



# January 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the January newsletter, and the first of 2025. Despite the dreary weather, January seems to have passed by so quickly and, as always, we have much to share with you.

## Staff Welcome

I would like to formally welcome Mrs Nikita Smith as our new secretary. Nikita is still getting used to lots of new systems, but she is settling in well to her new role. She has particularly enjoyed meeting our children and parents over the course of the month and has commented on the warm welcome she has experienced.

Miss Waters, one of our Teaching Assistants who predominantly works in Class 4, will be retiring at the end of February. Deb has worked at Denver for nearly 18 years, and she will be sorely missed by us all. If you would like to contribute to a collection for Miss Waters, please send in any money to the school office.

## Class 3's Visit to the Guild Hall by Mr Bonham

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2025, Class 3 visited the oldest working theatre in the country. The first recorded performances at the King's Lynn Guildhall were in 1445 and they have hosted plays and shows every century since then. It is also believed that Shakespeare visited the Guildhall when he was alive.

We had an introduction to the Guildhall and who built it. We learnt about the underground tunnels and how Shakespeare and his company visited the location and performed. We did a Shakespearean treasure hunt before trying to work out what some of the words meant. We heard the story of The Tempest before getting our scenes. After deciding our roles, we rehearsed and planned what we were going to do. After lunch we were able to go backstage to put on costumes before acting onstage to our audience. The children were very supportive of each other during the performance.

Comments from the children included:

Matthew L: *"My best memory was watching people act."*

Rebekah: *"I loved doing the acting and really liked doing the dressing up."*

Isabella: *"I loved going onstage and learning about the underground tunnels,"*

Olivia: *"The best thing about the acting was the clapping and the cheering from everyone."*



### **Children's Mental Health Week**

Next week we will be engaging in Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters. We will be engaging in a number of activities throughout the week to enable children to develop the knowledge, skills and values to support their own and others' mental health and wellbeing.

### **SEND Coffee Morning**

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, we held a SEND Coffee Morning in school. We were joined by a number of guest speakers, including Sarah Downes from the Family Hub, Allison Burt and Joanne Turner both from the Schools and Community Team, Joanne Thompson from Norfolk SENDIASS and Jamie Tyson from Family Voice. The session provided lots of valuable information about many areas of SEND for those who attended. We plan on offering another SEND Coffee Morning in the summer term.

### **Weather**

Although we have hopefully seen the worst of the winter weather, February can sometimes be an unpredictable month, so we wanted to remind you of our procedures for extreme weather. We always do our utmost to keep the school open, however, it may occasionally be necessary to close the school in really bad weather as several members of staff travel long distances across Norfolk. If this is the case, regular announcements will be made on Radio Norfolk and Greatest Hits Radio (West Norfolk) soon after 7am. Details will also be posted on the Norfolk County Council school closure list at: [www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk) as well as our Twitter and Facebook pages.

### **Free Reading and Writing for Wellbeing Course**

Following the success of the maths sessions we held for parents back in October, we have arranged for a professional tutor from Norfolk County Council to visit school to provide FREE support and information so you can help your child with their reading and writing. The first of these sessions took place yesterday and there is a further session on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. In each session, parents/carers have an hour with a professional tutor learning about the different reading and writing strategies used in schools through games, puzzles and sharing of ideas. Pupils then join their parents/carers to work together for a further hour, using these new skills, and in doing so, making a difference to their mental health, wellbeing and confidence.

There will be two sessions on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 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

If you have children in both key stages, you can attend one or both sessions. We hope that many of you will be able to join us.

### **New Year's Resolution**

At the beginning of term, we discussed in collective worship what our whole school new year's resolution should be for 2025. The children made some very good suggestions and we finally decided on: To be creative with our thinking and respectful of the ideas of others.

### **Christian Value**

Our Christian value for this half term is wisdom and we have spent a lot of time exploring how we can make wise choices.

