



May 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the newsletter for May. This half term has flown by, and we have much to share and celebrate with you.

National Numeracy Day

On 22nd May, all classes celebrated National Numeracy Day. The focus of the day was how numbers play a key role in all things we do and what we want to do in the future. Classes 1 and 2 took part in a video session where they saw examples of how numbers can be everywhere, including dancing and in space. All classes held their own conversations about this too and took part in a competition to draw their dream job or a hobby they enjoy, highlighting where numbers would have an influence. Some entries will be sent off to be judged against others around the country. Many thanks to Mr Rackham for organising this.

Class 1 Visit to Snettisham Park Farm by Mr Rackham

To learn more about farm animals, Class 1 went on their school trip to Snettisham Park Farm. The children loved taking part in a variety of farm activities that farmers do every day. This included feeding milk to the calves and lambs, feeding goats and collecting and grading chicken eggs. In the afternoon, the class went on a deer safari into the deer park and got to feed some deer too. Thank you to the Friends of Denver School for funding the class trip and to the volunteers who gave their time to help out with the trip!



Class 1 Learning Café by Mr Rackham

In Class 1's most recent Learning Café, the children demonstrated their new Drawing Club format with their parents/carers. Following their topic theme this half term of Kings and Queens, we read the story 'The King's Pants' by Nicholas Allen. The children were given the scenario that, like the King's pants, his crowns had gone missing... but where? There were some creative ideas as to where the crowns may have landed, including: on a cactus, in the sea and even on Denver School! Children also got creative, making their own crowns with their parents/ carers to take home. Thank you to everyone who attended the session.



Class 4 Quilt

During the spring term, the children in Class 4 created panels showing what the word precious meant to them in their DT lessons. Some decided it was family, other treasure chests or jewels, some thought of love and peace, and our precious planet. Using fabric pens, fabric, buttons and thread, they then used applique techniques to recreate their designs on fabric. When all the panels were finished, a group of 6 children volunteered to learn how to turn them into a quilt. They used the sewing machine to stitch the panels together to create the 'topper'. Finally, they put the layers together to make the quilt.



The finished item has been entered into a quilt competition for junior quilters and schools and will be on display at the 'Festival of Quilts' in August at the NEC in Birmingham. Well done to the children for their well thought out panels and the team who volunteered to learn a new skills. A huge thank you also to Miss Cronin for her time in teaching them!

KS2 SATs

Between 13th and 17th May, the children in Y6 took the KS2 SATs tests. They were all calm and focused throughout the week and we are very proud of them. Well done Y6!

Pentecost Messy Church by Heidi Moat

At Messy Church this term, we celebrated a birthday. Fire, wind and multiple languages were all signs of God's Spirit at the birth of the Church. We enjoyed making sparkly cupcakes, windmills and decorated candles. Rev Nigel showed us a video of the Bible story and we learnt a new song. Sandwich-making was an unexpected hit with some very creative fillings! Everyone had fun and we look forward to planning an event for the last half term of the year. Come and join us - watch out for the date which we will announce soon.



Donation from Baytree

A huge thank you to Baytree at Hilgay for donating a range of gardening equipment, including compost, pots and seeds, to the school. Thank you also to those parents and staff who nominated the school on the Baytree Facebook and Instagram pages to receive these items. Here are some of the gardening group with the donated items – I know they are looking forward to making good use of them.



Y6 Crucial Crew

The children in Y6 participated in the Crucial Crew event on Friday 3rd May to learn about how to be safe in a range of situations. Here is a summary of the event from Mrs Henden...

The first stop was with a group of paramedics who taught us how to make a 999 call, the information that would be requested in an emergency and how to perform CPR using dummies. It was an eye-opener what hard work it is to make continuous and deep enough chest compressions. Many of the children complained that their hands hurt after just 60 seconds. In a real event this could take 30 minutes before a responder arrives.



The second station was manned by Norfolk Fire Service fire volunteers. They had made a mock-up bedroom that had numerous fire hazards. Together the children found the hazards and worked with the experts to discuss how the risks could be eliminated using role play to help us remember.

Next stop was with the RNLI station which was similar to the previous station: dangers were identified and then a full explanation of how to deal with them followed. Importantly we learnt that inland waterways are dealt with by the fire service and coastal issues by the coastguard but the emergency number, 999, remains the same.

