



January 2023

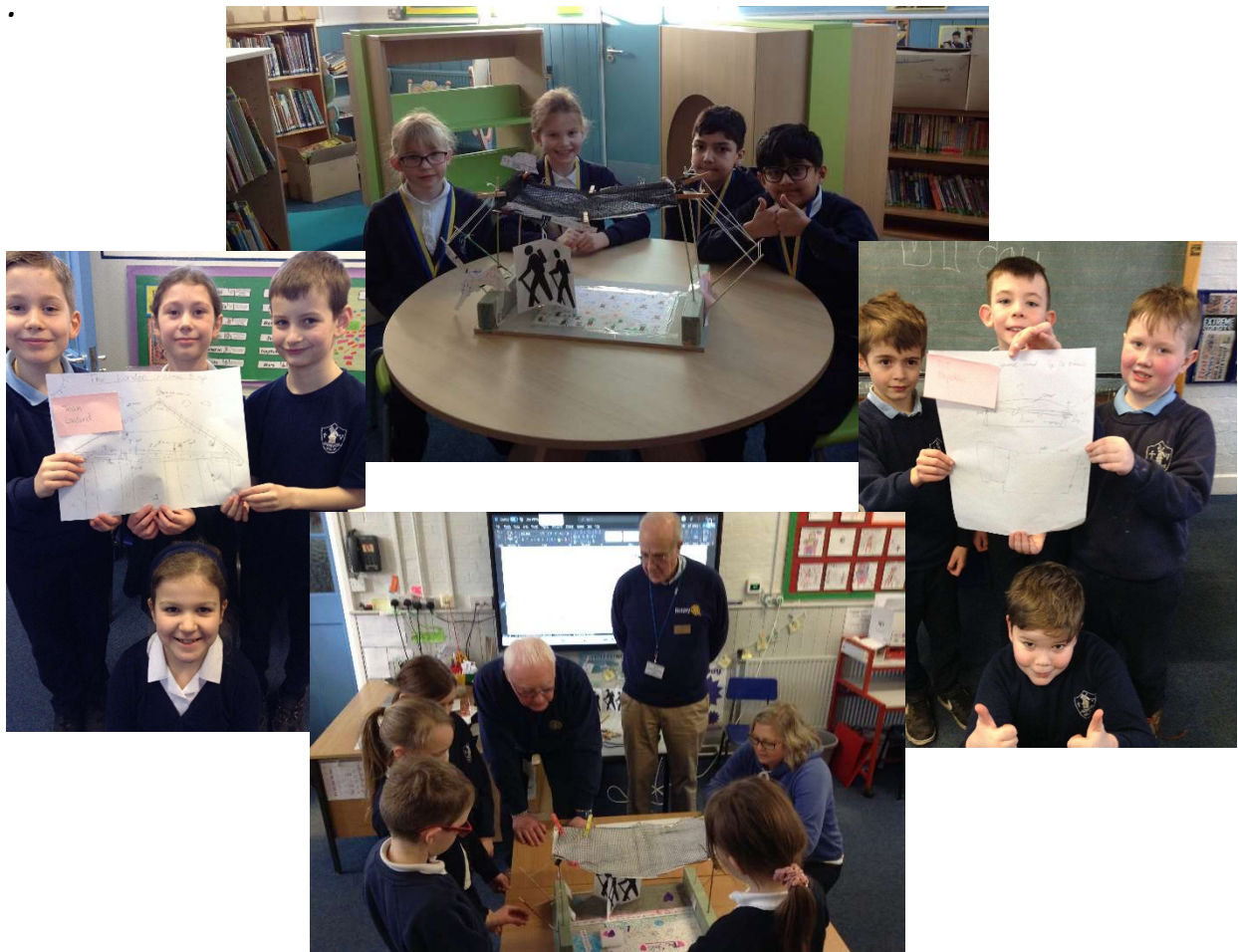
Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023! January has been another busy month in school; here is a flavour of what we have been focussing on since the new year.

