



# November 2023

## Newsletter



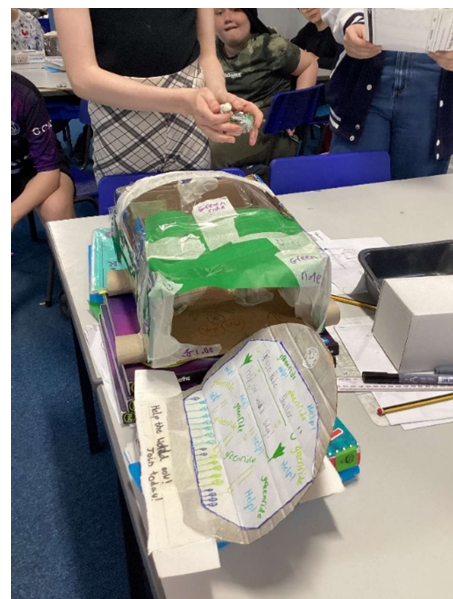
Welcome to the November newsletter, and what has been another very busy month in school! There has been a great deal to celebrate this month and we hope you enjoy reading about the many events that have been happening in school.

### **8 Billion Ideas Competition**

You may recall that the children in Class 4 entered a competition open to Year 5 and 6 children in all primary schools under the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. This was called '8 Billion Ideas'. The competition was for teams of children to design, make and pitch a prototype of an eco-friendly, sustainable idea that will benefit our local area in the future. It encouraged teamwork, creativity and consideration of the future needs of society.



Last Friday morning, there was a live screening via Zoom of the entries and winners. We were delighted that our team 'Green Ride' came an impressive third place with their prototype of a car that turns waste into energy! The judges were especially impressed by the quality of the pitch. Huge congratulations to Charlotte, Hope, Rosie and Amelia. Their efforts have earned a £50 voucher for the school to be used for teaching resources relating to climate change and £10 vouchers for the children. Here is their design.



### **Children in Need**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, we held a non-uniform day to support this year's Children in Need appeal. Thank you to the members of the School Council who collected money on the day. In total we raised a super £111.80 – an amazing effort! Thank you for helping us to support such a good cause. Here is a photo of some of our children at Before School Club doing some Pudsey colouring.



### **Remembrance**

In early November, the School Council members sold poppy merchandise to raise money for the Royal British Legion. We then marked Remembrance in school with a special assembly to explain to the children the importance of the poppy. Grace (Class 4) and her brother Leo (Class 1) laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the school at the memorial in Denver on Remembrance Sunday. This was particularly poignant for both children as their dad is a serving member of the armed forces and is currently away from home on a tour of duty.



We also welcomed a special visitor, Trigger the poppy horse, who wore a blanket covered in beautiful poppies. Trigger's visit helped the children to understand that it was not only people who died in wartime, but also animals – in fact a staggering eight million horses, donkeys and mules were killed during the First World War. The children really enjoyed meeting Trigger and I know the visit made remembrance more special to them.



### **Odd Socks Day**

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we organised an Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week. The children were all asked to come to school wearing odd socks to represent the fact that we are all unique individuals. Well done to all the children for promoting this very important message.





### **Visitor for Anti-bullying Week**

To mark the importance of anti-bullying week, in addition to Odd Socks Day, we received a visit from Louise of the Swan Youth Project. Louise came to lead a special assembly 'Making a noise about bullying'. She discussed with the children the difference between banter and bullying, how to recognise bullying and most importantly, what to do if you or someone else is being bullied.



### **DT Day Class 3 – A Safari through Robotics**

On 17<sup>th</sup> November Class 3 (Year 3 and Year 4) children had a 'A Safari through Robotics'. Ben Allen, who is part of the University of the West of England, visited and brought along a collection of devices and robots which help improve people's lives. After trying them out the children were then asked to think about their own ideas for 'robot helpers'. The children then presented them to a panel of judges including Ben and Sarah Dungay, one of the school's Governors. Each child got a certificate of participation, and the winners got a trophy.

The children's comments included:

'I had a fun day and found out that people can use soft robots.' Olivia

'I absolutely loved it!' Ellie

'I think it has been fun and cool and I liked that they could do gorilla moves.' Chase

'It was a good adventure, and one was my friend.' Katie



## **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 second half of the autumn term has been generosity and the children have really embraced this value by showing generosity in so many different ways, as you will see evidenced in the next few items.

