



September 2022

Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2022/23 academic year. The start of term is always very busy, and I am pleased to say that the children have settled in well and are now back into the school routine once again. For our new Reception parents, I always try to pack lots of information into the newsletter to share with you a flavour of day-to-day school life – I hope you find it informative.

Reception Intake

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Reception children and their parents/carers to the school. They have settled in extremely well and made an excellent start to their school journey here at Denver. Welcome to the Class of 2022!



Denver VC Primary School
Reception Class
September 2022

Eco- Schools Green Flag Award

We were thrilled to learn over the summer holidays that we have been awarded the Eco-School Green Flag award. The Eco-Committee last year worked extremely hard to gain this award and should feel very proud of this achievement. We are currently in the process of looking for new Eco-Committee members who can build on the excellent work of last year's committee. If your child is interested in being part of the Eco-Committee, please ask their class teacher for an application form.



Summer Reading Bingo Challenge

A huge congratulations to everyone who engaged in the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge. We were so pleased with the number of children who returned their bingo cards and shared photos of themselves reading in all sorts of different environments. Here are some of the children receiving their certificates in our Celebration Assembly.



New Library

This term we are working towards transforming our ICT (computing) suite into a dedicated library. We need help to fund the project and over the summer we set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds (www.gofundme.com/f/denver-vc-primary-school-library-fundraiser). Ellie-May, in Class 2, was keen to help and she successfully climbed Ben Nevis at the beginning of the month, helping us to raise just shy of £2300. Well done, Ellie-May!

We have also explored other fundraising avenues and we have been selected for a Tesco Community Grant. The library project will feature in the Downham Market store from October until January and we need your help to help us collect as many blue tokens as possible. Please spread the word!

Ukulele Tuition

We have managed to secure ukulele tuition for our children in KS2 (Classes 3 and 4) this term. This will be led by Mrs Berners, a specialist music teacher. Class 4 enjoyed their first lesson yesterday and are looking forward to learning a new skill.

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

This year, we have introduced the PATHS programme in school. The children in all classes will have PATHS lessons each week and during this time we will cover many topics including:

- Friendship
- How to recognise and understand feelings
- How to use and improve thinking skills
- Various ways to solve problems etc.

From next week, a different child in each class each day will be awarded PATHS Pupil of the Day. They will have special privileges on that day, and they will bring home a compliments sheet with compliments from adults, their peers and themselves. When your child is Pupil of the Day, please give them a compliment to add to their sheet.

Thank you to those parents who attended the information session this week. If you would like more information about the PATHS programme, please do not hesitate to ask.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Thank you to those parents who joined our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings; we hope these were useful. Please remember that teachers are available at the end of the school day if you would like to talk to them or can be contacted via email or Class Dojo. Here are the email addresses for our class teachers:

crackham@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

lpennock@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

mbonham@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

dhenden@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

Little Wandle Parents Session

Thank you to those parents who attended the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised information session for parents this week. If you were unable to attend the session and would like more information about our approach to the teaching of phonics, please see me for a handout or visit 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/>

Tapestry

To further improve communication with parents, we plan on using Tapestry this year - an online learning journal for children in EYFS. Tapestry is widely used across the country and will provide parents with regular feedback about their child's progress.

Christian Values

Each half term, we focus on a different Christian value and this value permeates through the curriculum and our Collective Worship. Our Christian value for the first half of the autumn term is thankfulness, which links in nicely with our forthcoming harvest celebrations.

Christian Vision

Our Christian vision is 'Let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16) and we have recently asked the children to draw something that will help us to remember what it says and means. The children have produced some excellent drawings and we are in the process of deciding upon an image that will be used across the school to highlight and celebrate our vision.

Shoe Box Appeal

Each year, we support the Rotary Shoebox Scheme to spread a little happiness to those less fortunate than ourselves in many different countries across Central and Eastern Europe. This year the appeal is going to be focussing on supporting those affected by the war in Ukraine and Howard from the Downham Rotary came into school this week to talk to the children about the appeal. We would be extremely grateful if the children could donate an item which could be included in a shoebox or fill a whole shoebox if they are able to. Items do not need to be brand new, although should be of good quality. For more information about the scheme and lists of suggested items, please visit www.rotaryshoebox.org

Foodbank Donations

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we would like to support the Downham Market Foodbank. If you are able to donate an item(s) to the foodbank, please drop them at the school gate on the morning of our Harvest Festival which is being held at St Mary's Church, Denver, on Thursday 13th October at 2pm.

