



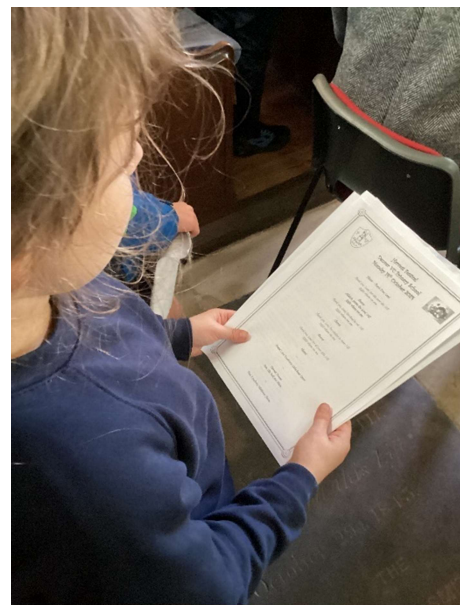
# October 2024 Newsletter



As we come to the end of our first half term of this academic year, here is the October newsletter. Here is a flavour of the amazing work that has been happening throughout the school.

## **Harvest Assembly**

On Monday last week, we held our annual Harvest Service in St Mary's Church, Denver. The children in KS2 shared some readings, poems and prayers, and all the children were involved with performing some harvest themed songs. A huge thank you for the many generous donations of produce we received; these will be taken to the Downham Market Foodbank by some members of the School Council after half term where they will be gratefully received by many local families.



### **Staff News**

Miss de Vanche will sadly be retiring at the end of the autumn term. Annette has worked at Denver for the past 17 years and she will be a huge loss to whole school community. She has been a dedicated and hard-working member of staff throughout her many years here; her expertise will be greatly missed.

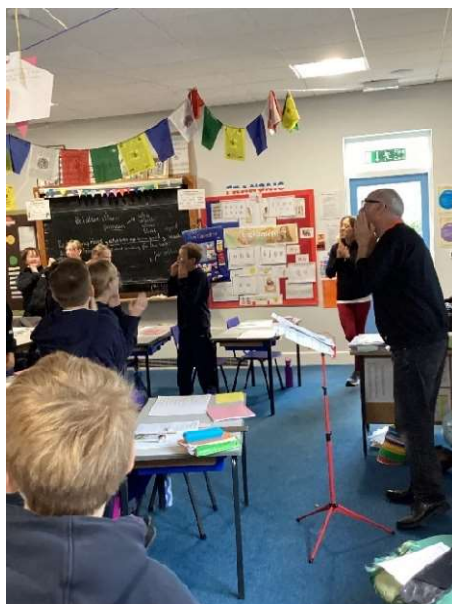
We will be organising a special event to celebrate Annette's time at Denver in the next half term, more details to follow. We would like to present Annette with a special gift at this event to mark her retirement and her dedication to the school. If you would like to contribute towards this gift, please send the money in a named envelope to the school office, for the attention of Mrs Chilvers.

### **Open Morning**

Last week, we hosted an Open Morning aimed at the new Reception starters for next September. The children and their families were given a tour of the school by our Y6 children and then spent some time in Class 1. Refreshments were also provided by the Friends. If you know of anyone who missed the Open Morning, please get them to contact the school to arrange a visit.

### **Vocal Coaching**

Fraser Reich came to Class 4 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October to do some vocal coaching. He explained to the children how important it is to warm up their voices before singing by massaging their necks and using vowel sounds to a pitched tune. He explained how and when we need to breathe so that our sound quality is better. The children then practised a collective worship song, 'Together' to practise when to pause and breathe and how to make sure their words are pronounced with clarity. It was great session and Fraser will be returning on a weekly basis to deliver more vocal coaching to classes 3 and 4.



### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Thank you for the many donations we have received for the Rotary Shoebox Scheme. There is still time for items, or even full shoeboxes, to be brought into school. These will be collected in the week after half term. For more information about the scheme and lists of suggested items, please visit [www.rotaryshoebox.org](http://www.rotaryshoebox.org)

### **Poppy Appeal**

Members of the School Council will be selling the poppies and associated merchandise after lunch each day over the next few weeks. Please can the children bring any money into school in a purse, wallet or named envelope to ensure it does not get lost.

