and therefore progressed to the area finals at Lynnsport which took place last week. We are extremely proud of all our cross country runners for their hard work and determination in participating in both events! Here are some of Class 3's runners proudly sporting their medals from the cluster round.



And finally...

This is always such a busy time of year and I hope that the run up to the Christmas break goes smoothly for you all. We really hope to share our Christmas events with you over the next few weeks, something we greatly missed last year. Take care and stay safe!

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

December 2021	3 rd	Fri	Decoration Day
	3 rd	Fri	Denver Supertots Postponed
	10 th	Fri	Christmas Coffee Morning
	13 th	Mon	Christingle Service
	14 th	Tue	Christmas Lunch
	14 th	Tue	Class 1 and Class 2 Christmas Play - 9.30am in the school hall
	15 th	Wed	KS2 Carol Service – 6pm at St Mary's Church
	16 th	Thu	Pantomime (Y1-Y6)
	17 th	Fri	Christmas Jumper Day
	17 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

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 2022	1 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
	20 th	Wed	Children return to school

Summer Term

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