## **Shoe Box Appeal**

A huge thank you for the many donations we received for the Rotary Shoebox Scheme – over 80 shoeboxes were filled with donations from the school and church. The shoeboxes will this year be sent to Albania, Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine where they will make a huge difference to people living in very difficult circumstances. Thank you for your amazing generosity. Here is a photo of some School Council members with your donations.



## **Foodbank Visit**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, some members of our School Council visited Downham Market Foodbank to deliver the items we had collected in our Harvest celebrations. They had a tour of the foodbank and learnt about how it supports local families. Amber, Mia and Emie wrote the following account:

*Firstly, we went in and added our donations to the storage. We asked some questions. They gave us lanyards of volunteers who work there: Mia was Lisa, Emie was Brian and Amber was Jeanette. We weighed some food that was already there. We had to sort through things that couldn't be used e.g. out of date foods. These items are given out for free. We had a tour around the main hall, and we were shown how much pasta and cereal they have donated – a lot! They had lots of posters about the foodbank and the importance of them in this current climate. They explained how people get to use the foodbanks. Most people have to go to the foodbank, but in some cases they will deliver the food. Then we went into a room, a little like a mini supermarket, and we had to follow some instructions to make up a parcel for a family (a 4-year-old, an 8-year-old and 2 adults) finding the food from the shelves. We had to make it fair for the family. We had to wear aprons whilst doing this. We all really enjoyed visiting the foodbank – it was a fun experience – we also got chocolates at the end. We learnt that a range of people who are struggling use the foodbank and we have a better understanding of how our donations help families.*

The children really enjoyed the visit and it really helped them to understand how their donations are used to support local families. It linked in well with our Christian theme for this term, generosity. A huge thank you to Downham Market Food bank for welcoming us.



### **SEND Coffee Morning**

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, we held our second SEND coffee morning of the school year in school. Rachel Andrews from Carers Matter Norfolk attended and had lots of useful information to share about what Carers Matter can offer to support parents who are caring for children with additional needs. It was a really useful session and those who attended valued the opportunity to talk to others. If you have any suggestions for guest speakers we could invite to the next coffee morning in the spring term, please let us know. For more information about Carers Matter Norfolk, please visit [Parent Carer Service - Carers Matter \(youngcarersmatternorfolk.org\)](http://youngcarersmatternorfolk.org)

### **Christmas Tree Decorating**

The children at our Before School Club were tasked with decorating the Christmas tree this week, and what a great job they did. Here are the children in action.



### **First Admission to School**

We have been asked by the Local Authority to remind parents that applications for children starting school in Reception next September need to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The easiest way for parents to apply is online at [www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk) If anyone is interested in their child starting here at Denver next September, or knows of anyone else who is interested, please contact the office to arrange a visit.

### **After School Club**

Due to low numbers of children attending our paid for after school 3.15 club, it has been necessary to increase the cost charged to £4 per child to cover staffing costs.

### **Class 2 Literacy by Mr Cawley**

Last week, the children in Class 2 had a fun morning learning how to repair a puncture on a bicycle. The children were all attentive and involved, and this inspired them to write some instructions about what they learned, marking the end of this unit of work. There will be no excuses the next time they get a thorn in their tyre!



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

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently in out of school hours, 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.

### **Clubs**

The last week for after-school sports clubs and the outdoor learning club is next week, the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> December. All children will need collecting at the usual end of school time. Booster sessions for Y5 and Y6 will continue until the week ending 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Before School Club and 3.15 clubs will continue until the end of term.

### **Christmas Cards**

From next Monday, the children will be able to post all their Christmas cards to their friends and staff members in the Christmas post box. Please ensure that envelopes clearly show the recipient's first name and the initial of their last name, along with their class, to ensure that cards can be delivered successfully e.g. John S, Class 4. Cards can be posted until the last day of term, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.



### **PE Kit**

Please can you ensure that children wear the correct PE uniform on PE days. PE kit should be plain and in school colours, without large logos. Earrings must be removed for PE and not taped over. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Attendance Focus**

We are continually working hard to improve school attendance due to the impact that absence from school can have on learning. As part of this work, each newsletter throughout the year has had an attendance focus.

Please remember that, in line with the expectations set out in '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)', fixed penalty notices will be issued if the criteria set out in that letter is met.

