



February 2022

Newsletter



Welcome to the February newsletter. Spring is nearly upon us and it has been lovely to see some sunshine over the weekend. As we move towards a greater sense of normality in school, you will see that there are many forthcoming events for the children to enjoy.

Covid-19 Update

Since our return from the Christmas break, we have had a number of positive cases of Covid-19 in school, both with children and adults, and I would like to thank everyone in the school community for supporting the enhanced measures we put in place to address this.

Following the government's announcement regarding the recall of the remainder of the Covid-19 legislation last week, I would like to give you an update on what this means for our school.

The public health guidance that has been in place over the last 2 years will remain until the end of March. The principles of hands, face, space and fresh air remain key to infection control and we will continue to ask people to act responsibly by staying at home and away from others if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

Regular asymptomatic testing in mainstream education and childcare settings is no longer recommended by the government. However, while test kits are still available, staff will continue to test twice weekly.

There is no requirement for face masks to be worn in school settings, although we support those members of staff who continue to do so.

From 24th February, there is now no **legal** requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, public health advice remains that adults and children who test positive should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. To continue to keep the school community safe, we ask that this public health advice is followed. If you are at all unsure of what to do if your child tests positive, please contact the school for further advice.

More information about the next phase of the government's Covid-19 response can be found in their ['Living with COVID-19'](#) documents.

Thank you all, once again, for continuing to support us in doing everything we can to keep the school community safe.

Christian Value

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

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

This week we have started using a new phonics scheme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP). It is based on the original Letters and Sounds which we have been using previously in school, but has been extensively revised to provide a complete teaching programme meeting all the expectations of the National Curriculum, the Ofsted Deep Dive into reading and preparing children to go beyond the expectations of the Phonics Screening Check.

All children in Classes 1 and 2 will receive a daily phonics session. In addition to this, they will have three reading practice sessions each week.

More information about our approach to the teaching of phonics can be found on our school website under the tab Parents/Carers, Phonics. The Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised website also has a wealth of information and can be found at <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



School Vision Update

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 been working hard on making our vision more distinctively Christian and we have decided to use **Let your light shine** (Matthew 5:16) as our Christian vision. We will be working with the school community this term to explore this Christian vision in action.

Discover

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**. Before half term, we requested that the children bring in photos to show what discover means to them, or them discovering something to illustrate our vision in action. A huge thank you to everyone who has so far sent in photos; these will soon be added to our vision display in the school hall. If you are yet to send in photos, please do so in the next few weeks so these can be added to the display.

Children's Mental Health Week

We recently recognised Children's Mental Health week (7th – 13th February) in school. To mark the occasion, during our normal wellbeing assemblies, the children watched a special online assembly organised by Place2Be and starring well-known children's entertainers. This year,

the theme was 'Growing Together'. The assembly explored emotional growth and development. Children were encouraged to imagine they had support balloons and to think about who and what helped fill that balloon. They were then encouraged to think about how they themselves might be in someone else's support balloon to show care and empathy for others. The next stage was to think about how goal setting can help us to move forward and out of our comfort zones to achieve new or better things. This was related to setting goals for our emotional growth such as being kind or taking responsibility.



Parent Governor Election

As you will already be aware from the letter sent out last week, we have **two** vacancies on our Governing Body for parent governors and we are seeking nominations of parents interested in taking up this role. Governors are responsible for ensuring the strategic direction of the school, its performance and the use of resources to support learning. They help to ensure that our school provides the best education it can for children, parents and our local community. Being a governor is a very enjoyable and worthwhile, and we always look forward to welcoming new governors to the team.

Parent governors are elected by the parents or guardians of children attending the school. All parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to propose or second candidates and vote. Nomination papers for this purpose can be obtained at the school from the Headteacher. The completed nomination papers must be returned by Friday 11th March. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Out of School Hours Communication

Just a reminder that parent/carers can contact the school urgently out of school hours, for example because of a safeguarding incident, by using the dedicated email address worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk. 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.

Eco-Schools

The Eco-Committee are working hard towards the school achieving the Eco-Schools award. They have carried out an audit and used this to create an action plan. We have created a page on our school website to share the progress they are making. Please go to:

<https://www.denver.norfolk.sch.uk/page/?title=Eco%2DCommittee&pid=430>

Crisp Packets

We are still collecting crisp packets to support a local challenge to turn crisp packets into blankets for homeless people. A huge thank you to everyone for your support so far.

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome a student teacher, Kayleigh Venables, who will be working in Class 2 on Fridays alongside MR Sexton. Her placement is part of her course through The Cambridge Partnership.

Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge

This term, we will be participating in Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge, the theme of which is 'Brave Believers'.

Mother's Day Posies

Each year, the children make posies in school to present to their mums for Mothering Sunday. The ladies from St Mary's Church have once again kindly offered to help prepare all of the items needed and the School Council will purchase the flowers. I know the children always enjoy making the posies, and I'm sure our mums enjoy receiving them.

Eat Them to Defeat Them

ITV and Veg Power are soon launching this year's 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign to promote vegetable consumption in children throughout the UK. We believe this is an important campaign and will once again be participating. The campaign lasts for six weeks with each week featuring a family favourite vegetable. The children will be encouraged to eat the vegetable of the week in school and will receive a sticker for doing so. The children will take home a pack this week containing a reward chart and stickers - please use the packs to encourage your children to eat more veg!