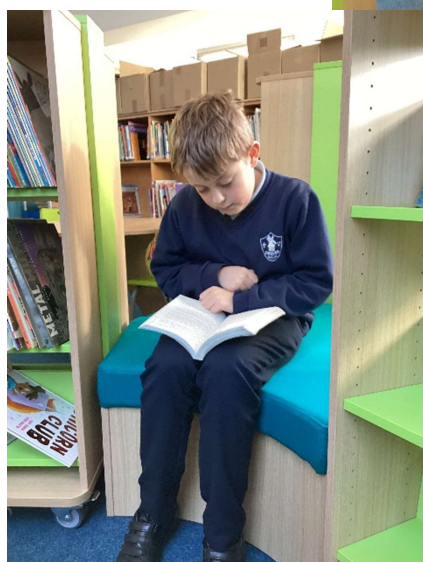
Technology Day

On Friday 27th January, Class 3 were visited by Alan and Howard from Downham Market Rotary Club, who helped set up and run a Junior Technology Tournament. The challenge was to build an Animal Crossing across the 'Denver Village Nature Reserve'. There was a brief to be followed and the design had to be made as a scale model and then tested. The teams were Nashers, Team England, The Best Frogs, The Galaxy Rabbits and The Star Group. The children's bridges were all fantastic; they had really thought about the brief and each passed all the tests. All the children received a certificate to celebrate their fantastic ideas and enthusiasm, and the winning team, the Galaxy Rabbits, were awarded medals. The day was a huge success and one the children clearly enjoyed. Here are some photos of the day, including one of the Galaxy Rabbits with their winning bridge.



New Library Update

We are really excited to inform you that our new library is really taking shape. The library furniture and soft furnishings have now arrived, and the transformation is incredible. We are still working our way through adding all the new books onto our library system, although the project is very near to completion. We are hoping to secure a visit from an author to officially open the library at a launch event. The children are really excited about the new library and are already enjoying spending time in there. A huge thank you to all involved in our fundraising efforts, and for everyone who added blue tokens into our slot in the Community Grant area in the Downham Market Tesco store; we would not have been able to achieve our goal without you. Thank you!



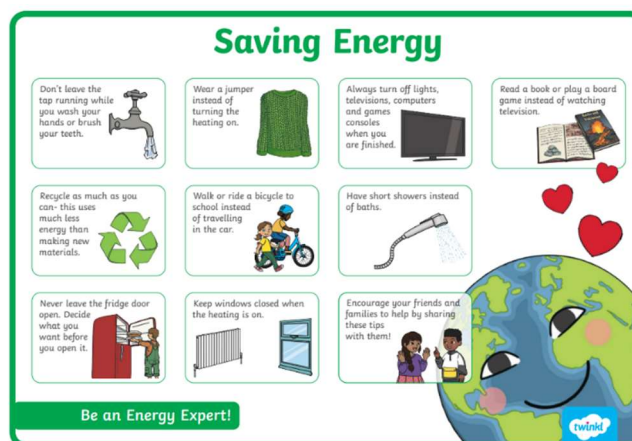
School Opening Hours

In January, we changed the hours of the school day from 8.50am to 3.20pm to be in line with the Government's aim for all schools to open for 32.5 hours each week. Thank you to everyone for adjusting to this change quickly.

Eco-Committee Update

The Eco-Committee has requested a feature in every newsletter to show the progress they are making towards the school's Eco-Schools Flag application again this year. They have recently completed an environmental review and decided on the following 3 areas that they would like to focus on this year: school grounds, energy savings and healthy living.

In this month's newsletter, they would like to focus on energy. They are already very good eco-monitors and have the job of turning lights and other electronic devices off in school when they are not in use. They are planning an energy-free day later in the term to highlight ways in which we can save energy across the school. They would like to share the attached poster giving energy-saving tips. They have a page on the school website in the children's area which they will be adding to throughout the year.



Children's Mental Health Week

We will soon be engaging in Children's Mental Health Week, which this year is running from 6th - 12th February. The theme is Let's Connect to encourage children and adults to consider how we can make meaningful connections that support our mental health. We are having a special assembly on Monday 6th led by the Swan Youth Project. We will be engaging in a number of activities throughout the week to enable children to develop the knowledge, skills and values to support their own and others' mental health and wellbeing.