Onwards to St John Ambulance volunteers who reminded us of the DR ABC procedure for dealing with casualties then a hands-on opportunity to practise calling for help, checking for breathing and whether responsive, clearing the airway and putting our partners into the recovery position.



From here we went to meet a police officer from Norfolk Constabulary. She shared very common-sense advice about 'owning' what we do online and how we are criminally responsible from age 10 for the things we say or do. Through the video of 'I've seen your willy', we learnt how quickly information that is not protected online can go viral and how something that was intended as a joke can quickly become something much more sinister. We were also reminded of the age restrictions for many of the Apps, platforms and games. The vast majority are set at well over 13 to be able to have an account. These platforms will not protect us in the event of a breach as they insist that all users are over the age restriction because to have an account in the first place, you must state that you are of age.

The sixth stop was with NHS wellbeing volunteers who taught us the science about why our bodies and brains react in certain ways, in particular when fight or flight reactions are triggered. They demonstrated some techniques for calming down in stressful situations such as stroking our own fingers to a pressure that feels comfortable.

Last, but definitely not least, was Luke from Cadent. Every year he delivers and this year did not disappoint. In his trademark humorous style, he taught us how to detect problems with gas, how to deal with a potential gas leak and the all-important helpline number: 0800 111 999.



Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

With rain and sun comes growth and an abundance of daisies on an uncut field! With lots of daisies comes the age-old favourite of making daisy chains! After talking to the children about the importance of not picking wildflowers, we then went on to challenge them to create the longest daisy chain possible. The task absorbed all of them in a prolonged moment of concentration as they practised their dexterity and fed their desire to 'win' by achieving the longest chain of daisies. Many skills practised and much fun was had. We beat the man with the mower to them...this time!



Mini beasts and maths...the children were excited to use the new outdoor classroom as the base for today's session; they were surprised when I introduced the focus for the session as being 'maths'! We used images of different mini beasts to create a pictogram of what they were able to find around the school grounds. Working in pairs, they explored under rocks, on the leaves of trees, in the tyres, and of course in the new wildlife area, in the hope of finding the creatures on their 'shopping list'. They managed to find at least one of the eight creatures, with ants (surprisingly!) being the most frequently occurring insect...who would have thought?! The children answered questions about the pictogram really clearly and with confidence. Maths without realising it was maths.

New Outdoor Learning Resources

Following a successful bid to the charitable fund offered monthly by Accent Fresh, we have received our 'shopping list' for our Outdoor learning club! The kit includes resources for knots, dens, bug identification and whittling. The children have many skills that they will now be able to learn and apply in different ways to different projects. We would like to say a huge thank you to Karen Short at Accent Fresh for considering our children as worthy receivers of the first of their donations to the community.



The team from Accent Fresh are due to come and see the kit in action on the 5th of June, so expect some excited children to return from club that evening! The kit will be kept in the rather smart Dewalt box that was also kindly donated by Screwfix in Downham Market. We feel quite blessed!



Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening

To celebrate and officially open our wonderful new outdoor classroom, we are busy planning a grand opening on Thursday 20th June in the early evening. All members of the school and local Denver community will be invited and we have lots of exciting things planned. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant will be attending and will have the honour of declaring the classroom officially open. The Friends are currently busy firming up final details and more information will follow shortly, but expect food, drinks, live music and local outdoor activity providers with lots of exciting things for adults and children to try. We hope you will all be able to join us for what I'm sure will be a fantastic evening.

Morning Drop Off

Thank you very much for helping us to promote independence with the Class 2 children by dropping them off at the field gate for them to walk to the classroom without parents.

Could we also remind parents that, unless previously agreed with Mrs Jones, children should not be dropped off at the front of school in the morning and should enter school via the back gate only. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sun Protection

To help 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 on sunny days. Thank you. Libby from Class 2 has created this lovely poster to promote sun safety.



Denver Supertots Playgroup

Our Denver Supertots Playgroup will continue to offer sessions on alternate Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 - 10.45am throughout the second half of the summer term. 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. A variety of games and activities are planned, with refreshments provided for the adults. The playgroup is jointly run by the school and students from Downham Market Academy. Dates of sessions can be found in the diary dates at the bottom of the newsletter.