School Policies

We regularly introduce or update school policies and these are agreed at Governing Body meetings. The following policies were ratified at the recent Governing Body meeting on 23rd February:

- Complaints
- Domestic abuse
- EAL
- Equality Scheme
- Medicines
- Mobile phone
- Phonics and Early Reading
- Remote learning
- Supporting pupils with medical needs
- Whistleblowing
- Work placement, Work experience

These policies can all be found on our school website at:

<https://www.denver.norfolk.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=68>

Friends' Update

Village Yard Sale – 24th April

The Friends of Denver School are busy organising this year's Denver Village Yard Sale, which is being held on Sunday 24th April. This is always one of their most successful fundraising events each year, and we hope that many of you will come along to support this event, as well as picking up a bargain. More details will soon follow from The Friends.

Easter Bingo – 26th March

Following the success of the online bingo last year, The Friends are organising an Easter Bingo. This will be via Teams to allow people to join from the comfort of their own home. The previous bingo events have been really enjoyable for both children and adults alike. More details, including the date when confirmed, will follow soon.

Easter Coffee Morning – 25th March

The Friends of Denver School are having an Easter Coffee Morning in school on the morning of 25th March. It was lovely to welcome parents/carers back into school at the Christmas Coffee Morning, which proved to be a great success, and we hope to open this event up to members of the local community.

Sports News

Speed Stacking

On Tuesday 9th January, Class 3 participated in a speed stacking taster session as part of the OMNES Games, meaning 'For All'. The event was run as a festival with no scores or results being recorded. Following on from this, a group of children from Classes 2 and 3 attended a speed stacking event with other schools at Lynnsport, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Active Kids Festival

On 1st February, the children in Y1 went to the second Active Kids festival where they took part in a variety of different gymnastic based activities. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were excellent ambassadors for the school.



Tag Rugby

On 9th February, a team from Class 4 entered the Tag Rugby Development Festival held at West Norfolk Rugby Club in North Wootton. The aim of the festival was to provide an opportunity for children to engage with or develop skills within a new sport and to encourage an interest in rugby at grass roots level. Although the matches were not officially scored, the team's skills developed rapidly and they either won or drew all of their matches. The School Games Organiser was impressed with how rapidly the children progressed. We are very proud of how the team conducted themselves as representatives of the school showing determination, encouragement, resilience and strong teamwork. Well done to all involved!

Swimming Success

Well done to Ivy, in Class 4, who has achieved her Learn to Swim Stage 7 award!



Forthcoming Events

World Book Day – 3rd March

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd 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. Mrs Fenn will also be baking World Book Day biscuits for the children to enjoy. We look forward to seeing the children's fantastic costumes.

Denver Supertots Playgroup – 4th March

We are very excited that our first Denver Supertots Playgroup will take place this Friday, 4th March from 9.45-10.45am, and fortnightly going forward. All pre-school age children and their parents are welcome to attend for a small cost of 50p each child, with children under 1 being free. A variety of games and activities are planned, with refreshments provided for the adults. The playgroup is being jointly run by the school and students from Downham Market Academy. We are really looking forward to welcoming children and their parents from the local community, so please do spread the word to help make the event a success.

Science Day – 14th March

We are having a science day in school on 14th March. The theme is growth and all classes will be involved. More details will follow soon.

Phonics Information Meeting – 15th March

There will be an information session about our new phonics scheme on Tuesday 15th March at 9am in the ICT suite. This session is aimed at parents/carers in Classes 1 and 2. We will explain the new phonics scheme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, we are using in school, and give information about how parents/carers can support their children at home. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

Y5/6 Football Tournament – 15th March

Our Y5/6 football team will be representing the school at the cluster football tournament at Hillcrest Primary School on 15th March. Good luck to the team!

Tri Golf – 25th March

A team of children from Classes 2 and 3 will represent the school at the cluster Tri-Golf tournament on 25th March. This is always an event the children look forward to and we hope that the team will enjoy participating.

New Age Curling – 25th March

On 25th March, a group of children from Classes 2 and 3 will be taking part in a New Age Curling tournament, as part of the OMNES games. This sounds like a really exciting opportunity and one I'm sure they will thoroughly enjoy.

Bee Netball – 29th March

On 29th March a group of children from Class 3 will be representing the school in a Bee Netball tournament. We hope they have a great time.

Easter Assembly

We are planning on having an Easter Assembly in St Mary's Church in the week commencing 28th March. More details will follow when we have confirmed the date and time with the church.

And finally...

Please remember that we have an open door policy at school. If you are ever concerned about anything, please do make contact with either the class teachers or myself. We hope to see many of you at our forthcoming events this term. In the meantime, take care and stay safe!

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Spring Term

March 2022	3 rd	Thu	World Book Day
	4 th	Fri	Denver Supertots Playgroup
	11 th	Fri	Parent Governor Election Nomination Deadline
	14 th	Mon	Science Day
	15 th	Tue	Cluster Football
	15 th	Tue	Phonics Information Session
	25 th	Fri	Mother's Day Posies
	25 th	Fri	New Age Curling
	25 th	Fri	Tri-Golf
	25 th	Fri	Easter Coffee Morning
	29 th	Tue	Bee Netball
April 2022	1 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
	20 th	Wed	Children return to school
	24 th	Sun	Village Yard Sale

Summer Term

May 2022	2 nd	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	9 th - 12 th	Mon-Thu	Y6 SATS week
	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