



# June 2023

## Newsletter



Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the year. June is always a very busy month in school with sports day, trips out and many sporting events. Here is a flavour of the many activities the children have been engaging in.

### Glass Creations

Over the last few weeks, all the children have been working with Debbie Brunton to create a fused glass piece of art. Some of the children have started to bring these home, and more will follow soon. The children have loved every minute and created some wonderful pieces to treasure. Here are some photos of them in action. A huge thank you to the Friends and the ladies from the church for funding this wonderful opportunity for the children.



### Class 3 Visit West Stow

Class 3 were lucky enough to visit West Stow on 6th June this year. West Stow is the site of an early Anglo-Saxon village, occupied from AD 420-650, over 400 years before the Norman Conquest, where visitors can see eight reconstructed Anglo-Saxon houses. The buildings include the craft building, farmer's house, hall building, living house, oldest house, sunken house, weaving house and the workshop.

The children were able to see how people of the Anglo-Saxon times lived. They looked at artefacts, clothing and the reproduction buildings. There was also a chance to ask questions to the experts. Comments from the children included:

"I liked the houses but not the dead animal skins." Evie

"Exploring the houses was fun." Drew

"My best memory was trying on the helmet." Oliver

"I liked trying on the costumes." Jake.



A huge thank you to the Friends for funding this visit.



### **Class 1 Trip**

After learning about animals in Class 1, the children went on a trip to Fossils Galore in March to learn about animals that lived millions of years ago. The children all became archaeologists as they learnt about different fossils of old animals and had the chance to hunt for their own fossils and shark teeth. The class also had a tour around the museum, seeing all the different prehistoric animals' bones and found out what they would have looked like. We were amazed at how some animals from millions of years ago looked similar to some animals we still see today! Many thanks to the Friends for funding this visit.



### **Reading Dog**

We are really pleased to inform you that we have arranged for Pip the reading dog to be a regular visitor to the school from September. Research has shown that children show increased confidence and an improvement in their reading when they read to dogs. Pip had a taster visit last week and was extremely popular with the children. I know they will look forward to his visits.

### **Coronation Gift for the King**

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council are creating a personalised book from West Norfolk schools as a gift for HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla to mark their Coronation. They asked us to contribute to the book and the children each drew a Coronation picture, as can be seen below. It is lovely to know that Denver Primary School is part of such a special gift.



### **Coronation Commemorative Coins**

Staying on the theme of the Coronation, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June, we were joined by Councillor Osborne of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (he is also a history teacher at Downham Market Academy). He was acting on behalf of the Mayor and came to the school to present the children with a special coin. The coin was specially produced for all primary school children in the West Norfolk district to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Each child in the school now has a permanent memento of this occasion along with the fond memories from our Coronation party.





### **Year 6 Secondary School Transition Preparation**

A representative from The Swan Youth Project in Downham Market joined Class 4 on 8<sup>th</sup> June for the first of 4 sessions to help the Y6 children feel prepared for the move to secondary school. The children were asked to reflect on their feelings and to write down questions that they would like to be answered in subsequent sessions. They also considered who they feel are the five key people in their support network and what they could turn to them for in times of need, whether it be a negative or a positive thing to share. Finally, positive and negative emotions were related to what they might experience at secondary school. The session ended positively with things that they are enthusiastic about as they move on. Thank you to the Swan Youth Project for providing these valuable sessions.



### **Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley**

Over the past four weeks, we have been developing our outdoor area with the children and giving them the chance to choose their own activities during our outdoor learning club. They have learned how to weave the Willow in the reflection area, and as things have turned a little messy with their bug hotels and their insect investigations, we have also created some 'tippy taps' so that they can wash their hands with clean water! The children really enjoyed doing these. We have also nurtured the artists in them by creating some life drawings of the things they have found outside. Next week is our last week for this term (Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>) and we are finishing with some baked potatoes and marshmallows on a fire. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and interest in our club, and I look forward to developing it into some exciting projects next year...watch this space!