Items the foodbank really need are:

- UHT Milk
- Sponge Puddings
- Fruit Juice
- Cuppa soups
- Hot chocolate
- Meat pies
- Meatballs in Sauce
- Toiletries for both men and women (shampoo, shower gel, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes).

Some members of the School Council will deliver the items to the foodbank. Thank you for your support.

Governor Update

Carole Reich is now our Chair of Governors, and Amanda Dawson and Janet Wilde are both Vice-Chairs.

At the recent Governing Body meeting on 21st September, a number of policies were updated, and these are now on the school website.

After School Club

As our Before School Club is proving to be very popular, we are considering extending this to include an After School Club. We are interested to know if there is sufficient demand for a club after school and possible timings. A short survey will be sent out soon to gather parental opinion and we would appreciate your feedback.

Attendance

We are continually working hard to improve school attendance and raise awareness of the impact that absence from school can have on learning. We recently sent out a letter from the Local Authority regarding school attendance. We have also shared with you a poster which highlights the amount of learning that can be lost through absence from school. Please remember that holidays in term time will not be authorised.

Attendance	Days Off	Approximate Weeks Off	Hours of Learning Lost	
100%	0	0	0	Excellent
96%	8	1.5	40	Good
90%	19	4	100	Slight Concern
85%	29	6	150	Concern
80%	38	8	200	Serious Concern

We are continuing to promote good attendance by celebrating the class with the highest attendance each month. September's attendance figures are as follows:

Class 1	96.1%
Class 2	98.8%
Class 3	96.9%
Class 4	96.8%

Well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of September! 😊

Our overall school attendance so far this year is 97.3%.

Sporting Stars

Just a reminder that we have a 'Sporting Stars' display which showcases children's sporting achievements, both in and outside of school. Please pass on any photos or certificates to Mrs Henden to be added to the board.

Times Tables Rockstars

Please remember that the children have access to Times Tables Rockstars. We would encourage them to use this resource on a weekly basis as a sound understanding of times table facts is essential in becoming a successful mathematician.

Allergies

We have several children with nut allergies in school, therefore it is important that lunchboxes do not contain peanut butter or nut products. Thank you for your cooperation.

Water Bottles

It is important that the children are hydrated throughout the day, as being fully hydrated means that they will be able to think faster, be more focussed, and have greater clarity of thought. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school each day containing water only, thank you.

Uniform

Please can you ensure that all uniform, including coats, is named so that lost items can be returned to their owners. Thank you for your cooperation.

Wellbeing

We continue to prioritise wellbeing for both pupils and staff in school. We recently appointed our new Wellbeing Ambassadors, Ella-Rose and Oliver, onto our School Council. I have also completed Senior Leadership Mental Health Lead training.

School Council

We recently held elections to appoint this year's School Council members and we were very impressed with the number of applications we received. The School Council has representatives from all classes, and they meet every half term to discuss relevant issues and be the voice of their peers. Here is a photo of this year's School Council.



Out of School Hours Communication

For our new parents, you can contact the school urgently, for example with a safeguarding concern, during out of school hours 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.

Birthdays

We know that many children enjoy bringing in cakes to share with their class on their birthday. If you are planning on sending a treat (no sweets please) in for the class, we ask that these are individual cakes, thank you.

Volunteers

We are very keen to welcome volunteers into school. We have several regular volunteers who come in to listen to readers, help on school events and trips etc. and we would like to expand our team. If you feel you have some time to spare, please let me know. We really would be grateful for any extra support.

PE Uniform

As we have continued to ask children to come to school wearing PE kit on the days they have PE, we would like to remind parents of appropriate PE kit. The children should wear the following:

- Plain PE t-shirt in the appropriate team colour, ideally with the Denver School crest
- For colder weather — plain blue or black jogging/tracksuit bottoms, a plain blue or black long-sleeved warm top, socks and trainers
- For warmer weather — plain blue or black shorts, plimsolls/trainers, socks
- For children with long hair, please provide a hairband so that hair can be tied up
- Jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn

We ask that children do not wear football tops or clothes with logos. Thank you for your support.

Celebrating Success

In the words of our school vision 'Seeking to discover and celebrate what is good in each individual', we are always keen to celebrate our children's achievements, both in school and out. Please do send class teachers details of these so they can be shared in the new feature in the newsletter.

Chief Scouts Bronze Award

Arthur, in Class 3, was recently awarded the Chief Scout's Bronze award at Beavers. This is the highest award a Beaver can earn. To achieve this award, Arthur needed to complete all the challenge awards, as well as any four activity badges. Well done Arthur, what a fantastic achievement!