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. May's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	97.9%
Class 2	97.7%
Class 3	99.1%
Class 4	97.6%

Well done to Class 3 for having the highest attendance for the month of May.

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **96.1%**, which is lower than our target of 97%. Please help us to support good school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Holidays

Please remember that holidays during term time **will not be authorised** and may be considered for a Fixed Penalty Notice should the criteria be met (**9 sessions or 4.5 school days of unauthorised absence within a 6 school week period**). An absence request should be completed **before** any holidays or absence are taken and can be accessed by requesting a link from the school office. It is important that we are made aware of children taking holidays before they are taken, rather than once children are on holiday as is sometimes the case. Our Attendance Policy is available on our school website.

Changes to Fixed Penalty Notices

A leaflet from the Local Authority was shared earlier this week to explain changes to Fixed Penalty Notice Fines, which will be implemented in September.

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days
- Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued (within 3 years) for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days

The third time an offence is committed (within 3 years) a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrate's Court. Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'

If you have any questions about the changes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour

We are pleased to be offering a free course called 'Understanding Your Child's Behaviour' in the second half of the summer term on the following dates:

1. Session 1 – Tuesday 25th June 09:00 – 11:00
2. Session 2 – Tuesday 2nd July 09:00 – 11:00
3. Reflection Session – Thursday 18th July 09:00 – 10:00

The sessions will be led by Joanne Turner, an Education and Family Worker from the School and Community Team and will take place in the school hall. The sessions will follow the Norfolk Steps approach. All 3 sessions should be completed to complete the course. If you are able to attend, please confirm your place by emailing the school office. We hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Wraparound Provision

During the second half of the summer term, we will be extending our After School Care offer from 4.20pm - 5pm each day. The cost from the end of school until 5pm will be £6.00. Children can still stay until 4.20pm for £4.00, the same amount currently charged. Children staying until either 4.20pm or 5pm will be given a snack each day at the start of the club. A range of activities will be on offer, including sports, crafts, outdoor play and child-led activities. Booking should be made through emailing 3.15club@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

Road Safety Survey

Members of the School Council have been working with the Community Speed Watch group for the village and have devised a survey to gather people's views about road safety in Denver. They would be grateful if you would take the time to complete their survey, a link to which has been sent out in an email to you, to help identify the issues and possible solutions. Please can we ask that responses are completed by Monday 3rd June. Thank you for your support with this.

Footwear

For safety reasons, please can we ask that children do not come to school in open-toed sandals. Thank you for your support with this.

Headlice

We are aware of cases of head lice in school and would ask that you check your child's hair regularly and, if necessary, ensure it is treated before your child returns to school please. We should also be grateful if you would make sure that long hair is always tied up as this helps prevent the spread of head lice.

Uniform Orders

Our school uniform is available to purchase online direct from our suppliers at <https://gooddies.co.uk> The cut-off date for deliveries of new school uniform to school before we break up for the summer holidays is 15th June. The cut-off date for deliveries to home addresses before 31st August is midnight on 31st July. Orders can still be placed after these dates, although delivery cannot be guaranteed before September.

May Bank Holiday and Half Term Activities

Here is a link to some of the many activities planned in West Norfolk for the May bank holiday and half term [May Bank Holiday and Half Term Activities in West Norfolk 2024 – Visit West Norfolk](#)

Update from The Friends

The Friends have been busy behind the scenes organising a number of events for the pupils and local community in the second half of this summer term, not least the Grand Opening of the Outdoor Learning area which is looking like being the biggest event at the school to date. More details will follow soon after the half term break, but please get the evening of Thursday 20th June pencilled into your diaries and calendars ... it should be a fabulous evening of great food, live entertainment and activities for everyone to enjoy.

A massive thank you to the pupils for their fantastic efforts at the sponsored walk and obstacle course this afternoon. We hope that they enjoyed it and didn't get too wet when squirted by the water pistols! Sponsorship money can be transferred directly into the Friends bank account using the bank details below.

