



# January 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022! A belated Happy New Year to you from us all at Denver VC Primary School. I hope that 2022 has started well for you all and proves to be a healthy and happy year.

## Carol Singing at Baytree

On 18<sup>th</sup> December, the school choir performed a selection of songs at Baytree, Hilgay. It was lovely for them to perform in front of an actual audience and they certainly didn't disappoint! Well done to the children and thank you to Mr Lawrence for his continued efforts to raise the profile of music within the school.



## New Year's Resolution

In an assembly at the beginning of term we discussed New Year's resolutions. The children had some excellent ideas about what we could focus on this year to make our school a better place, and we took their ideas and linked these with our plans to become an Eco-School. Therefore, our school resolution for this year is **'To be more green and help to keep the planet clean'**.

## Christian Value

Each half term we focus on a different Christian value in school, and our value for this half term is **justice**. This value has formed the basis of many of our discussions in collective worship and the children have been recording examples of justice in action in their floor/class books.

## **Technology Tournament**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, Class 4 were joined by Alan and Howard from Downham Market Rotary Club for a technology tournament. The children were assigned the role of civil engineers for the day. The task involved designing and making a scale model of an animal crossing for a nature reserve with specified criteria. Joining in the fun were school governors Carole Reich and Amanda Dawson who took part in the testing of the final products and judging the competition. Final products were measured to ensure they met the specifications of the brief and they were tested for their strength and weather resistance.

It was an incredibly close decision with only narrow margins between the winners and the two runners-up. Congratulations to Barney, Chloe, Jacob and Megan, winners on the basis of the overall stability of their structure. It was an incredibly successful day with impressive teamwork, quality products and inspired, enthused children.



## Weather

Thankfully, the weather has been relatively kind to us so far this winter. For new parents, however, I would like to mention our procedures for inclement weather. We always do our utmost to keep the school open. However, it may occasionally be necessary to close the school in really bad weather as several members of staff travel long distances across Norfolk and beyond. If this is the case, regular announcements will be made on Radio Norfolk and Greatest Hits Radio (West Norfolk) soon after 7am. Details will also be posted on the Norfolk County Council school closure list at: [www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk) as well as our Twitter and Facebook pages.

## School Vision

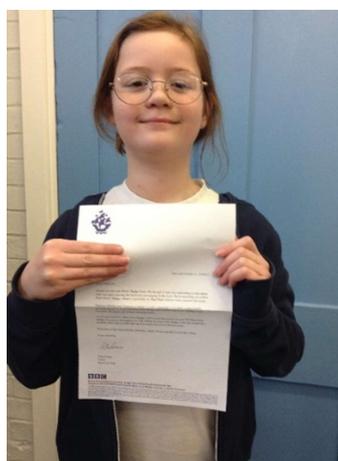
Our school vision is **'to seek to discover and celebrate what is good in each individual'** and our key values are **Discover, Value, Celebrate** and **Praise**. We have recently started a vision display in the school hall to illustrate our school vision in action. We would like to add to this display with photographs of the children demonstrating these values at home. The School Council have decided that we will start with **Discover** and they have written a letter asking parents to catch children discovering something and send in photographs for when we return after the half term break. We would be very grateful if you would contribute to this and we look forward to seeing photos of what discover means to the children.

## Internet Safety Webinars

Keeping children safe online is a huge priority for the Norfolk Constabulary's Youth Engagement and Safer Schools Teams. The internet is an amazing tool, however, many of the issues the Police deal with when it comes to young people involve online behaviour. One of the Safer Schools Support Workers, along with a Safer Schools Police Officer, will be running some webinars on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, both at 12pm, in which they will provide advice and guidance for parents and carers about how to keep their children safe online. The webinars will be held on Microsoft Teams. If you would like to attend either meeting, please email the Youth Engagement Team mailbox [YouthEngagementEvents@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:YouthEngagementEvents@norfolk.police.uk), stating the date you wish to attend and they will send you the link to the meeting.

## Blue Peter

Congratulations to Charlotte, in Class 3, who has been awarded a Blue Peter music badge. Here is Charlotte proudly showing off her letter from the Blue Peter team, and a photo of her impressive Blue Peter badge, designed by none other than Ed Sheeran.



### **Class 1 Dragons**

Class 1 have been learning about dragons and reading a variety of dragon stories in preparation for Chinese New Year this week. Inspired by the book 'Tell me a Dragon' written by Jackie Morris, the children have worked together to design their own magical dragons and last week they spent a lot of effort creating their dragons out of junk modelling. A lot of cardboard and tape later, Class 1 now has 8 dragons, all in different shapes and sizes, roaming the classroom which all look fantastic! Here are some of their amazing dragons:



### **Bird Feeders**

The wellbeing gardening group have been making bird feeders out of recycled materials. These will be positioned around the school and will hopefully encourage more birds into the school grounds.



### **Crisp Packets**

We are still collecting crisp packets to support a local challenge to turn crisp packets into blankets for homeless people.

### **Out of School Hours Communication**

Just a reminder that we have created the following dedicated email address [worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) for parent/carers to contact the school urgently out of school hours, for example because of a safeguarding incident, bereavement or family separation. If you are worried about something, please do contact the school via this method and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

### **Communications to and from school**

#### **Digital communications**

Our digital communication systems in school are continuing to work successfully and we are grateful for your continued support with this. We appreciate that we send many emails and messages home, but would ask that you read these carefully, as we do receive queries about information which has already been provided.

