



March 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the March newsletter. I cannot believe we are coming to end of the spring term and after the clocks changing yesterday, we are now officially in British summertime. As always in our newsletters, we have lots of ways in which the children have been letting their lights shine to celebrate with you; we hope you enjoy reading our March update.

Easter Service

This afternoon, we all visited St Mary's Church in Denver for our Easter Service. The children celebrated the Easter story through songs, readings and prayer. We also officially presented and signed the Parish School Covenant, showing the close links the school shares with local benefice. Thank you to all those who attended.

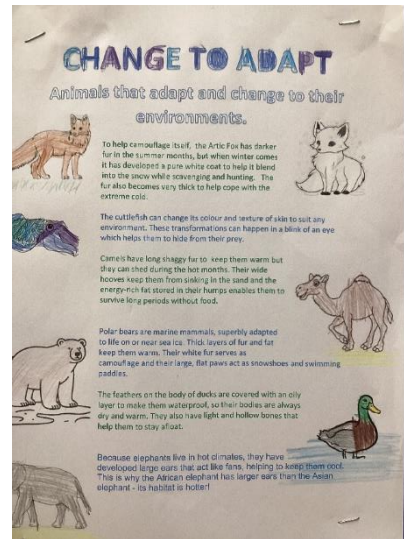
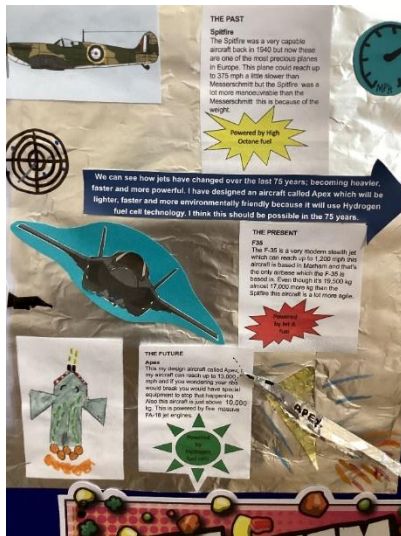
Mothering Sunday Posies

Continuing a long school tradition, the ladies from St Mary's Church came into school last Friday to help the children make beautiful posies for Mothering Sunday. A huge thank you to Jo Walton and Ben Groom, along with ladies from the church, for their hard work in preparing everything. Thank you also to Morrisons in Downham Market for their donation towards the cost of the flowers, and to the Stow Estate for providing the greenery. Please can we ask that all of the plastic trays are returned to school so these can then be re-used next year.



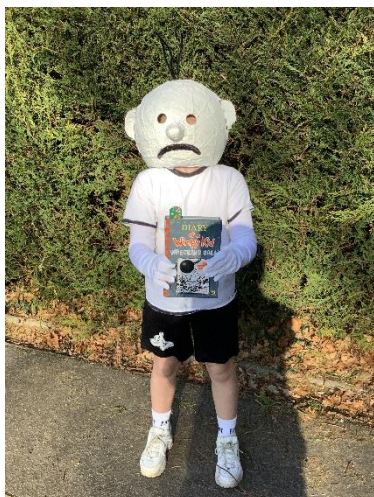
British Science Week by Mrs Henden

The theme for British Science Week this year was 'Change and Adapt'. In each class, our science lessons during that week focussed on an activity from a resource provided by 'Explorify,' an organisation that promotes STEM subjects in schools. Children from across the school were invited to take part in the national competition to create a poster that explores the child's own choice of topic around the change and adapt theme. We received many excellent posters and it was a very difficult decision for the staff to decide on our winners from KS1 and Reception and Key Stage 2. Congratulations to Robyn and Amelia, thank you and well done to everyone who took part. A huge thank you to Mrs Henden for organising this.



World Book Day

Back at the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day. As usual, the children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and took part in different activities to celebrate reading. Parents and carers were invited into school at the end of the day to read with the children. Mrs Fenn kindly baked biscuits for the children to enjoy. The children took home a £1 World Book Day voucher at the end of the day. Here are some photos showing how we celebrated this exciting day.



Red Nose Day

A sea of red made for a colourful change, as all the children dressed in something different to their usual uniform to mark Red Nose Day. Over £90 was raised, with half of the money going to Comic Relief and the other half being used to buy new playground equipment, as requested by the School Council.



Recycling Visit

It is not every day we have a man-size recycling bin join us for collective worship! Barry from West Norfolk's recycling and bin collections pledged lots of recycling bins free to parents to mark an initiative to raise awareness of recycling food waste both at home and at school. His assembly was enjoyed by all, and West Norfolk's free recycling bins soon disappeared over the field with both children and parents at the end of the school day. These particular recycling bins were carried and didn't walk themselves!



Eat Them to Defeat Them

Throughout this half term, we have been engaging in the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign. Each week, we have focused on a different vegetable, and we are really impressed by how many children have been eating their veg. Thank you to Mrs Fenn for incorporating this initiative into the menu, and to parents/carers for helping us to promote the campaign.