The children are also participating in a Remembrance bunting competition along with children from other local primary schools. The mayor will be choosing the winners and the lucky few will be awarded prizes. The bunting will be used to decorate the Poppy Shop in the Downham Town Hall throughout the Poppy Appeal. Here are some of their fantastic designs.



### **Maths Sessions for Parents**

We were absolutely thrilled with the engagement by parents/carers in both the maths sessions held in school on 7<sup>th</sup> October. In each session, parents/carers spent an hour with Simon Routhorn, a professional tutor from the LA, going through modern teaching methods, then the children joined in with some fun maths tasks. Feedback has been extremely positive, and we are hoping to arrange further sessions throughout the year. All those who attended received a Numicon pack. If you did attend and have not yet received your pack, please let me know.



### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

Our safeguarding and child protection policy was updated on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and can be found on our school website under the Parent/Carer tab and Policies.

### **Class 1 Learning Café**

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Class 1 held their first Learning Café of the school year. Learning Cafés are a great opportunity for parents and carers to engage in their child's learning. The session started by Mr Rackham sharing the story they have been looking at in Drawing Club this week, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. The children then worked with their family members to create their own map to go on a hunt for a new animal. It was a lovely session; we look forward to the next one in the run up to Christmas.



### **Times Tables Rockstars**

We are really pleased with how many children are engaging with Times Tables Rockstars outside of school to help improve their times tables knowledge and recall. Congratulations to Lorelei, Max, Rex, Lily, Juniper, Sammy, Alfie and Tarran who have already received certificates in celebration assemblies for being the most active in their classes.

### **Active Travel Grant**

We are fortunate enough to have been awarded a £5000 grant from the Local Authority to encourage active travel in our school. We are currently exploring ways in which the money can be spent to improve engagement with active travel and these ideas will be formulated in an action plan which will be shared with you after half term.

### **Online Safety**

To help reinforce important online safety messages we are promoting in school, please can we ask that you monitor your child's use of technology outside school closely and that you talk to your child about how they can report inappropriate content. Please be reminded that there are age restrictions to most social media platforms. Thank you for your support with this.

### **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. October's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	96.4%
Class 2	95.9%
Class 3	97.7%
Class 4	96.7%

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

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **97.1%**. Thank you for supporting us to improve school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

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

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently, for example with a safeguarding concern, by using the dedicated email address [worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](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.

### **Uniform**

We have had a large number of children misplacing items of uniform during this half term. 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.

### **Denver Supertots**

Just a reminder that our Denver Supertots playgroup runs every Friday from 9.30-10.30am. 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 teachers, or indeed myself. The booking lists for appointments will be placed in the shelter on the morning of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November and will be available before and after school for the rest of that week. Appointments can also be made by telephone from 9.30am.

### **Communication**

We have had a number of parents contacting us to say that they have not received certain emails that have been sent out by the office. Please can we ask that you check your junk emails as sometimes these go into the wrong folder. Thank you.

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

Let's go fly a kite, up to the highest height... they say that working with animals and children is hard enough, what could be trickier? How about making kites with a group of very enthusiastic, very young people! They all followed instructions well, but this was only possible with the help of the adults who supported us. At pick up time, what better way to have handed over than for the parents to come and join in the fun! We are all but children at heart!



With the tarpaulins donated by Accent Fresh, we dodged the weather and created our own shelters! Some were little more than wind breaks, however some had running water, double beds, and room service! Well, maybe not, but one was put to the test with a watering can and those that stayed under, stayed dry! With whittling sticks for tent pegs and a quick lesson on lashings and knots, this was the first of many practices before we do this for real in the summer term.



### **Update from The Friends**

How is it half term already?! Things are going to start coming thick and fast. We are already getting our heads together for the Christmas Fayre which is fast approaching (I know, it is too early to be talking about Christmas!).

At the beginning of the month, The Friends managed to get into Class 1 to take photographs of the new reception year group. A class group photo was taken, as were individual photos,

while we asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. We got some very interesting answers! Those pictures should be available to purchase for reception parents soon.

By the time you read this we will have put on the movie night for KS1 pupils, where they got the opportunity to watch one of the BBC's excellent Julia Donaldson animations, whilst also enjoying Pom Bears and a drink. We will be looking to run a separate movie night for KS2 pupils before the winter break.