### Attendance Focus

In each newsletter we have an attendance focus as part of our continued work to improve school attendance. 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

For any planned absence, including for holidays, during term time, a leave of absence form **must** be completed at least two weeks prior to the absence. The form can be requested by emailing the school office. Please remember that, in accordance with our policy, a penalty notice fine may be issued for holidays taken in term time.

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

Class 1	95.8%
Class 2	97.3%
Class 3	96.8%
Class 4	98.7%

Well done to Class 4 for having the highest attendance for the month of June!

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 **96.0%**. Please work with us to help improve attendance and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

We also monitor children who arrive at school late. Please remember that any child arriving at school after 9am will receive a late mark. If a child arrives after 9.10am, this will result in an unauthorised absence. Letters will be sent out to parents/carers if there are concerns about punctuality to school.



### **Fire Service Visit**

This month, Downham Market Fire Service visited school to give a talk to Class 2. The firefighters talked about their role, showed the children the equipment and around the fire engine, and gave them the opportunity to try on some of their protective clothing. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit and we are grateful to the crew members for giving up their time to visit the school.





### **Waste-Free Wednesdays**

Well done to the children who have been engaging with our waste-free Wednesdays, bringing in packed lunches which do not contain any packaging. Children who have had five or more waste-free lunches will be receiving certificates designed by Saffron and Eliza from the Eco-Committee.

### **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme**

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun is a summer holiday activity scheme run by Active Norfolk in partnership with Norfolk County Council for children aged 5-15. Activities start from 24<sup>th</sup> July and include sport, drama, cooking, music, arts and crafts, dance, and much more. A free lunch is also offered. Activities are available for all children and free to those eligible for means-tested free school meals. There are also places available for vulnerable children. To find out the available activities near you and information on how to book places, visit <https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>



### **Summer Reading Challenge**

Fran Valentine from Downham Market Library visited our collective worship yesterday to introduce this year's summer reading challenge, 'Ready, Set, Read!' to the children. The challenge will encourage children to unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. Through taking part, children will be able to join a superstar team and their marvellous mascots as they navigate a fictional summer obstacle course brought to life with illustrations by children's illustrator Loretta Schauer. Downham Library will be hosting lots of exciting events and fun things to do throughout the summer and we'd love our children to be part of it. As always, the challenge is FREE to join. The children need to read 6 library books to collect stickers along the way to achieving a certificate and medal. More details to follow soon.



### **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](mailto: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.

### **Christian Value**

Each half term we focus on a different Christian value in school, and our value for this half term has been **endurance**. The children have explored this value during collective worship and added examples of endurance in action to their floor books.

### **Sun Protection**

Just a reminder that to protect the children from the sun, please ensure that they bring a sun hat and water bottle to school each day, and that they apply sun cream before coming to school. Sun cream can be re-applied in school, if necessary, although we ask that you do not send in aerosols. Thank you.

### **Drinks**

Please remember that the children should only have water in their water bottles, not squash. Water helps to keep them hydrated and improves their focus in lessons. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **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, as the staff do not have time to cut up birthday cakes. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Clubs**

Just a reminder that next week is the last week for after school clubs and morning booster sessions. Thank you to everyone involved in running clubs throughout the year. Before and after school care will run until the end of term.

### **Denver Supertots Playgroup – 13<sup>th</sup> July**

The final Denver Supertots Playgroup for this year will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 9.30-10.45am. All pre-school age children and their parents are welcome to attend for a small cost of £1 each child, with children under 1 being free. As this is the last session, we are organising a party for the children who attend. A huge thank you to Amanda Dawson, Clare Gunns and the students from DMA, Sophie, Jessie and Emily, for helping to run this popular group through the year. Here is Seren dressed up as The Tiger Who Came To Tea from this week's session.





### **Brambles Animal Sanctuary**

Thank you to those people who kindly donated pet food for Brambles Animal Sanctuary in Denver. They are still looking for donations of unopened, opened or out of date bags of food. If you can spare anything, please bring these into school and we will pass them on. Thank you.

### **Update from The Friends**

#### **Pre-loved School Uniform Sale - 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July after school**

We will be holding our first pre-loved uniform sale dates this term on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July on the school field at 3.20pm. This is a good chance to stock up ready for next year, or if your child has outgrown any items through the winter months.