Account name: Friends of Denver Village School

Sort code: 20-46-65

Account number: 90026174

Reference: SW plus child's surname and class e.g. SWJones4

The sponsored walk is always one of the biggest fundraising events of the year and goes a long way to paying for the school trips, Christmas panto and other activities that The Friends fund for the children. Without the amazing support of the families of the pupils at the school, we wouldn't be able to pay for the things that we do – so thank you so very much!

Things to look forward to in the second half of this term are a whole school disco, movie night, and a very special visit from some weird and wonderful animals ...

Thank you again for your support. If you would like to join The Friends, have any suggestions about what you would like organising for the children or simply want to get involved with ad hoc events then please do drop us an email at friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk

Sports News

Rounders with Downham Preparatory School

Last Friday, the children in Class 3 took part in a rounders development session with Downham Preparatory School. The children from both schools were placed in mixed teams and it was lovely to see the positive interactions between the two schools. We have arranged for a similar opportunity for Class 4 children after half term.

Cluster Kwik Cricket Tournament

2 teams of children from Class 4 participated in the cluster kwik cricket tournament yesterday. There was some strong competition from the other schools, and they came a very respectable 3rd and 6th. Well done to all involved.

Sports Stars

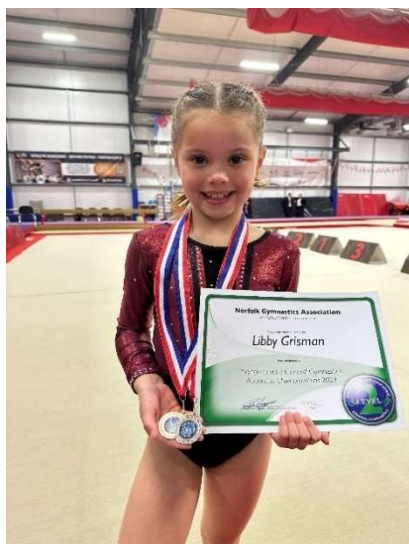
Gear Success

Grace in Class 4 recently ran the 1.9k mini gear, along with her Watlington u12s girls football team and raised a massive £1000 for the club. After suffering from pneumonia earlier this year, Grace has been determined to regain her strength and trained hard for this race; she managed to smash her PB and finished the race in 12 minutes 4 seconds. What a fantastic achievement, well done Grace!



Gymnastics Success

Earlier in the month, Libby in Class 2 competed for Norfolk County Gymnastics Level 2. She was in a group of 15 amazing girls. The top three winners will qualify to regionals in June. She did incredibly well and was placed 1st on Floor and 2nd on Bars. She has worked extremely hard and is looking forward to regionals. Well done, Libby, we are really proud of you!



Boxing Champ

Albert in Class 2 has been working really hard with his boxing and was recently awarded 'Trainer of the Week'. Well done, Albert, keep it up!



Football Star

Lauren in Class 3 is extremely passionate about football and has recently received two special awards. She took part in the Cringleford Cup Football Tournament where her team came 3rd. She also received a medal for participating in a 3v3 Regional Tournament. Well done Lauren, keep up the good work!



Forthcoming Events

Girls' Football Tournament Y5/6 – 4th June

Two teams of girls from Class 4 will be taking part in a girls' football tournament on this date.

Mini Tennis – 6th June

A group of children from Class 3 will be participating in the Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport on Thursday 6th June.

Class 2 Visit to Norwich Synagogue – 6th June

As part of their learning about Judaism, Class 2 will be visiting the Norwich Synagogue on Thursday 6th June. We originally planned for this visit to take place on 27th June, although this is the Norfolk Show Day, and traffic would be very problematic.

Phonics Screen Week – 10th - 14th June

The children in Y1 will be doing the statutory phonics screen to assess their phonics understanding during this week.

Sports Day – 18th June

Our annual Sports Day will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 18th June, with a reserve date, in case of bad weather, on Thursday 20th June. All are welcome to cheer the children on.

Y1 Active Kids – 20th June

The final session of Active Kids for Y1 takes place on the morning of Thursday 20th June.

Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening – 20th June

The grand opening of the outdoor classroom is taking place on Thursday 20th June. We hope many of you will join us for what will be a memorable event.

Area Sports – 25th June

The annual cluster Area Sports will take place on the morning of 25th June. This will involve children from KS2.