Attendance Focus

In each newsletter we have an attendance focus as part of our continued work to improve school attendance. Although we realise that there have been many illnesses circulating around school this term, please remember that any absence from school has an impact on learning, as is exemplified in the table below. 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

To promote good attendance, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance each month. January's attendance figures are as follows:

Class 1	89.5%
Class 2	89.4%
Class 3	94.2%
Class 4	92.9%

Well done to Class 3 for having the highest attendance for the month of January! 😊

To help keep you informed of your child's attendance, a letter will be sent out at the end of each half term for those children with an attendance of less than 90%, which is deemed as persistent absence.

Our overall school attendance so far this year is 95.5%, which is lower than our target of 97%. Please work with us to help improve attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Out of School Hours Communication

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently, for example with a safeguarding concern, 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.

Clubs

Following feedback from last term's parent questionnaires, we are looking to extend the extra-curricular clubs we offer as a school. Performance club resumed this term, and we also introduced our new 3.15pm Club. Mr Rackham has started a lunchtime computing club for Class 4, which is proving to be very popular. We are hopefully introducing a new music club, run by Miss Berners, after half term, along with a Forest Schools' club for KS1. Football club for KS2 will also resume after half term now that we have lighter evenings.

New 3.15 Club

At the beginning of this term, we launched our new after school club, the 3.15 Club and we have a number of children regularly attending. The club runs from 3.20pm-4.20pm each day and is open for children in all year groups. The children who attend take part in a variety of sports and art and crafts activities. If you would like your child to attend the club, bookings can be made by emailing 3.15club@denver.norfolk.sch.uk at the latest by 9.30am on the day before a place is required. Charges per session are: 1 child - £3; 2 children - £5; 3 or more children - £7 and payment should be sent to:

- Name of Bank: Barclays Bank plc
- Account Name: NCC Denver VC Primary School
- Bank account number : 70793051
- Bank sort code: 20-62-61

Industrial Action

As I'm sure you are aware, teacher members in the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take industrial action on a number of dates in the spring term, the first of which being tomorrow, Wednesday 1st February. Whilst we cannot be certain which members of staff will be in school until the actual day of strike action, we have plans in place to provide sufficient cover for all our classes and therefore we plan to be open as usual.

Parent Governor Election

Last week an email was sent out regarding the **two** vacancies we have on our Governing Body for parent governors. 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 Monday 20th February. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Weather

Although we have hopefully seen the worst of the winter weather, February can sometimes be an unpredictable month, so we wanted to remind you of 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 as well as our Twitter and Facebook pages.

Bank Holiday - 8th May

Just a reminder that there will be an extra bank holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and school will be closed on this day. The KS2 SATs will still take place that week, although will run a day later than planned:

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

Eat Them to Defeat Them

After half term will see the launch of 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.

Staff News

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Bridget Chilvers has joined the staff team as our secretarial assistant.

January Update from The Friends

Pre-loved School Uniform

A big thank you to everyone who donated outgrown uniform and Christmas jumpers this month. Our blue bin is still open for donations should you find anymore outgrown uniform that you would like to pass on. Later in the year, as hopefully the weather changes, we will be asking for any winter coats your children may have outgrown and no longer need so we can pass these on, preventing further textiles from heading into landfill, and help all our wallets in the bargain.



Should you require any uniform email friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk with your requirements or speak to Victoria Fradley (Arthur's mum in Class 3). All uniform is passed on free of charge, although a small donation is always welcome.

Crazy Hair Day



To brighten up these cold, dark winter days, we will be holding our first ever 'Crazy Hair' day on Thursday 9th February. We are asking the children to bring a suggested donation of £1. This event has been requested by a number of pupils we hope the children enjoy the day.

School Tea Towels

The children have been busy creating their self-portraits for a school tea towel making an ideal Mother's Day gift. Details on how to order will be coming to you via email shortly.



Valentine's Disco

Returning after a few years' absence, we are planning a Valentine's Disco for pupils in Denver Village Hall on Thursday 23rd February from 5.30 – 7pm. Entry is £3.50 per pupil. Reception children's parents/carers are required to stay for the duration of the event. Parents/carers of children with epi-pens are also asked to stay. An online form will be sent out shortly for those wishing to attend and we hope to see you there.



After School Winter Warmer

On Friday 17th March, the Friends of Denver School will be selling hot sausage rolls, along with a veggie no sausage roll, with luxury hot chocolate after school. We hope you can join us and take the opportunity to start the weekend early with an end of the week treat.