All pre-loved uniform is passed on free of charge, although a small donation is welcome should you feel able to on the day. A good range of sizes and styles will be available of both branded and non-branded uniform. If you are not able to make these dates and would like uniform ready for next year, please email [friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) with your requirements or speak to Victoria Fradley (Arthur's mum in class 3).

We will also be selling brand new uniform with the older embroidered or printed logo at a vastly reduced price. There are limited sizes available and will be sold on a first come / first served basis. If you would like to purchase any of these items before the sale, please email [friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) and we will check availability. Here are some examples of the older embroidered logo.



We always welcome donations of outgrown good quality wearable uniform which can be donated via the blue bin by the field gate, including winter coats.

#### **Denver Family Fun Day - 16<sup>th</sup> July**

The Friends of Denver School will once again be having a tombola stand at Denver Family Fun Day held on the Denver Playing Field on 16<sup>th</sup> July. A non-uniform day in return for tombola donations will be held at school on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Due to the expected warm temperatures, we kindly ask for no donations of chocolate to prevent sticky melting prizes.

## **Bag2school**

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Bag2school collection on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

## **Annual General Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September after school at 3.20pm. We would love to see you there and always welcome new, and old, faces. You are welcome to bring your children with you and activities will be available to keep them occupied.

## **Committee Roles**

We have several roles available within the Friends of Denver School Committee next academic year. The Roles of Secretary, Vice Chair Person and Chair Person will be vacant. Our Treasurer will also be in her last year with us next academic year and we are keen that anyone interested in this important role has time to shadow the existing treasurer to ensure a smooth transition. Anyone interested in learning about any of these roles or more about the Friends, please email [friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) or speak to anyone of us.

## **Sports News**

### **Sports Day 2023**

After a weather-delayed wait, we were pleased to be able to hold our annual Sports Day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The event was well-attended by spectating families thanks to the perfect weather. The afternoon began with the Key Stage 1 and Reception carousel. The little ones enjoyed a range of activities that used their fundamental movement skills. Straight after was the more traditional track-based KS2 event. Overall winners were the White team with 195 points. Congratulations to them but to everyone who took part. Thank you to Mrs Henden and Miss Cronin for organising the day, all staff and parent/governor helpers who gave up their time and especially to Class 4 who did a tremendous job for running each activity.





## Ultimate Frisbee

On Tuesday this week, Class 3 took part in an ultimate frisbee taster session lead by Sean from Alive West Norfolk. They thoroughly enjoyed it and some of the children went on to try this exciting sport with other schools at Lynnsport today. Here is some feedback from the children:

- 'It was great fun to do it!' Alfie Cr
- 'I liked the Ultimate Frisbee because it was fun and it was tricky.' Hope
- 'On Tuesday we had a taster session for Ultimate Frisbee. It was really fun. We were split into four different teams. I really enjoyed it.' Seren
- 'Ultimate Frisbee was fun and I was in goal twice.' Max



## Area Sports

The annual Downham Market cluster Key Stage 2 Area Sports athletics event was held at Hillcrest Primary School on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Just like last year all schools, regardless of size, were competing together so there was no overall winning school. Instead, children competed on an individual basis with only the event winners earning gold medals.

Denver had many successes winning 13 of the events on offer. In fact, of the 4 relays that were held (one each for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6) Denver won three of them meaning that the total medal haul was 19!

Regardless of winning or not, all members of the team showed determination and good sportsmanship. Everyone taking part should be proud of their achievements.

### ***Here is a list of our gold medallists:***

- Chase for Y3 hurdles
- Joshua-Jon for Y6 hurdles
- Lorelei for Y3 hurdles
- Isla for Y4 hurdles
- Rosie for Y4 sprint
- Evie for Y6 sprint
- Chase for Y3 vortex howler
- Chase for Y3 tennis ball throw
- Finley for Y5 vortex howler
- James for Y6 vortex howler
- Onur, Chase, Esther and Lorelei for Y3 relay

- Finley, Ella, Ella-Rose and William for Y5 relay
- Joshua-Jon, Evie, Brooke and James for Y6 relay

Well done Team Denver!