Rounders Match Against Downham Prep – 26th June

We have arranged for our Y5/6 children to take part in a rounders event with Downham Preparatory School on Wednesday 26th June.

Mini Tennis – 28th June

A group of children from Class 4 will be participating in another Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport on Friday 28th June.

Eaton Vale – 1st – 3rd July

The children in Class 4 are looking forward to their residential visit to Eaton Vale at the beginning of July. They will take part in a variety of different outdoor and adventurous activities and I'm sure will make many happy memories. There will be a meeting for parents to discuss the visit on Tuesday 4th June at 3.30pm in Class 4.

Class 3 Visit to Norwich Castle – 2nd July

Class 3 will be visiting Norwich Castle on Tuesday 2nd July.

Quad Kids – 4th July

The Quad Kids athletics event for Y5/6 children will take place on Thursday 4th July at Lynnsport.

Art Exhibition – 4th July

We are planning to have an art exhibition on Thursday 4th July. The children will be working hard this term in their art lessons to prepare work for the exhibition. Parents and carers will be invited to view the exhibition after school on this day. We are very much looking forward to this event.

Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood – 5th July

The children in Class 2 will be visiting Bewilderwood to support their learning on Friday 5th July. More details to follow soon.

Y6 Transition Morning at DMA – 8th July

Our Y6 children transitioning to DMA in September will have a taster morning at the school on the morning of 8th July. Details about this morning will be provided by DMA.

School Games Festival – 9th July

We will be having our annual School Games Festival on Tuesday 9th July.

Move Up Afternoons – 10th – 12th July

On the afternoons of 10th, 11th and 12th 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 12th July at 2pm.

First Aid Training for Y6 – 11th July

We have arranged for First Aid training for our Y6 children on Thursday 11th July. More details to follow soon.

Denver Fun Day – 14th July

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 14th July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall again this year and the school choir will be performing. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

KS2 Production – 16th and 17th July

Mr Lawrence has, once again, written an original play for KS2 to perform at the end of the year. There will be two performances on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th July, and we are exploring offering a third performance for the community. More details to follow soon.

End of Year Assembly – 19th July

Following tradition, we will have our end of year assembly on the last day of term, starting at 2pm.

And finally...

I hope you all enjoy the half term break and hopefully some much needed sunshine! As you can see from the many forthcoming events we have planned, it is going to be a busy second half of the summer term. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on 3rd June.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2023/2024

Summer Term

May 2024	27 th – 31 st		School closed for half term
June 2024	3 rd	Mon	Children return to school
	4 th	Tue	Girls Football Tournament Y5/6
	4 th	Tue	Eaton Vale Meeting
	5 th	Wed	Supertots
	6 th	Thu	Mini Tennis Y3/4
	6 th	Thu	Class 2 Visit to Norwich Synagogue
	10 th -14 th June		Phonics Screening Week
	14 th	Fri	Supertots
	18 th	Tue	Sports Day
	19 th	Wed	Supertots
	20 th	Thu	Reserve Sports Day
	20 th	Thu	Active Kids Y1
	20 th	Thu	Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening
	25 th	Tue	Area Sports
	25 th	Tue	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	26 th	Wed	Rounders Against Downham Prep Y5/6
	28 th	Fri	Mini Tennis Y5/6
28 th	Fri	Supertots	
July 2024	1 st -3 rd	Mon-Wed	Eaton Vale Residential Visit Class 4
	2 nd	Tue	Class 3 Visit to Norwich Castle
	2 nd	Tue	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	4 th	Thu	Quad Kids
	4 th	Thu	Art Exhibition
	5 th	Fri	Class 2 Visit to Bewilderwood
	8 th	Mon	Downham Market Academy Transition (am)
	9 th	Tue	School Games Festival
	10 th	Wed	Move Up Afternoon
	11 th	Thu	Move Up Afternoon
	11 th	Thu	First Aid Training Y6
	12 th	Fri	Move Up Afternoon
	12 th	Fri	New Reception Intake Meeting 2pm
	14 th	Sun	Denver Fun Day
	16 th	Tue	KS2 Production
	17 th	Wed	KS2 Production
	18 th	Thu	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
19 th	Fri	End of Year Assembly 2pm	
19 th	Fri	Last day of summer term	