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

Class 1	92.5%
Class 2	95.2%
Class 3	95.5%
Class 4	96.4%

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

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **96.6%**. Thank you for supporting our drive to improve school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

### **Times Tables Rockstars**

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



### **Outdoor Learning Updates from Mr Cawley**

In outdoor learning have been exploring teamwork and dexterity! Some of us were busy making spider's webs, whilst others took on the 'lock and key' challenge; an activity where we had to lock our arms around a rope and travel the length of it - all without touching the floor (some even tried it blindfold!) This activity separated the leaders from the lemmings! Whether or not they were successful or needed a little more practise, it was an apt way of concluding class two's '**no pen day**' through a final opportunity of completing a task rich in communication opportunities!

In another outdoor learning session we took some clay outside and printed some of the fantastic leaves we found on the floor. This lasted all of 5 minutes, so the children used their imaginations to print other things in the clay such as the letters on the side of the tyres. Quite surprisingly we managed to find most of the letters of the alphabet from the words written on the tyre walls! Obviously, this was not planned but was inspired by the children's enthusiasm for the session! We also played another game of 'lock and key', where the children relied on their friends to help them from one end of the rope to the other end of the rope without touching the floor. They really enjoyed this game and some of the innovative ways they find to do this never cease to surprise the adults. With a rope lying there it was inevitable that we finished the session with a game of tug of war. This allowed us to throw questions at the children about fairness and equality whilst keeping it fun and giving them a competitive edge to finish the session... Until next time, Mr C.



Outdoor learning club took a turn for the 'chillier', as it was Baltic on the field this week! We decided to split the session into two, the first half concentrating on making numbers to 20 with natural resources. It never ceases to amaze me how well the children work together and in fairness we got most of the numbers quite quickly. As the sky darkened, we broke out the glow sticks for the second half of the session and had a few games of manhunt. This is a cross between hide and seek and tag. The glow sticks added a layer of extra fun, and it wasn't long before even the youngest children got the idea of the game, and all were able to join in. Hopefully we didn't keep parents waiting too long at the gate, but as always, the children didn't want to leave! Next week our in our last session, we will have a fire... watch this space!





### **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun**

The **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun** festive holiday activity scheme is running from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December and from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Free places are available for children who are eligible for means-tested free school meals. Parents can book activities at [Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)

### **Update from The Friends**

A huge thank you to everyone for attending the school Christmas Fayre after school on 30<sup>th</sup> November. It was so well attended, and Class 3 and Class 4 had a fantastic time providing the entertainment. We hope that you had a wonderful evening and thank you so much for helping The Friends of Denver School with its fundraising activities. A massive £980.35 was raised! Thank you again for your support and to the children and staff in Classes 3 and 4 (and their parents) for organising such fantastic activities.

We are looking forward to making Christmas crackers with the children next week and ask that, if possible, all children come in with a kitchen roll tube after the weekend.

There will be one more fundraising activity before Christmas where our gorgeous polar bear is looking for a new home and name. An email will be sent by The Friends early next week with more details.



## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Messy Church – 4<sup>th</sup> December**

The next Messy Church session will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30-5pm in the school hall. The theme will be Advent. A poster advertising this has been sent out this week. We hope to see many of you there.

### **Choir Performance – 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Our school choir will be spreading some festive cheer when they perform at Oakes Court Residential Home on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December (a change to the original date). The children will travel there directly from school, and we aim to start at 3.45pm.

### **Denver Supertots – 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Our next Denver Supertots playgroup sessions will be on 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. The session on 13<sup>th</sup> will have a Christmas theme. Please help us to spread the word to any families with pre-school aged children who many want to attend.

### **Christmas Parties**

We have arranged for each class to have their own Christmas party in the last few weeks of term. The parties are always a fun way to end the term and will help to get the children into the festive spirit. The parties will take place on the following dates:

	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Class 1</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Class 2</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Class 3</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Class 4</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December

### **Christingle Service – 8<sup>th</sup> December**

We are having a Christingle Service on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am in St Mary's Church, Denver. The children will make Christingles, kindly supported by the ladies from St Mary's Church, the day before. The church will be open from 9.15am.

### **Class 1 Learning Café – 12<sup>th</sup> December**

We would like to invite Class 1 parents/carers into school on 12<sup>th</sup> December from 9-10am for this half term's Learning Café. A Christmas themed story will be shared and then there will be some organised activities for you to take part in with your child. The last session was really well attended, and we hope many Class 1 parents/carers will join us again for this session.

### **Christmas Lunch – 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The children will be enjoying their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. To help them to get into the festive spirit, the children can wear Christmas themed clothing on this day.