Hedgehog Fundraising

Saffron, in Class 4, recently organised a yard sale to raise money for the local Hedgehog Rescue Centre in Downham Market. She raised an impressive £34.20, and this is now the second time she has raised money for them. Well done Saffron!



Flu Immunisations

The Norfolk immunisation team is visiting Denver School on 11th October to administer the flu vaccine to all children. Parents/carers must complete the E-Consent letter using the online link already sent out. If you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccine, you should still complete the letter. If you have any queries, please contact the immunisation team direct and not the school office.

Friends' Update

The Friends of Denver School is a parent-led group who work hard to raises funds for the School. The Friends are always looking for people to help on the main fundraising events they organise. If you are able to help in any way, please contact friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk or speak with one of the main committee (Michelle Caul-Byrne, Danielle Grummitt, Victoria Fradley or Julia Covell).

Library Fundraiser

To help raise funds for the new library in the old ICT suite, the Friends of Denver School are organising an 'Afternoon Tea and Preloved Book Sale' on Thursday 20th October from 2pm until 4pm, with the children joining from 2.45pm. Any books outgrown, no longer wanted, or you just love so much you want to share the joy of reading them, can be donated at the school gates on Monday 17th. We hope you can join us and help raise as much money as we can to help the school with the development of this valuable resource for the children.

Easy Fundraising

Just a reminder that we have access to raising free donations for Denver School every time you shop online with over 6,000 retailers using Easy Fundraising. It takes only 2 minutes to register and then shop as normal. Just start your shopping journey by first going to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/ and searching for Friends of Denver Village School. All purchases made with retail partners through the Easy Fundraising website or app make a small donation to our cause.

Clothes Labels

Name labels on uniform, lunch boxes and water bottles and other school kit ensure your child returns home with their own uniform (and not someone else's). <https://www.stikins.co.uk> offer stick on name labels that are washing machine and dishwasher safe, with same day delivery. Using fundraiser code **36218** at the checkout allows the school to receive commission on every sale.

Forthcoming Events

Bike to School Week - 3rd-7th October

Next week marks National Bike to School Week, a government initiative to ensure that all primary aged children are active for at least 60 minutes a day, 30 of which should be part of (to, from and during) the school day. We would like to encourage as many of our children as possible to cycle to school, even if it is just for one day next week. Every child who takes part will receive a participation certificate at the end of the week. We look forward to seeing the cycle shelter full of bikes next week.

Downham Market Academy Open Evening – 6th October

Downham Market Academy Open Evening is taking place on Thursday 6th October from 5-7:30pm. They are inviting all Y6 pupils and their parents to attend to learn about the Academy and take part in mini lessons from across the curriculum.

Library Visit – 11th October

To encourage reading for pleasure with the children, we have arranged a visit for Class 2 to the Downham Library. The children will learn more about libraries, have a tour of the library, and take part in a scavenger hunt and library quiz. If your child is a member, they will be able to borrow a book on the visit. If you would like to join the library, a joining form will be sent out next week and collected prior to the visit.

Denver Supertots

Our Denver Supertots playgroup will resume on 13th October at 9.30am in the school hall. We are keen to welcome new families, therefore please spread the word.

Harvest Assembly – 13th October

We are having a Harvest assembly at St Mary's Church, Denver on Thursday 13th October at 2.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

Open Morning – 14th October

We are hosting an Open Morning aimed at the new Reception starters for next September on Friday 14th October. Parents who have a child due to start school next year will be able to come into school with their child to spend some time in Class 1 and see some of the fantastic learning that takes place. We are sending a copy of the Open Morning poster with this newsletter, and we would be grateful if you could display it, or pass onto someone who might be interested.

Football Tournament – 14th October

A group of children from Class 4 will be representing the school at the Cluster Football tournament on the afternoon of 14th October. Good luck to the team!

Hate Crime Awareness Session - 14th October

The Norfolk Constabulary Safer Schools team are supporting Hate Crime Awareness week (10th - 16th October) this year by offering a presentation to Year 5/6 pupils in the locality about Respecting Others. The session will cover hate crime, the age of criminal responsibility, criminal damage, theft, verbal abuse, weapon possession and anti-social behaviour.

Foodbank Visit – 18th October

We have arranged for some members of our School Council to visit the Downham Market Foodbank to deliver the donations from our Harvest celebrations. They will have a tour of the Foodbank and learn more about the important work they do in supporting local families.

