



# September 2024

## Newsletter



Welcome to the September newsletter, the first for this academic year. The first few weeks have flown by; it is hard to believe that October is nearly upon us. For our new parents, these newsletters are an opportunity to share with you a flavour of day-to-day school life, celebrate the many exciting opportunities on offer and inform you of forthcoming events.

### **Reception Intake**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Reception children and their parents/carers to the school. They have settled in very well and are getting used to all the new routines. We look forward to seeing them grow throughout their school journey here at Denver. Welcome to the Class of 2024!



### **New Pupils**

I would also like to warmly welcome two new pupils to our school, Ralph in Y4 and Sonny in Y5, who have joined us this year.

### **Staff Update**

As well as new pupils, we have also welcomed two new members of staff. Mrs Paige Barrett has joined us as a TA and will be working mainly in Class 3. Mrs Lorraine Wright is our new SENDCo Assistant, and she is also working as a TA mainly in Class 4.

### **Birthdays**

For our new parents/carers, children are allowed to come to school in non-uniform on their birthday. If their birthday falls on a weekend or within a holiday period, they can wear non-uniform on the following Monday or the day we return to school. Please ensure that children wear sensible footwear.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Just a reminder that all parents/carers are welcome to join us for our Friday celebration assemblies to celebrate the achievements of all our children. For safeguarding reasons, the back gate will be opened at 2.50pm and closed again at 3pm, therefore if you would like to join, please arrive at the gate before 3pm. It has been lovely to see so many of you joining us

over the past few weeks for one of the highlights of the school week and we look forward to continuing to welcome you in future weeks.

### **Summer Reading Bingo Challenge**

Well done to everyone who engaged in the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge this year. We were really pleased with the number of children who returned their bingo cards.

### **Music Tuition**

Mr Lawrence is continuing to offer music tuition with a range of different instruments in school on Friday afternoons. These sessions are paid for directly to Mr Lawrence. If you are interested in your child learning to play an instrument, please contact Mr Lawrence for more information at [kakapoartsltd@gmail.com](mailto:kakapoartsltd@gmail.com)

### **Whole Class Ukulele Lessons**

This year we are also offering whole class ukulele lessons to Classes 2, 3 and 4, led by Mr Lawrence. Each of these classes will receive a term of ukulele tuition, starting with Class 2 this term. We plan to organise music assemblies each term where the children can share with you what they have been learning.

### **Meet the Teacher Meetings**

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

[crackham@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:crackham@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)

[acawley@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:acawley@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)

[mbonham@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:mbonham@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)

[dhenden@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:dhenden@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)

For their wellbeing, please do not contact them beyond 6pm.

### **Little Wandle Parents Session**

Thank you to those parents who attended the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised information session for parents last week. If you were unable to attend the session and would like more information about our approach to the teaching of phonics, please ask Mr Rackham for the handouts or visit our school website under the tab Parents/Carers, Phonics. The Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised website also has a wealth of information and can be found at <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

### **Tapestry**

We are continuing to use Tapestry again this year, an online learning journal for children in EYFS. Tapestry is widely used across the country and will provide parents with regular feedback about their child's progress.

### **Christian Values**

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

### **Times Tables Rockstars**

We are focussing on times tables this year to encourage the children to be able to confidently recall the relevant times tables and division facts for their year group. All children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 have access to Times Tables Rockstars and we encourage them to use this resource both in out of school to help improve their times tables knowledge and recall: a sound understanding of times table facts is essential in becoming a successful mathematician. Special certificates will be awarded each week in celebration assemblies for the most active child on TT Rockstars in Classes 2, 3 and 4.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Each year, we support the Rotary Shoebox Scheme to spread a little happiness to those less fortunate than ourselves in many different countries across Central and Eastern Europe. We would be extremely grateful if the children could donate an item which could be included in a shoebox or fill a whole shoebox if they are able to before half term. Items do not need to be brand new, although should be of good quality. These can be placed in the blue bin at the top of the school field. Howard from the Downham Market Rotary Club is coming into school this week to talk to the children about the appeal. For more information about the scheme and lists of suggested items, please visit [www.rotaryshoebox.org](http://www.rotaryshoebox.org)

### **Foodbank Donations**

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we would like to again support the Downham Market Foodbank. If you are able to donate an item(s) to the foodbank, please drop them at the school gate on the morning of our Harvest Festival which is being held at St Mary's Church, Denver, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm. Some members of the School Council will deliver the items to the foodbank. Thank you for your support.

### **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.

We recently sent out a letter from the Local Authority regarding school attendance. 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. The letter can be found on our school website. Please remember that significant changes have been made to the criteria for issuing fixed penalty notices.

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

Class 1	97.5%
Class 2	97.6%
Class 3	97.6%
Class 4	97.4%

Well done to Classes 2 and 3 for having the joint highest attendance for the month of September!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **97.5%**. Thank you for supporting us to improve school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

If your child is absent from school through illness or other unexpected circumstances, please let us know by emailing our dedicated absence email address [absence@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:absence@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) **only**. Alternatively, you are welcome to ring 01366 383272 and leave a voicemail.