Denver Village Yard Sale

We will be organising our annual village yard sale again this year on Sunday 23rd April. If you think you would be able to help on the day, or beforehand, even for just an hour we would be very grateful. The type of tasks we need help with include delivering flyers and putting up posters, serving teas and coffees in the village hall, collecting pitch fees, or donations of cakes and biscuits. Should you be able to spare some time, please either grab one of us at the school gates or email us on friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting date is Monday 6th February after school pick up in the school hall. We would love to see you there if you can join us. All new entrants are guaranteed not to be given the worst jobs for at least one meeting 😊

Sports News

Active Kids

On 26th January, the children in Y1 visited Lynnsport for the second of the Active Kids festivals. They took part in several different activities including parachute games, an obstacle course, dishes and domes and many more. William said, 'It was fantastic! My favourite was the obstacle course because it was so much fun.'



Dodgeball Club

Rhys from Wereham Dodgeball is continuing to deliver a dodgeball club to Key Stage 2 every Monday morning from 8-8.45am. Each session costs £3.50. It is proving to be a very popular club and the children who attend give very positive feedback. each session. If your child does not attend and would like to, please email Mrs Henden on dhenden@denver.norfolk.sch.uk



Mini Marathon

The TCS London Mini Marathon takes place on 22nd April, and we are hoping to send a team from Denver Primary. It is free to enter when linked to the school, so if you are interested, please contact Mrs Henden at dhenden@denver.norfolk.sch.uk who will register your child for a place. There will be no members of school at the event itself so families will be responsible for travel to and from the event and supervision during it.

Forthcoming Events

National Under 11s Mixed Football Tournament – 2nd February

On Thursday 2nd February, we are sending a mixed team of Y5/6 children to the National Under 11s Mixed Football Tournament at Lynnsport. The children are very excited about the tournament - we hope they enjoy it.

National Under 11s Girls Only Football Tournament – 3rd February

The following day, 3rd February, is the National Under 11s Girls Only Football Tournament, again being held at Lynnsport. Good luck to the girls!

Safer Internet Day – 7th February

We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7th February. 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.

Crazy Hair Day – 9th February

As mentioned in the Friends' update, we are having our first Crazy Hair day on 9th February and we are looking forward to seeing the children's crazy hair creations, and hopefully the staff's too!

Denver Supertots Playgroup – 9th February

Our next Denver Supertots Playgroup we be held on 9th February for children aged birth to school age. Supertots sessions run from 9.30-10.45am. If you know of anyone with children of this age, please encourage them to come and join us.

OMNES Games – Speed Stacking – 10th February

The next OMNES games, Speed Stacking, is being held on Friday 10th February. A group of children from Class 2 and Class 3 will be visiting Lynnsport for this event. We have also arranged for Class 3 to have a speed stacking taster session in school on Friday 3rd February.

Valentine's Disco – 23rd February

The Friends are organising a Valentine's Disco at Denver Village Hall on Thursday 23rd February from 5.30pm -7pm. More details will follow soon.

World Book Day – 2nd March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. We have several exciting activities planned and will once again be asking that the children come to school dressed as a favourite book character. We are also inviting parents into school from 3pm to read with your child/ren. More details will follow nearer the event.

Parent Consultations – 7th and 8th March

We will be offering face-to-face parent consultations on the 8th and 9th March. Mr Bonham will also be offering appointments on 15th March. More details will follow after half term.

And finally...

Please remember that we are a listening school, and you can always approach us with any concerns or ideas you may have. I hope you all enjoy February half term when it arrives.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Spring Term

February 2023	2 nd	Thu	National Under 11s Mixed Football Tournament
	3 rd	Fri	National Under 11s Girls Only Football Tournament
	3 rd	Fri	Speed Stacking Taster – Class 3
	9 th	Thu	Crazy Hair Day
	9 th	Thu	Supertots
	10 th	Fri	Speed Stacking OMNES Games
	13 th -17 th		School closed for half term
	20 th	Mon	Children return to school
	23 rd	Thu	Valentine's Disco
March 2023	2 nd	Thu	World Book Day
	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
	8 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	9 th - 12 th		KS2 SATs Week
	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