### **Mini Tennis**

A group of children from Y3/4 (Bobby, Oliver, Rosie and Seren) took part in a mini tennis tournament at Lynnsport on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The Y5/6 event happened today with Saffron, Evie, James and Joshua-Jon representing the school. Thank you to the parents for providing transport to these events.



### **Dance Festival – King’s Lynn Corn Exchange**

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, over 100 children from primary schools around West Norfolk strutted their stuff on stage in the King’s Lynn Corn Exchange. The theme this year was ‘decades’ and the audience of children and 200 members of the public, clapped, sang and cheered as each school performed their dance routine – the atmosphere was electric! There was such a diverse range of styles; street, rock and roll, house, even Gangnam Style! The ‘Denver Dance Dudes’ were second to go on and danced their socks off to ‘Fashion’ by the legend that is David Bowie. Only a couple of the children had danced on the Corn Exchange stage before but it didn’t faze them at all and they just took it all in their stride... whilst Miss de Vanche hid in the wings! Thanks to all the parents who were there to support the school, Mrs Adams and Mrs Dawson for chaperoning and of course Miss de Vanche for being such a fantastic choreographer. Well done girls and boys - and thank you for all your hard work – you have made us all at Denver School very proud!







### Taekwondo Champ

On Sunday 11th June, Seren, in Class 3, competed in the Taekwondo English Championships in Hereford. She performed extremely well winning bronze in both Patterns and Sparring. Well done, Seren!



### **Top Goal Scorer**

Joshua-Jon, in Class 4, has achieved his goal of becoming the top goal scorer for his team this season. Joshua has been working extremely hard and has been selected to play for the Junior Premier League Elite King's Lynn team next season. Super job Joshua-Jon!



### **Swimming Star**

Well done to Edith, in Class 3, who has achieved her level 7 swimming award.





### **Race for Life**

Well done to Abbie in Class 2 for taking part in this year's Race for Life at Houghton Hall to raise money for cancer research. I also took part in the event with my son and there was an amazing atmosphere with lots of people running for friends and loved ones who have been affected by cancer.



### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Class 2 Visit to West Runton – 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Class 2 are really looking forward to their day at the beach next week when they visit West Runton.

#### **School Games Festival – 11<sup>th</sup> July**

We will be having our annual School Games Festival on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July. More details to follow.

#### **Move Up Afternoons – 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July**

On the afternoons of 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July, we will welcome the new reception intake into school and the whole school will move up to their next year group/class. A meeting for the new reception parents/carers will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm.

#### **Denver Fun Day – 16<sup>th</sup> July**

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall and the school choir will be performing. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

#### **KS2 Production – 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July**

The children in KS2 are busy rehearsing for their end of year production of '**Penelope and The Crystal of Ultimate Knowledge**'. There will be two performances, both in the Village Hall with the lovely air conditioning: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm for parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm for parents/carers of Y6 and invited guests. The Thursday performance will be followed by a Y6 leavers' buffet. Tickets for the Wednesday performance and invitations to the Thursday evening will soon be making their way home with the children.

## End of Year Assembly – 21<sup>st</sup> July

We are having an end of year assembly on the last day of term at 2pm to celebrate what we have achieved in school this year. Special awards will be presented, and we will say goodbye to our Y6 children. All are welcome to attend. Please enter school via the field gate entrance.

## And finally...

As is the case every year, the last few weeks of term are always extremely busy, and we are very much looking forward to welcoming you into school to share these with us.

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

### Summer Term

July 2023	4 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Downham Market Academy transition day
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Class 2 visit West Runton
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	School Games Festival
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Denver Supertots – 9.30 – 10.45
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	New Reception Intake Meeting 2pm
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	KS2 Production
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	KS2 Production
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	End of Year Assembly
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term

## 2023/2024

### Autumn Term

September 2023	6 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
October 2023	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
December 2023	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Last day of autumn term

### Spring Term

January 2024	4 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Children return to school
February 2024	19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>		School closed for half term
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2024	27 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Last day of spring term
April 2024	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school

### Summer Term

May 2024	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term
June 2023	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2023	19 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term