#### **Telephone communications**

If you telephone us, regretfully, it may not be possible to answer your call. We leave our voicemail switched on throughout the day to help alleviate this issue, so if you hear our message, please don't hang up – if you need to speak to someone and you leave your name and contact number, we will call you back as soon as we are able to. Please be aware, however, that as the school office closes at 3pm, we may not be able to respond to messages left after that time until the following day.

#### **Consent Forms**

We are streamlining our consent forms to help make the process a quicker and easier one. On occasions when we have sent forms home (e.g. school trips) we have had to contact parents, as either the form has not been completed and returned or important details have been omitted. We would be grateful if you could help by ensuring that any forms which we send to you are fully completed and returned to school by the deadline date.

#### **Covid-19 Update**

Unfortunately, Covid-19 seems to have finally caught up with us and we have had our first cases in school amongst pupils and staff over the last few weeks. To address this, we implemented enhanced measures, including limiting contact between classes. These measures are reviewed regularly and we hope to return to the measures in place before Christmas very soon. For further guidance and information about Covid-19 related issues, please see the Covid-19 tab on our website.

#### **NHS Food Scanner App**

The NHS have launched a new Food Scanner App to help families to make healthier swaps on family favourite foods each time they shop. Using the app, parents can scan the barcodes of their favourite foods, swipe to see healthier choices and swap. The children will be bringing home a leaflet this week explaining how the app works. For more information, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/nhs-food-scanner-app/>

## **Friends' Update**

### **Village Yard Sale – 24<sup>th</sup> April**

The Denver Village Yard Sale is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Friends of Denver School. Unfortunately, the event has been cancelled over the past two years due to the pandemic, but it will return this year on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Friends will be sending out more details very soon.

### **Easter Bingo**

Following the success of the online bingo last year, The Friends are looking to organise an Easter Bingo event later this term, more details to follow.

## **Sports News**

### **Fitness Tracker**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January, Classes 3 and 4 were joined by Gary Hawkins from KES Academy to begin Fitness Tracker challenges. The first session involved the children measuring their own abilities in throwing, jumping, agility and flexibility. The children have been given some training tasks to do that will support them in beating their own personal bests. Gary will return later in the year to retake the challenges to see how much the children have improved in each of the areas. He will also be back to work on an endurance challenge.



### **Player of the Match**

Congratulations to Chloe, in Class 4, who was named 'Player of the Match' for her football team following her match last Saturday.



### **Park Run Success**

Congratulations to Mrs Henden who won the female 5km race at King's Lynn Park Run on Saturday in an impressive time of 19 minutes and 12 seconds, which is a course record for her age group. Well done Mrs Henden!

### **Swimming**

Since returning to school after the Christmas holidays, Class 4 have been attending Downham Market Alive Leisure swimming pool on Friday mornings for swimming lessons. Throughout this term, the children are learning to improve a range of swimming strokes and will also be learning about safety on the water, including rescue techniques as the lessons progress. The lessons have begun positively and I know this is one of the highlights of the week for many of the children.

### **Golden Mile**

The children regularly engage with the Golden Mile in school and I am pleased to say that a number of them have recently achieved their 25 mile certificate, a fantastic achievement. Keep working hard children – I look forward to giving out more certificates in the coming weeks.

### **Active Kids Festival**

The children in Y1 will be taking part in the second of the Active Kids festivals on 1<sup>st</sup> February. We hope they have a good time.

### **Tag Rugby**

A team of children from Class 4 have been entered into a Tag Rugby tournament being held at West Norfolk Rugby Club on 9<sup>th</sup> February. We wish them the best of luck.

### **Speed Stacking**

A group of children from Classes 2 and 3 will be taking part in a Speed Stacking tournament on 11<sup>th</sup> February. The children in Class 3 will also receive a speed stacking enrichment session this term.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Safer Internet Day – 8<sup>th</sup> February**

We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, the theme of which this year is All Fun and Games: Exploring Respect and Relationships Online. On this day, we will join many schools and other organisations across the country to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. The children will discuss ways to keep themselves safe, at an age appropriate level throughout the day.

#### **World Book Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We have a number of exciting activities planned and will once again be asking that the children come to school dressed as a favourite book character. More details will follow nearer the event.

## Denver Supertots Playgroup

We are hoping to start the Denver Supertots Playgroup after the half term break. We are in discussion with the students from Downham Market Academy about the date of the first sessions and will let you know as soon as this is confirmed.

### And finally...

The start of the spring term has brought a number of challenges due to Covid-19 and we are very grateful for your support in helping to keep everyone as safe as possible. Half term will soon be with us and I hope you all have a lovely break when it arrives. Take care and stay safe!

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

### Spring Term

February 2022	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	Active Kids Y1
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Safer Internet Day
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Tag Rugby Class 4
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Speed Stacking Class 2 and 3
	14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2022	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thu	World Book Day
April 2022	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	Last day of spring term
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Village Yard Sale

### Summer Term

May 2022	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mon-Thu	Y6 SATS week
	30 <sup>th</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> June		School closed for half term
June 2022	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2022	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term