



# November 2024 Newsletter



Welcome to the November newsletter, the penultimate of the year. November has been very busy in school and there is a buzz about Christmas building amongst the children. We hope you enjoy reading about the many events that have been happening this month. Please read the forthcoming event section so you do not miss out on any of the Christmas events coming up in December.

### **Class 3 Technology Day by Mr Bonham**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Class 3 had a visit from Alan and Howard from the Downham Market Rotary Club. They helped set up and run a Junior Technology Tournament. The challenge was to build an Animal Crossing across the 'Denver Village Nature Reserve'. There was a brief to be followed and the design had to be made as a scale model and then tested. The teams were Super Fireworks, Space Animals, Team Jello, Team Creative, Team DT, The Best, Super Creator and the winning team were the Cats, Dogs & Hamsters who were awarded medals. Everyone who took part got certificates to celebrate their fantastic ideas and enthusiasm. The day went very well and the children made the following comments about the experience.

I loved it, we got to design the bridge and do maths! *Katherine, Cats, Dogs & Hamsters*

I loved making the bridge and meeting Howard and Alan. *Olivia, Space Animals*

I think next time we would make it look even better. *Isabella, Team Creative*

The day was brilliant because we worked as a team. *Jonessa, Team Jello*

I think it was a good day because I like engineering. *Monty, Space Animals*

I liked today because we did such creative things. *Ottilie, The Best*





### **Foodbank Visit**

On Tuesday 5th 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. The children really enjoyed the visit; it really helped them to understand how their donations are used to support local families.



### **Odd Socks Day**

On Tuesday 12<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.



### **Tree Planting**

To link in with the work the Eco-Committee are doing, and as part of our outdoor learning curriculum, the whole school took part in a tree planting session earlier this month. Over 300 tree saplings, including Rowan, Wild Cherry, Oak, Silver Birch and Grey Willow, were planted by the children at the bottom of the school field; the children also each took a tree sapling to plant at home. Thank you to Mr Cawley for organising this, to all of you who sent in a spade (we had so many!) and to those parents who helped with the planting. Thanks also go out to the Woodland Trust for this initiative. We look forward to seeing the trees grow and change in the years to come.



### **Vocal Coaching**

Fraser Reich has been continuing to offer weekly vocal coaching sessions to Classes 3 and 4. He has been impressed with how the children have maintained the rhythm and varied their volume.



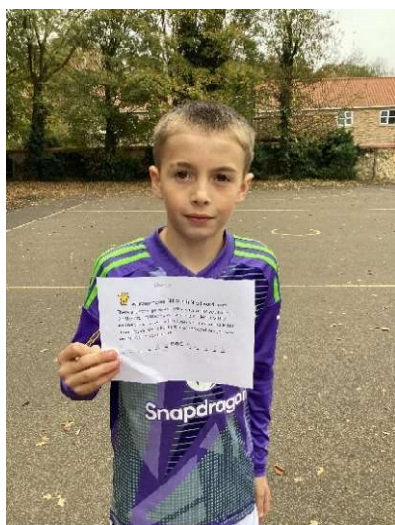
## **Remembrance**

In early November, the School Council members sold poppy merchandise to raise money for the Royal British Legion. We then held a special assembly for Remembrance on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Leo from Class 1, whose dad is a serving member of the armed forces, represented the school at the memorial in Denver on Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance bunting decorated by the children was also used to decorate the Poppy Shop in the Downham Town Hall throughout the Poppy Appeal.



## **Children in Need**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, we held a non-uniform day to support this year's Children in Need appeal. Mrs Fenn baked some delicious cakes which the children really enjoyed eating and the School Council organised a Pudsey themed scavenger hunt which saw the children having to find an assortment of letters hidden around the school grounds for a prize. In total we raised a super £133.30 – an amazing effort!