Shrove Tuesday

The children were treated to pancakes and chocolate sauce on Shrove Tuesday, and as you can see from the photographs below, this went down very well! Thank you to Mrs Fenn for once again providing the children



Bishop Dagmar's Lent Challenge

Throughout this period of Lent, we have been participating in the Bishop's Lent Challenge, the theme of which is 'What do you want me to do for you? (Mark 10:51). Through collective worship and class discussions/activities, we have been helping the children to learn about the importance of their physical, mental wellbeing and spiritual health. Here is some of the children's work on display in school.



Easter Gardens

The children in Class 1 have been making Easter gardens as part of their work on Easter in RE. Here is one of their lovely creations.



Staff News

On 13th March staff and parents joined us for Coffee and Cake to celebrate Miss Waters' retirement. Miss Waters was presented with several gifts, including a Silversmith's course, which she was thrilled with. We wish Deb all the very best in her retirement.



I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Paula Boddy will be joining us as a Teaching Assistant after the Easter break. We look forward to welcoming her to her school.

Young Carers

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been awarded a grant of over £2000 to help us to run a monthly Young Carers group in school. Mrs Wright has been busy organising the first of these sessions which will take place this week.

After School Care

The children who attend our after-school care club (3.15 Club) have been doing lots of craft activities that they would like me to share with you.



Sensory Processing and Sleep Workshops

This month, Joanne Turner from the Schools and Community Team ran two different workshops for parents/carers, one focussed on sensory processing and the other on sleep. Thank you to Joanne and to those parents who attended.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun

The **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun** holiday activity scheme is back again for the Easter holidays. Free places are available for children who are eligible for means-tested free school meals. For more information, please visit [Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)



Outdoor Learning Update by Mr Cawley

12th March

With changeable weather in outdoor learning club we decided that powder pictures were the way to go to welcome springtime. The children enjoyed creating their springtime flower pictures, and the fog of powder painting could be seen from miles away!



19th March

We had lots of different activities in outdoor learning club on 19th March; these ranged from weaving Willow, creating nature pictures, even playing tic tac toe! The children followed their interests and honed their skills on the way. An enjoyable session for all.



26th March

It was the turn of Daisy chains, bug hotels and team building games in outdoor learning club on the week beginning the 24th. We also started a Willow windbreak, and the children were working on the football pitch to remove the flints the workmen had left. We looked at the differences over the last few weeks and the changes the springtime brings. All the children had a fantastic time in the spring sunshine and I am looking forward to a final session where we are going to reflect on pancake day with (hopefully!) some pancakes over the firepit.



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 can be found on our website under About Us, Attendance.

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

Class 1	93.3%
Class 2	95.2%
Class 3	95.6%
Class 4	95.8%

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

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95.1%**, which is below our school target of 97%. We recognise that there are still 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.

Lateness

Please remember that any child arriving at school after the gate closed at 9am will be marked as late on the attendance registers. If a child arrives after 9.10am then the absence is recorded as unauthorised.

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 (**10 sessions or 5 school days of unauthorised absence within a 10-school week period**). An absence request should be completed **before** any holidays 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.

School Lunch Price Increase

Just a reminder that the price of a school lunch will increase to £2.75 per meal from 1st April. There will also be a new summer menu when we return from the Easter break. This can be found on our school website in the parents / carers section.

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. 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.

Sun Protection

During the summer term when the weather starts to warm up, the children will spend more time outside. To help protect them 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. Thank you.

Update from The Friends

Here we go again; another month has flown by!

It has been a relatively quiet month for the Friends as we have been moving forward getting things sorted for events coming up after the Easter break.

A thank you must go out to Morrisons in Downham Market for helping with flower donations for the Mother's Day posies. Also, a huge thank you to the ladies from St Mary's Church for coming into school to help the children make the posies. I hope all the ladies enjoyed their Mother's Day.

It was great fun running Easter egg hunts for each class today, the children always enjoy these fun breaks in the learning day, and it was followed up this afternoon with a brilliant Easter service at St Mary's Church.

As posted on Dojo recently, the Easter Bunny has left his jar of Haribo eggs at the school and the children have been hard at work trying to figure out how many eggs are in the jar. A quick

thank you to parents for supporting this game – it has been proving to be very popular. As noted, the winner shall be announced in celebration assembly on the 4/4, so there is still plenty of time to get those guesses in.

After the Easter break, we will be approaching May, where we will be looking forward to celebrating the VE day anniversary at the school and we have a few surprises lined up for the children. We can also confirm the date for the annual Denver Village Yard Sale, which will be run on 18/5, please keep an eye out for further information in the coming weeks.

Have a fantastic Easter break everyone.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School



Sports News

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

We have been engaging in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel challenge over the last two weeks. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge, is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing. Children across the nation were encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school in a bid to increase activity and fitness levels while reducing our carbon footprint. Each day we have been tracking the number of journeys made to school in these ways to enter a prize draw. We look forward to seeing if we are successful...

Thank you for your support with this. Please don't let it end there! With the newly acquired cycle skills and the better weather, we hope that as many families as possible will continue to walk, scoot or cycle to school to support the aim of 60 active minutes a day for all primary aged children.