### **Gardening Group Update by Mrs Collins**

Over the last few weeks, the gardening group have had to contend with some cold and windy weather! They have made bird feeders, which timed in well with The Big Garden Birdwatch from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January. The children conducted a bird watch on the school field and then took some charts to fill in at home. The group made animal cards one week and they have also learned about herbs. They enjoyed identifying herbs and using a pestle and mortar to grind them down to make their own pot pourri bags. They also made their own mint tea.



### **Big Garden Bird Watch**

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the UK's biggest citizen science wildlife survey. Organised by the RSPB, it helps us understand how our garden birds are doing right now. Well done to Juniper in Class 2 who took part, recording how many birds she saw and submitting her results.

### **Outdoor Learning Update by Mr Cawley**

The mist added to the excitement as we introduced the idea of the Great British Bird Watch; unfortunately, the lack of birds meant that I needed to get up a ladder to provide the children with a few sure bets when it came to spotting and recording our feathered friends (well, laminated ones at least!) We also braved the cold to provide the birds with a little nutrition. We created and hung a range of bird feeders using toilet roll tubes, lard and seeds. A great opportunity to talk to the children about the need to look after our wildlife, and the importance that it has in our world.





### **Eco-Committee Update by Mr Cawley**

The Eco-committee came up with the idea of providing a space which was safe for the children to play in and dig holes, use sticks during their break times. Many of our children enjoy using simple tools and love using their imaginations; they can amuse themselves for ages doing so. Unfortunately, in this context, it usually means digging holes in the middle of the football pitch or the running track! So, the children came up with the idea of allocating an area to the side of the field right where it would be safe for children to play, supervised, during their break times.

With the donation of fence panels (from Den Corley), and timber for posts (from the local building site) a little time and effort from the Eco-Committee and the Outdoor Learning Club, and a small amount of guidance from myself, we now have an attractive area that the children can safely use and enjoy for the purpose of that age old pastime of 'digging in the dirt'. What child wouldn't love this?!

We would like to take the opportunity to ask if any of you might have any wellies that could be donated to this area? We would also be interested in any other protective clothing that you no longer need. All in all, a worthwhile project that has added to the usefulness and appeal of our outdoor space; well done Eco-Committee!



### **Board Games**

If anyone has any old board games they no longer need, we would be extremely grateful if these could be donated to the school to be used in our After School Club, and also for wet playtimes.

### **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.

At the beginning of the academic year, we 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.

Our Attendance policy has recently been updated and can be found on our website under About Us, Attendance.

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

Class 1	88.0%
Class 2	90.4%
Class 3	86.3%
Class 4	93.9%

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

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.1%**, which is below our school target of 97%. We recognise that there are many nasty bugs doing the rounds, however we ask that you please continue to support 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 outside 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.

### **Update from The Friends**

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed the festive break and had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The Friends have been busy getting things planned for the start of this term.

We are happy to announce that we will be holding a Valentine's disco on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, at Denver Village Hall from 5-7pm. Please keep an eye out for further information coming out via email.

We are also pleased to announce the return of Crazy Hair Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> February! We look forward to seeing some amazing hairstyles.

We will be getting together again after half term to finalise the Easter events and a few other things coming later in the year.

The Friends would like to send a warm welcome to Mrs Smith, who has taken up the vacant role in the front office.

As always, we are always looking to welcome new members, if you're interested in joining, please reach out.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver

### **Sports News**

#### **Active Kids**

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, the children in Y1 visited Lynnsport for the second of the Active Kids festivals. They took part in a number of different activities including parachute games, an obstacle course, dishes and domes and many more. Here are some photos of the children thoroughly enjoying themselves!



#### **Swimming Lessons**

Throughout the spring term, the children in Class 4 are visiting Downham Market Alive for weekly swimming sessions. They are currently working on stroke technique and later in the term they will be learning safe rescue and life-saving skills.

### **Mini Marathon**

This year's TCS London Marathon takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> April. As part of encouraging children to have active lifestyles, the organisers of the London Marathon are encouraging children within their school setting to complete a 2-mile Mini Marathon in the week surrounding the Marathon day. The school will be given a trophy for participation. All children in school will be involved and we will be using the Golden Mile to track the distance.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **OMNES Games – Speed Stacking – 10<sup>th</sup> February**

The next OMNES games, Speed Stacking, is being held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. A group of children from Class 2 and Class 3 will be visiting Lynnsport for this event.