The Friends will be serving tea and coffee at both nights of Parents' Evening in November, we will also be selling pre-loved uniform, and we will have a table where we will be handing out Christmas cards for those who ordered them. Have a wonderful half term, fingers crossed for some lovely autumnal weather.

Ben Groom – Chair of the Friends

### **Forthcoming Events**

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

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

#### **Anti-Bullying Week – 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November**

Anti-Bullying week this year takes place from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. This year's theme is 'Choose Respect'.

#### **Odd Socks Day – 12<sup>th</sup> November**

We would like the children to come to school wearing odd socks on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November to mark Odd Socks Day and to celebrate with the children what makes us all unique.

#### **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 from 3.30-5.30pm.

#### **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.

#### **Book Fair – 27<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

We have organised for a Scholastic Book Fair to visit the school between 27<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Children will be able to visit the book fair after school each day during this week. The book fair will also be open during the Christmas Fayre on 28<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 on 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 from The Friends.

### **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**

### **Class 4 Tag Rugby Final Session by Mrs Henden**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, James Burroughs from West Norfolk Rugby Club joined Class 4 to deliver his final coaching session.



In this session, the children were taught how to do rugby kicks, including drop kicks for precision and for length. Then the children got involved in some mini matches.



On Monday of this week, the class were joined by an England international, Georgie Lingham, who congratulated them on completing their tag rugby training and presented them with their certificates. Georgie is an English rugby union player. She plays for the Great Britain women's national rugby sevens team. From North Wootton, she began playing rugby at West Norfolk Rugby Club. She was first selected for the England women's national rugby sevens team in January 2020. In January 2023, she was called-up to the Great Britain women's national rugby sevens team.



It was an honour to have been visited as Georgie was flying out to Gibraltar for training that afternoon. It was inspiring to see hear about this local woman's achievements. There will be another opportunity to see her in June when Class 4 are invited to a tournament at West Norfolk Rugby Club.

### **Intra-School Cross Country Tournament by Mrs Henden**

On a perfect Friday morning for cross country, children from years 1-6 took part in our annual intra-cross country event. Children in years 1 and 2 completed 2 laps of our Golden Mile track, years 3 and 4 completed 4 laps and years 5 and 6 completed 5 laps. All of these count towards our Golden Mile milestones.

For the children from Year 2 upwards, a top 3 finish gave them a spot at the cluster cross country event. Well done to everyone who took part.



### **Cluster Cross Country by Mrs Henden**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October, those children who achieved a top three finish in our cross country festival earlier this month travelled to Hillcrest Primary for the annual cluster cross country event.

Just as in the previous year, the number of children attending from the cluster was at a record high. Year 2 pupils raced 500 metres, years 3 and 4 raced 1000 metres and years 5 and 6 raced 1500 metres.

A top ten finish in the event for children in Key Stage 2 gave automatic qualification to the next round, the area finals to be held at Lynnsport Dutton Pavillion on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Congratulations to our 11 qualifiers: Monty (Y3), Libby (Y3), Osian (Y4), Lauren (Y4), Isla (Y4), Chase (Y5), Flora (Y5), Esther (Y5), Oliver (Y6), Isla (Y6) and Amelia (Y6).

Children in Year 2 were once again able to compete at cluster level and we had good results with Barney in 4<sup>th</sup>, Christian in 15<sup>th</sup> and Hector in 18<sup>th</sup>. In the girls event Ivy W was 5<sup>th</sup>, Lily G was 8<sup>th</sup> and Eve was 15<sup>th</sup>. Well done!

A special mention to our medallists with Chase getting gold for Y5 boys and silver medals for Flora (Y5), Lauren F (Y4) and Monty (Y3). Congratulations!

We are proud of everyone who took part today. Great running!

### **Football Club**

A huge thank you to former pupil, Luke Fenn, who is running an after school football club for children in KS2 this term. The club has proved extremely popular and feedback from the children has been very positive.

### **Sporting Stars**

#### **Legacy Dancers**

Back in September, Evie, Isla, Evelyn, Lily and Indi all took part in a Legacy dance event at King's Lynn Corn Exchange. They all performed 2 dances to an audience of over 500 people. Well done girls!



### And finally...

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and a well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November for a busy half term in the run up to Christmas.

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

#### 2024/2025

#### Autumn Term

October	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
	11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>		Anti-Bullying Week
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Odd Socks Day
	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
	27 <sup>th</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Scholastic Book Fair
	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