Bee Netball

A group of 6 children from Class 3 travelled to Downham Market Leisure Centre on 10th March to take part in the Bee Netball festival. The children made huge progress throughout the festival and enjoyed developing their netball skills.

Cluster Netball Tournament

On Tuesday 18th March, nine children from Class 4 travelled to Downham Market Leisure Centre to take part in the cluster competition with a place in the area finals at stake. Despite being relative novices at the sport, the team were impressive throughout with three wins and a draw. This meant that they are now cluster champions and have succeeded in their quest to reach the area finals which take place on 28th April at Lynnsport.

Here are the results of their games:

Hillcrest Thunder 0 – Denver 3

Denver 0 – Nelson 0

Southery 0 – Denver 2

Hillcrest Lightning 0 – Denver 1



OMNES Games Kurling

On Friday 17th March, Class 3 were lucky enough to take part in a New Age Kurling taster session. This was part of the Omnes Games set up by The West Norfolk School Partnership Programme. The 'Omnes Games' meaning 'For All' was designed to give those children who don't usually represent the school an opportunity to do so. The events are run as festivals, so no scores and results are recorded. Just an opportunity to come and play, have fun, meet new friends and fall in love with a new sport.

A small group from Class 3 and Class 2 were able to join other schools on 24th March to share what they had learnt and play together.

Here are some of the children's comments:

"We had to roll a stone on wheels to get on a target." Katie W

"I got a bullseye and no one moved it off. It was fun!" Lily T

"Joe told us to have fun and it was really fun." Osian W





Clubs Update

Clubs will resume immediately after the Easter break. The children already enrolled in a club will automatically be enrolled for the summer term. There are spaces available in all sports clubs so please contact the office if you wish your child to be added to our registers. Sports clubs are free of charge.

With the Kwik Cricket tournament coming up in the summer term, the Thursday football club session will change to cricket. There is a charge of £1 each week for this club. Again, there are plenty of spaces so if your child would like to join, please contact the school office.

Forthcoming Events

Cluster Football Tournament – 4th 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!

London Mini Marathon – W/C 23rd April

We are participating in the London Mini Marathon throughout the first week back after Easter. The children will be competing the required miles in their Golden Mile time.

Area Netball Finals – 28th April

Our cluster netball champions will progress onto the area finals on 28th April at Lynnsport. Good luck netballers!

Great Cressingham Victorian School Visit – 1st May

Class 4 will be going back in time to the Victorian Era when they visit Great Cressingham Victorian School on 1st May.

Crucial Crew – 2nd May

The children in Y6 will be visiting King's Lynn Fire Station on 2nd May for the Crucial Crew event where they will learn how to keep themselves safe in a variety of different scenarios.

Tri-golf Tournament – 6th May

A group of children from Classes 2 and 3 will be taking part in the cluster tri-golf tournament on 6th May.

VE Day Celebrations – 8th May

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, we will be having a special event in school, including a street party – more details to follow soon.

KS2 SATs Week – 12th – 16th May

The children in Y6 will be sitting their KS2 SATs from 12th – 16th May. They have all worked hard and are well-prepared. We wish them all the best of luck – just do your very best, you can do it!

Denver Village Yard Sale – 18th May

The annual Denver Village Yard Sale takes place on Sunday 18th May. Please note that the date has changed from the one mentioned in the previous newsletter. This is always a really good fundraiser for The Friends so please come along to support this event.

Dynamos Cricket Tournament – 22nd May

A group of children from Class 4 will participate in the Dynamos cricket tournament on 22nd May.

Tag Rugby Festival at WNRFC – 6th June

Class 4 will be visiting West Norfolk Rugby Club for a tag rugby festival on 6th June.

Phonics Screen Week – 9th – 13th June

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

And finally...

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break whatever you have planned. Let's hope the sun shines. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school for the summer term on 23rd April.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2024/2025

Spring Term

April 2025	4 th	Fri	Denver Supertots
	4 th	Fri	Cluster Football Tournament
	4 th	Fri	Last day of spring term

Summer Term

April 2025	22 nd	Tue	Professional Development Day
	23 rd	Wed	Children return to school
	W/C 23 rd		London Mini Marathon in School
	28 th	Mon	Area Netball Finals
May 2025	1 st	Thu	Great Cressingham Visit – Class 4
	2 nd	Fri	Y6 Crucial Crew
	5 th	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	6 th	Tue	Tri-golf Tournament
	7 th	Wed	Bag2School Collection
	8 th	Thu	VE Day Celebrations
	9 th	Fri	Y6 Crucial Crew
	12 th -16 th		KS2 SATs
	18 th	Sun	Village Yard Sale
	22 nd	Thu	Dynamos Cricket Tournament
	26 th – 30 th		School closed for half term
June 2025	2 nd	Mon	Children return to school
	6 th	Fri	Tag Rugby Tournament at WNRFC – Class 4
	9 th -16 th		Y1 Phonics Screen
July 2025	22 nd	Tue	Last day of summer term