### **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.

### **Allergies**

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

### **Snacks**

Children in Classes 1 and 2 receive a free piece of fruit as their snack each day. Children in Classes 3 and 4 can bring in a healthy snack from home should they wish to.

### **Water Bottles**

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

### **Uniform**

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

### **Professional Development Day**

Please note that school will be closed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 for a Professional Development Day. The following week is half term.

### **School Council**

We recently held elections to appoint this year's School Council members and so many of the children were keen to be involved and submitted applications. The School Council has representatives from all classes, and they meet every half term to discuss relevant issues and be the voice of their peers. We held our first meeting last week.

### **Eco Committee**

At the start of term, we also held elections to appoint this year's Eco Committee members. Mr Cawley will be working with our Eco Committee each half term and we are working towards achieving the Eco Schools award this year. Their first meeting is being held this Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **Wellbeing**

We continue to prioritise wellbeing for both pupils and staff in school. We recently appointed our new Wellbeing Ambassadors, Amelia, Jake and Ralph, onto our School Council and they will be working hard this year to champion positive mental health for the children and adults in school.

### **Denver Supertots**

The Denver Supertots playgroup will be running every Friday from 9.30-10am. Please spread the word as we are keen to welcome new families.

### **Parent Consultation Evenings**

Parent consultation evenings will happen after half term on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. These provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments will be face to face. More details will follow before half term.

### **Maths Sessions for Parents**

We have arranged for a professional tutor from Norfolk County Council to visit school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October to provide FREE support and information so you can help your child with their maths. There will be two sessions, one for KS1 parents/carers and one for KS2 parents/carers at the following times:

KS2 – 09:00-11:00

KS1 – 13:15-15:15

In each session, parents/carers will have an hour with a professional tutor, going through modern teaching methods. Pupils will then join their parents/carers to work together for a further hour, using these new skills and equipment to solve fun maths tasks. Free resources will also be offered for you to take home. If you have children in both key stages, you can attend one or both sessions. We hope many of you will be able to join us.

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

The outdoor learning club is as popular as ever this year and in the second session last week the children all took home a willow star wand. They all worked hard to create the wand by following instructions and grabbing one of our helping adults to lend a hand! After a brief biscuit break, we were off on a bug hunt. We were lucky enough to happen across a toad (although I'm not sure that he thought it was such a pleasure, having settled to his hibernation only to be woken by an excited group of children! It did get his own back when he urinated over me though! Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped and continue to make the club possible.



### **Office News**

We apologise for the amount of emails we have sent out since the start of the new school year. Unfortunately, there is so much important information we need to pass on, especially for our new families, and this is our regular communication route.

To limit the amount of communication we need to send out, please can we ask that you:

- regularly check your inbox for emails from us
- read the information properly to avoid any unnecessary queries
- make a note of any relevant diary dates
- respond to any relevant emails and consents promptly so that we do not have to send further email reminders and clog up your inbox!

Our monthly newsletters and school website also include useful information together with dates for your diaries.

### **Sending payments to school**

We currently have many payments being made to our school bank account, which we reconcile every Friday morning. To enable us to correctly allocate payments, could we please ask that you:

- make individual payments for separate items, e.g. lunch and drinks
- state your child's initial and surname *e.g. Ijones*
- state the reason for payment *e.g. lunch*

We also request that payments for school lunches or our after-school clubs are made regularly in advance to avoid build up of money owing. Please also keep a record of these so you know when to send us further payments. Thank you for your co-operation!

### **Welcome Back from The Friends**

The Friends of Denver School held their AGM on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The new school year has brought upon us a reshuffle as Amanda and Julia have stepped away now their children have left for secondary school; they will be sorely missed. Ben was voted in as the new chairperson, with Nanci assuming Sarah's role as vice-chair and Sarah taking up the vacant secretary role. We have also appointed Nikki as the new treasurer too. We look forward to getting our heads together and making sure things carry on as before.

We have lots of exciting things planned for the school year, so keep an eye out for updates. We run all sorts of events throughout the year to help fundraise for the school, these funds help go towards trips for the pupils and special events. We are finally going to get a movie night booked for KS1 & KS2 pupils before the half term break. And after half term it will be busy in the run up to Christmas.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with events, so if you feel like joining our amazing group, please feel free to drop us an email ([friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:friends@denver.norfolk.sch.uk)) or catch one of us at drop off or pick up.

The Friends will be sending out an email shortly detailing a timetable of planned events for this term.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Active Kids**

Active Kids for Y1 children will take place at Lynnsport on 7<sup>th</sup> October after being postponed due to bad weather earlier in the term.

#### **Maths Course for Parents/Carers**

A professional tutor from Norfolk County Council will be visiting school on Monday 7th October to provide FREE support and information for parents/carers to help children with their maths. There will be two sessions, one for KS1 parents/carers and one for KS2 parents/carers at the following times: KS2 – 09:00-11:00 and KS1 – 13:15-15:15

#### **Harvest Assembly – 14<sup>th</sup> October**

We are having a Harvest assembly at St Mary's Church, Denver on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

#### **Open Morning – 16<sup>th</sup> October**

We are having an Open Morning for parents/carers of children starting school next September on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30-11.30am. Please spread the word.