### **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 they are in action.



### **Guinea Pigs**

Even our guinea pigs, Dusty and Gingy, are getting into the festive spirit and dressing up with some fabulous hats, thanks to Amelia and Seren in Class 4. So cute!



### **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, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Norfolk Constabulary Anti-Social Behaviour Webinar**

To mark anti-bullying week, Class 4 joined schools across the county on a TEAMS meeting with members from Norfolk Constabulary to learn about what anti-social behaviour is. They learnt about the different types of anti-social behaviour. Then they explored case studies to identify the impact that anti-social behaviour has on individual people, the community and the environment. Police officers taught the children what they can do to report anti-social behaviour and how to avoid getting into trouble for it. Finally, they were signposted to sources of support and there was an opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences.



### **Times Tables Rockstars**

We continue to be so pleased with how many children are engaging with Times Tables Rockstars outside of school – well done everyone! Congratulations to Juniper, Lily, Lorelei, Alfie, Jupiter, Alexander, Rebekah, Flora, Albert, Evie, Esme, Max and Jack who have received certificates in celebration assemblies this month for being the most active in their classes.

### **First Admission to School**

Just a reminder that applications for children starting school in Reception next September need to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. 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.

### **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	96.7%
Class 2	97.3%
Class 3	97.4%
Class 4	98.0%

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

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.

### **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](#)

### **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.

### **Colder Weather**

As the weather has started to get colder, please can all children come to school wearing a coat. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **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. Football kits should not be worn. Earrings must be removed for PE and not taped over. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

As the evenings get colder and become darker, we embarked on a scavenger hunt in Outdoor Learning Club, to see what we could see and how the season is changing. The children did really well finding things, especially the birds nest! They also learned that what may first appear as a bird nest was actually the parasitic plant of Mistletoe, dropped as a seed from the birds that roost in the trees. At least we now know where to find some for Christmas.

Yesterday afternoon definitely had a wintery feel, as I didn't count on just how numb our fingers would become, tying knots when creating their "Christmas hangers". The children all selected a straight stick, on which they helped to tie twine to enable a mix of baubles and natural objects to be hung from; the resulting creations showed the children's ingenuity and creative sides, and will have made a lovely addition to the outside decorations of everyone's homes as the children took their efforts with them! Next week is our last week this calendar year, so a fire is definitely on the cards to keep us warm (especially after tonight's chill!)



### **Update from The Friends**

How is it the end of November already?! Although the weather definitely makes it feel that way. It has been a busy November for the Friends, from serving refreshments at parents' evening, to hosting the annual Christmas Fayre. There is never a quiet moment.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all the new reception parents who purchased photos at parents' evening; hopefully you have all received your orders now. We have also been asked to consider doing something similar for year 6 pupils at the end of summer term.

Also, a massive thank you to all those who donated to the Bags2School collection, which also helped raise £33.60.

We ran a Name the Husky contest in school and the winner was announced at the Christmas Fayre. Congratulations to Jake, Class 4, who has given his new Husky, Snowdon, a new home. The total raised was £52.90.

And finally, yesterday evening was the annual Christmas Fayre. The children in classes 3 & 4 ran games, which always prove oh so popular. There was face painting, jewellery making and balloon sales in Class 1. A jewellery sale in the main hall, preloved uniform and Christmas jumpers were also on sale, as were preloved library books. Teas, coffees, various cakes, biscuits and other goodies in the main hall. There was biscuit decorating, a lucky dip, a tombola and of course the raffle. Congratulations to Michelle M on winning the luxury Christmas Hamper. Over £800 was raised last night, so thank you to all those who attended, to all the volunteers who helped run stalls, to all the children who ran games, to all the staff for helping us to put this on. Also, one final thank you to everyone who donated prizes, it really means a lot to be able to hold events like this. Thank you.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver





## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Messy Church – 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Messy Church is taking place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 2-3.30pm in Denver Village Hall. The theme will be Advent. A poster advertising this has already been sent out.