#### **Safer Internet Day – 11<sup>th</sup> February**

We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. On this day, we will join many schools and other organisations across the country to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. The children will discuss ways to keep themselves safe, at an age-appropriate level throughout the day.

#### **Valentine's Disco – 11<sup>th</sup> February**

The Friends are organising a Valentine's Disco at Denver Village Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 5pm -7pm. More details will follow soon from the Friends.

#### **Class 1 Learning Café – 11<sup>th</sup> February**

The next Learning Café for Class 1 will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm.

#### **Crazy Hair Day – 26<sup>th</sup> February**

As mentioned in the Friends' update, back by popular demand is Crazy Hair Day on 26<sup>th</sup> February. We are looking forward to seeing the children's crazy hair creations, and hopefully the staff will get involved too!

#### **Parent Consultations – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be offering face-to-face parent consultations on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March. More details about how to book appointments will be sent out after half term.

#### **World Book Day – 6<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. We have a number of exciting activities planned and will once again be asking that the children come to school dressed as a favourite book character. We are also inviting parents into school from 3pm to read with your child/ren. More details will follow nearer the event.

#### **British Science Week – 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March**

It is also British Science Week this week and Mrs Henden, our science lead, is busy organising a range of fun challenges for the children to take part in.

#### **Bee Netball Tournament – 10<sup>th</sup> March**

A Bee netball tournament for children in Class 3 is taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Go netballers!



### **Sensory Workshop – 13<sup>th</sup> March**

We have arranged for a Sensory Workshop to take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 9am. This will be delivered by Joanne Turner from the School and Community Team. More details to follow soon.

### **Cluster Netball Tournament – 18<sup>th</sup> March**

The cluster netball tournament for children in Y5/6 is due to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March at DMA. Good luck to the team!

### **Sleep Workshop – 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Joanne Turner from the School and Community Team will be running a further workshop on 20<sup>th</sup> March at 9am, this time with a focus on children's sleep. More details to follow soon.

### **OMNES Games – 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Another OMNES games, this time New Age Kurling, will take place at Lynnsport in March. This is great opportunity for some children in Class 2 and Class 3 to try out a different event.

### **Big Walk and Wheel Week – 24<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April**

During this week, we will be encouraging the children to walk, scoot or cycle to school. We hope to see our cycle shelter full!

### **Mother's Day Posies – 28<sup>th</sup> March**

The ladies from St Mary's Church will once again be coming into school on 28<sup>th</sup> March to help the children make posies for Mothering Sunday.

### **Easter Service – 31<sup>st</sup> March**

We are planning to have an Easter service in St Mary's Church on 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm.

### **Cluster Football Tournament – 4<sup>th</sup> April**

On the last day of term, we will be sending 2 teams of Y5/6 children to the cluster football tournament at Hillcrest. Good luck to our footballers!

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

Please remember that we are a listening school, and you can always approach us with any concerns or ideas you many have. I hope you all enjoy February half term when it arrives.

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

#### **2024/2025**

#### **Spring Term**

February 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>		Children's Mental Health Week
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	English Course
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	OMNES Speed Stacking at Lynnsport
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Valentine's Disco
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 1's Learning Café
	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term



	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Crazy Hair Day
March 2025	5 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Parents Consultations
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Parents Consultations
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	World Book Day
	7 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>		British Science Week
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Bee Netball Tournament
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Sensory Workshop – 9am
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Cluster Netball Tournament
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Sleep Workshop – 9am
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	New Age Kurling OMNES Game
	24 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>		Big Walk and Wheel Week
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Mother's Day Posies
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Easter Service – 2pm St Mary's Church	
April 2025	4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Cluster Football Tournament
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of spring term

### Summer Term

April 2025	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tue	Professional Development Day
	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