### **Nativity – 13<sup>th</sup> December**

The children in Classes 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing this year's Nativity play, Six Birds at Christmas. They will be performing this to their parents/grandparents in the school hall at 2.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, with parents/grandparents welcome into school from 2.15pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

### **Pantomime – 15<sup>th</sup> December**

The children in Year 1-6 will be visiting the Maltings, Ely to watch the pantomime, Robin Hood. This is very kindly being funded by the Friends of Denver School. The children in Reception will have a Christmas party in school.

### **Carol Service – 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Our annual Carol Service is taking place in St Mary's Church, Denver on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, starting at the new time of 5.30pm. This is for children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 and their parents/carers. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Sports News**

#### **Cluster Football**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, two teams representing Denver travelled to Hillcrest Primary School to take part in a 6-a-side football tournament against other schools in the cluster. Denver Dynamos (red strip) had a very successful afternoon, winning every match and not conceding any goals. They ended the day as the tournament winners.



Denver Athletic (blue strip) had mixed fortunes but all played very well. Oliver received special recognition for saving 4 goals in a short space of time. Well done to both teams!



## Cross Country

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, children who had qualified with a top ten finish in the Downham cluster cross country tournament travelled to Lynnsport to compete in the area finals. Many children took part in this round and our children all ran fantastically well.



A top ten place for Chase in Class 3 and Ella in Class 4 saw them through to the county finals. They both ran extremely well and with Chase coming 26<sup>th</sup> and Ella 35<sup>th</sup> out of approximately 70 runners in each of their races. A huge thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to take the children to these events.

## Young Leaders Training – Class 4

The children in Class 4 recently completed their Young Leader training. In their final session, the groups had to consider how to keep the interest of the people they are leading (communication) and how to use equipment effectively. This was achieved by asking the groups to work together to invent a game with a specific amount of equipment and time available. Groups were also asked to consider which equipment was strictly necessary to deliver the game. Once the groups had spent time testing out their games, they pitched and demonstrated them.



Feedback was given by Shaun and members of the other groups regarding safety considerations and how to get people back involved in the game if they have been caught out so that they don't get bored. Many of the ideas were so good that they are to be rolled out to after school clubs and for playground games.

Beyond this, the skills and ideas explored throughout the training programme will be used to develop activities at playtimes, and support the planning of and organisation of festivals, inter-competitions and sports days. The children have been encouraged to use these skills in the wider community. They have a number of stars to work towards filling in to continually improve their playmaker skills.



### **National Football League Under 11s Competition**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, a team of 6 plus 2 substitutes travelled to Lynnsport to take part in the National Football League Under 11s mixed tournament. They played in a round robin of matches against schools across the West Norfolk region organised and sponsored by The Linnets (King's Lynn Football Club). The team worked very well together with some successful games. They demonstrated good sportsmanship.



### **National Football League Under 11s Girls Competition**

A team of 6 girls from Class 4 travelled to Lynnsport to take part in the National League Under 11s Girls Football Tournament on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. This event was sponsored by King's Lynn Town Football Club (The Linnets) and is often an opportunity for their coaches to do a bit of talent spotting. Congratulations to our Denver team who finished a very solid third place. These are their results:

Heacham Albion 1, Denver 2  
Denver 3, South Wootton Saints 1  
Denver 0, Dersingham 0  
North Wootton 1, Denver 2  
Heacham Hotspurs 0, Denver 0  
Denver 0, South Wootton Stars 3



Mrs Walton, one of our governors, who accompanied the visit, was very complimentary of their behaviour and sportsmanship which she said was 'a credit to the school.' There was clearly some good goal keeping with only a few goals conceded.





## **Sporting Stars**

### **Gymnastics Success**

Sisters Esther and Rebekah recently competed in their first gymnastics competition. They both did incredibly well, and these were their results. Rebekah achieved Gold on the floor, and Bronze on the Beam, Bars, and Vault. Esther achieved Gold on the Floor, Beam, and Vault! What amazing achievements for their first competition. Well done girls!



### And finally...

The December diary is extremely full, and we are very much looking forward to sharing our festive events with you and the Denver community. Please do look carefully at the dates below so you do not miss anything.

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

#### 2023/2024

##### Autumn Term

December 2023	1 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	Decoration Day
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Messy Church
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Choir Performance at Oakes Court
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Christingle Service in St Mary's Church
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 3 Christmas Party
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 1 Christmas Learning Café
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Christmas Lunch
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Nativity for Classes 1 and 2 - 2.30pm start
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Class 2 Christmas Party
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Pantomime Visit
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 1 Christmas Party
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Carol Service - 5.30pm in St Mary's Church
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 4 Christmas Party
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Christmas Jumper/Clothing Day
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