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

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Christingle Service on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2pm in St Mary's Church, Denver. The children will make Christingles in the morning, kindly supported by the ladies from St Mary's Church.

### **Choir Performance at Oakes Court – 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Our school choir will be spreading some festive cheer when they perform at Oakes Court Residential Home on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The children will travel there directly from school, and we aim to start at 3.45pm.

### **Class 1 Learning Café – 10<sup>th</sup> December**

We would like to invite Class 1 parents/carers into school on 10<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30pm for a Christmas themed Learning Café. We hope many Class 1 parents/carers will join us for this session.

### **Christmas Lunch – 11<sup>th</sup> December**

The children will be enjoying their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. To help them to get into the festive spirit, the children can wear Christmas themed clothing on this day. They will be making crackers for this event with members of the Friends.

### **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. School uniform should be worn on part days. The parties will take place on the following dates:

	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Class 1</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Class 2</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> December

<b>Class 3</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Class 4</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> December

### **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**

The children in Classes 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing this year's Nativity play, Charlie's Caring Christmas written by our very own Mr Lawrence. This will take place this year on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm in the school hall with parents/grandparents welcome into school from 2pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

### **Pantomime – 19<sup>th</sup> December**

The children in Years 1-6 will be visiting the Maltings, Ely to watch the pantomime, Goldilocks and the Three Bears on the penultimate day of term. This is very kindly being funded by the Friends of Denver School. The children in Reception will have a Christmas party in school.

### **Sports News**

#### **Cross Country**

On Monday 11<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. It was a very competitive round with many children taking part. A top ten place for Chase, Lauren F, Monty and Libby and saw them through to the county finals. A huge thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to take the children to these events.

#### **Healthy Body, Healthy Mind by Mr Bonham**

In the autumn Term, Class 3 were lucky enough to take part in a series of lessons designed to improve our health in a fun and exciting way. These sessions were based upon the theme of Healthy Body, Healthy Mind. The sessions were run by King's Lynn Alive Active Schools group and were made up of classroom sessions and physical activity sessions.

The lessons included learning all about healthy eating. We learnt what foods were better to eat and what foods we should eat less of. We also learnt the importance of a balanced diet and regular drinking to keep our bodies healthy. Living active lives can mean leaner bodies, stronger bones and muscles, improved coordination, better posture and fewer health complications. In addition to the physical benefits, concentration is better, increased self-esteem, less likely to be anxious and have a better overall outlook on life.

#### **Tag Rugby Tournament**

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 14 children from Class 4 travelled to West Norfolk Rugby Club in North Wootton to take part in a festival of tag rugby. Our children were organised into two teams: Denver Tigers and Denver Saints, and between them they played Holy Cross, Hunstanton Chiefs, Hunstanton Harlequins, Walpole Cross Keys, Snettisham, Upwell, Flitcham and Dersingham schools. As it was a development festival, official scores were not taken and there was no trophy to be won. However, due to the excellent coaching received from James Burroughs earlier in the term, both teams had a number of wins. Well done to all involved.

## **Sporting Stars**

### **Taekwondo Champ**

Last weekend, Seren from Class 4 entered in the Norfolk Open Taekwondo championship at Downham Market where she achieved gold in sparring and gold in power. Super job, Seren – well done!



### **And finally...**

The December diary is extremely full of lots of festive events to look forward to. Please do look carefully at the dates below so you do not miss anything. We look forward to getting into the Christmas spirit with you.

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

**2024/2025**

### **Autumn Term**

December 2024	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Christingle Service
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Game Changers Class 4
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School Choir Singing at Oakes Court
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 1 Learning Café
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Christmas Lunch
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Class 3 Christmas Party
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Game Changers Class 4
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Carol Service
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Nativity
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Pantomime
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 4 Christmas Party
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of autumn term

### Spring Term

January 2025	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Professional Development Day
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Children return to school
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	SEND Coffee Morning
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