New Lunch Menu Taster Session – 18th October

Our catering provider, Norse, are offering a chance for parents to sample the new school lunch menu which will start after half term. The session will take place at 9am on 18th October in the school hall and all are welcome.

Afternoon Tea Book Exchange – 20th October

As part of our fundraising for the new library, we are organising an Afternoon Tea and Preloved Book Sale on Thursday 20th July. We are asking for donations of used, unwanted books in good condition to be brought into school on Monday 17th October. The children will have the opportunity to visit the book exchange at 2.45pm to choose a new book for a small donation. The Friends will be serving refreshments from 2pm for parents, carers and grandparents. More details to follow soon.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parent consultation evenings will happen after half term. These provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments will be available on the below dates and will take place via Teams or telephone call. More details will follow before half term.

	Dates
Class 1	9 th and 10 th November
Class 2	7 th and 8 th November
Class 3	7 th , 10 th and 16 th November
Class 4	8 th and 9 th November

Sports News from Mrs Henden

A new school year has begun and PE remains a top priority for the school. Archie and Chloe in Class 4 have been elected as the Sports Councillors for the School Council. The Golden Mile is up and running and already we have news to share of events that have happened or are happening this half-term.

Clubs

Clubs have resumed with the coaches from Alive King's Lynn Community this week. There are some spaces available in each of the clubs so please contact the office should your child wish to join.

Bikeability and Bike to School Week

The children in Class 3 received Bikeability Level 1 training from Outspoken Training on 8th September. Within the school grounds, the children learnt a range of valuable skills: how to check a bike and helmet for safety, how to correctly mount and dismount, how to make a range of turns, how to brake in a range of situations and how to signal your intended directions to other road users. The instructors were highly complimentary of the children's enthusiasm, manners and behaviour.

Year 5 children will be receiving their Bikeability Level 2 training in the week beginning 10th October. This will involve going out onto the local roads to test their skills.

Active Kids

The first Active Kids festival for our Year 1 children took place on 29th September. The children travelled to Lynnsport Pelicans AstroTurf to participate in a range of activities that develop fundamental movement skills relating to football, netball, squash and gymnastics. The event was a success, and two further sessions will take place in the spring and summer terms.

Dodgeball taster session

Children from Years 1 – 6 thoroughly enjoyed their dodgeball taster sessions today provided by a coach called Ryan from Wereham Village Hall. This was a welcome addition to enhance the competition aspect of our curriculum provision.

Other forthcoming events

Other activities that will be taking place this term are the intra-cross country festival and there will be a cluster football tournament for Year 5 and 6.

And Finally...

We are always looking for ways we can continue to improve our school and your feedback is really valued. If you have any suggestions or comments you would like to share with us, or indeed positive feedback, we have a Suggestions Box in the main entrance hall. If you have a suggestion, please send this in with your child who can add it to the box. Please put your name on your suggestion as this way we can respond to individuals and give feedback. Suggestions can also be emailed to the school. You can also approach me at the beginning or end of the school day.

**Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:
2022/2023**

Autumn Term

October 2022	3 rd -7 th	Mon-Fri	Bike to School week
	11 th	Tue	Class 2 Downham Library visit
	13 th	Thu	Denver Supertots 9.30 – 10.45am
	13 th	Thu	Harvest Assembly 2.15pm at Denver Church
	14 th	Fri	Open Morning for new pupils 2023
	14 th	Fri	Hate Crime Awareness - Class 4
	18 th	Tue	Foodbank visit

	18 th	Tue	New lunch menu taster for Parents 9.00am
	20 th	Thu	Afternoon tea book exchange 2-4pm
	24 th – 28 th		School closed for half term
	31 st	Mon	Children return to school
November 2022			Parent Consultation Evenings
	7 th	Mon	Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultation Evening
	8 th	Tue	Class 2 and 4 Parent Consultation Evening
	9 th	Wed	Class 1 and 4 Parent Consultation Evening
	10 th	Thu	Class 1 and 3 Parent Consultation Evening
	16 th	Wed	Class 3 Parent Consultation Evening
December 2022	16 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2023	4 th	Wed	Children return to school
February 2023	13 th -17 th		School closed for half term
	20 th	Mon	Children return to school
March 2023	31 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
April 2023	18 th	Tue	Children return to school

Summer Term

May 2023	1 st	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	29 th - 2 nd June		School closed for half term
June 2023	5 th	Mon	Children return to school
July 2023	21 st	Fri	Last day of summer term