#### **OMNES Dodgeball – 21<sup>st</sup> October**

The first OMNES games festival is taking place at Lynnsport for children in Classes 2 and 3. The focus of this session will be dodgeball.

#### **Cluster Cross Country – 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

We will be sending a group of children from KS2 to the cluster cross country competition at Hillcrest Primary School on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Good luck to all our runners!

#### **Class 1 Learning Café – 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

We will be inviting Class 1 parents into school on the afternoon of 22<sup>nd</sup> October for a Learning Café. A story will be shared and then parents will take part in a related activity with their child. More details to follow.

#### **Cluster Football Tournament – 24<sup>th</sup> October**

A group of children from Class 4 will be representing the school at the Cluster Football tournament on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> October. Good luck to the team!

#### **Movie Night – 24<sup>th</sup> October**

The Friends are organising their first Movie Night after school on 24<sup>th</sup> October. More details to follow soon.

#### **Flu Immunisations – 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Flu immunisations will be given to children on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Parent Consultation Evenings -13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November**

Parent consultation evenings will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. More details will follow before half term.

#### **Children in Need – 15<sup>th</sup> November**

The School Council have decided that they would like to support Children in Need again this year. They are organising a non-uniform day and asking the children to wear bright colours or Pudsey themed clothing for a suggested donation of £1.

#### **King's Lynn Football Club Tournament – 21<sup>st</sup> November**

A group of children from Class 4 will be taking part in a football tournament Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

### **Tag Rugby Festival – 25<sup>th</sup> November**

The cluster tag rugby tournament this year is being held on the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Girls Football – 28<sup>th</sup> November**

The girls' football league tournament will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Christmas Fayre – 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Following the success of the last few years, we are organising a Christmas Fayre Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The children in KS2 will be making games for the children to play. There will also be a book fair. More details to follow soon.

### **Christingle Service – 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

We are having a Christingle Service on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2.15pm in St Mary's Church, Denver. The children will make Christingles, kindly supported by the ladies from St Mary's Church.

### **Carol Service – 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Our annual Carol Service will take place in St Mary's Church, Denver on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

### **Nativity – 18<sup>th</sup> December**

One of the highlights of the school year is always the Nativity performed by children in Classes 1 and 2. This will take place this year on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in the school hall.

### **Sports News**

#### **Bike to School Week**

Last week we marked National Cycle to School Week by asking the children to bike to school. We were pleased to see lots of bikes in our cycle shelter – well done to all those who joined in.

#### **Class 4 Tag Rugby**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, Class 4 children began the first of seven sessions of tag rugby delivered by specialist coach James Burroughs from West Norfolk Rugby Club. In the first session, the children performed drills that encouraged swift changes of direction and speed and how to place and pass the ball. This then led to some practise in tagging one another to prepare for the first competitive game, tag rugby netball. The next sessions will involve some matches where these skills will be practised and improved.



### **Bikeability Training by Mrs Henden**

Trainers from Outspoken Training visited the school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September (coincidentally during national Cycle to School week) to carry out Level 1 and Level 2 cycling proficiency training. Children from Y5 and Y6 took part. The first morning was spent on the school grounds to achieve the skills for Level 1. Successful completion of this enabled the children to progress to Level 2 training on the road by the school. The second day progressed the training to busier roads a little further away. The children are now much more confident in making safe manoeuvres when out on the roads, in their road safety awareness and how to maintain a bike. Well done to everyone who took part. We look forward to welcoming our trainers back later in the year to carry out Level 1 training to some of our Y3 and Y4 children.



### National Fitness Day

On 18<sup>th</sup> September we took part in National Fitness Day by encouraging the children to complete 1 mile (8 Golden Mile laps). Well done to all who achieved this.

### And finally...

We would like to welcome more volunteers into school to help with a variety of different tasks e.g. listening to readers, helping out on visits, helping to run clubs etc. If you have any spare time and are interested in volunteering, please do let me know.

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

#### 2024/2025

#### Autumn Term

October 2024	7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Maths Course for Parents
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Active Kids
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Harvest Assembly
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Open Morning
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	OMNES Dodgeball
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Class 1 Learning Café
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Cluster Cross Country
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Cluster Football
	25 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term
November 2024	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Flu Immunisations
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Parent Consultation Evening
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Parent Consultation Evening
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Children in Need
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Thu	King's Lynn Football Club Under 11s
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Tag Rugby Festival
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Girls' Football Tournament
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Christmas Fair
29 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Decoration Day	
December 2024	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Christingle
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Carol Service
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Nativity
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of autumn term

### Spring Term

January 2025	7 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Children return to school
February 2024	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
April 2025	4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of spring term

### Summer Term

April 2025	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
May 2025	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
June 2025	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2025	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Last day of summer term