



May 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the newsletter for May. What with the Y6 SATs, class visits, VE Day celebrations and so much more, this short half term has flown by. Here is a summary of life in Denver school throughout the month of May.

A Fond Farewell

Today, we said a very fond farewell to Allison Alves. Allison has worked at Denver for 24 years and has been an integral, dedicated and valued member of our staff team. She has supported and nurtured many children throughout those years, been our expert first-aider and a fantastic librarian. We are all very sad to see Allison leave and I would like to wish her all the very best for the future on behalf of the whole school community. We are hoping the farewell will not last too long and Allison will be back volunteering in school very soon.



VE Day Celebrations

On 8th May we had a special afternoon of celebrations to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The children came to school wearing red, white or blue to help them to get into the spirit of the occasion. We observed the national 2 minute silence at 12pm together on the playground and then the children enjoyed a street party picnic lunch kindly provided by our kitchen staff, Mrs Fenn and Miss Metcalfe. Parents and carers were invited into school to join in with the fun and it was lovely to see so many of you join us. A huge thank you to all those involved in organising this event, particularly Ben Groom, the Chair of the Friends, who spent a significant amount of time organising the activities. Thanks also go out to Mr Baxter for bringing along the Ferret and Clive for sharing his Austin K9 truck with the children – these were both extremely popular!





KS2 SATs

Last week, our Y6 pupils took their KS2 SATs tests. We were very proud of how calm and focussed they were throughout the week and we are very proud of them. Well done Y6!

Sensory Room Update

As mentioned in the last newsletter, with the generous help of the Prosperity building company, we are creating a sensory room for our children. As you can see from the photo below, the room is all but ready; the next phase is to apply for a grant for new resources to make it a truly wonderful area for children to spend time in. Once again, a huge thank you to Prosperity and all the tradespeople who generously donated their time to make this a reality. I would also like to thank Mr Cawley for his vision and determination to see this project through.



Young Carers by Mrs Wright

Wednesday saw the second session of the Young Carers club and the children were just as excited as the first! Unfortunately, due to the screen tests for the end of year production taking place, some of the older children could not make it. It was very tense in Class 4 and I'm sure I heard one of them say, "Get my agent on the phone," as I left!

The session had a sporty theme, and we were very lucky to have Joe from Alive West Norfolk come in and teach the children how to play handball. The children began by bouncing the

ball while standing still, then progressing to moving and bouncing, to finally being able to run, bounce and throw the ball to each other.

I was very impressed with everyone's determination and resilience to keep going even when it became a little tricky. All of the children, regardless of age, stepped up to the challenges; all trying to score and save goals, and even if they didn't they were still smiling and supporting each other. It was a pleasure to watch the children gain new skills, confidence and be proud of their achievements.

Finally, the overall feedback from the children was that "it was great fun" and they "love coming to Young Carers club."

The next session will be Wednesday 16th July at 2pm.



Class 1 Visit to Snettisham Park Farm by Mr Rackham

Last week, Class 1 went on their trip to Snettisham Park Farm, linking to their recent topic on animals. The children loved seeing and feeding the goats, lambs (and getting the lambs back in the pens!) and deer whilst on the safari. We also collected chicken eggs and graded them before lastly meeting the tortoises. It felt like the time flew by and everyone enjoyed a great day. Thank you to The Friends for funding this.





Class 4 Visit to Victorian School at Great Cressingham by Mrs Henden

On a very beautiful, warm 1st May (May Day) Class 4 children travelled to Great Cressingham, just outside of Swaffham, to visit a Victorian school where they could be Victorian scholars for the day.



On arrival in the village, the children were welcomed by peals of the school bell rung by Miss North (Ma'am) and her assistant, Miss Samson, as they walked from the church to the school. Once through the school gate, the children were instructed to line up according to gender and give the appropriate formal greetings to their mistresses (doffing of caps by the boys and a curtsy from the girls) before entering the school through their separate doors and heading into the main classroom.



What followed was a sequence of traditional lessons on slate boards that included the three R's (reading, writing and 'rithmetic) and an object lesson about the magpie, otherwise known as Pecker Pecker. There were also prayers and songs to impress the local school inspector!

At breaktime, the children participated in authentic Victorian games involving chasing hoops down a hill, skittles, quoits and wooden spinning tops. Due to the wonderful weather, Victorian-style lunches were eaten on picnic blankets under the shade of the trees in the beautiful grounds. Water was served in old-fashioned tin cups with a chip here and there.



Since it was May Day, Miss North taught the children some traditional May dances which they danced to while she played the accordion. This was one of the highlights of the day.

Following on from the dancing, the boys went into the small classroom to look inside the nature cupboard, doing close-up drawings of skulls and stuffed animals before exploring the museum and its toys such as Zoetropes and kaleidoscopes while the girls sewed lavender bags in the main hall.

Finally, everyone joined together in the main school room for a handwriting lesson using the dip pens and ink (this proved rather messy for some!). The children wrote out many of the mantras that they had heard throughout the day: 'Time is the enemy', 'Practice makes perfect' and 'Manners maketh man'. There were many others. Certificates were awarded, final hymns sung and a closing prayer then all too soon, it was time to depart.



It was a truly memorable day. As Miss North explained, the day was not just to learn about the Victorians but to actually feel like a Victorian by living in their shoes, doing the things they did. This experience certainly met those expectations.

We are very grateful to Miss North and Miss Samson for their passion and expertise, the Friends for funding the coach, parents for your donations to the school and providing the children's fantastic costumes, and to the staff who accompanied the visit: Mrs Kenna, Mrs Meloy and Mrs Wright.

Y6 Crucial Crew by Mrs Henden

On Friday 2nd May, it was time for this year's Crucial Crew for our Year 6 pupils. Throughout the afternoon plentiful knowledge was gained about how to be safe in a range of situations as the children visited a host of workshops to enrich their personal, social, health and safety education.



The first step was with St John's Ambulance volunteers who explained the DRS ABC procedure for dealing with casualties then a hands-on opportunity to practise calling for help, checking for breathing and whether responsive, clearing the airway and putting partners into the recovery position.

Following on from that, two prevention officers talked about times when people may have to evacuate their homes (floods and wildfires for example) and the steps that can be made in advance to prepare for this. They showed the children how to make an emergency kit of items that would be ready in the event of an evacuation.

Next stop was with the RNLI station where dangers by the sea and beaches were identified and then a full explanation of how to deal with them. The children practised shouting for help and how to lay on their backs in a star position if they are stranded out in the sea or rivers.



Another station was manned by Norfolk Fire Service fire volunteers. They had made a mock-up of Deal or No Deal about fire hazards. Together the children found the hazards and worked with the expert fire officer to discuss how the risks could be eliminated. The fire officer also stressed the importance of checking smoke alarms on a weekly basis – and not just when food has been burnt in the kitchen! Apparently, that is not an effective check: the button has to be pressed to check the unit is functioning properly.

From there, the next workshop was led by a police officer from Norfolk Constabulary. He shared very common-sense advice about ‘owning’ what we do online and how we are criminally responsible from age 10 for the things we say or do. Through the video of ‘I’ve seen your willy’, it was made very evident how quickly information that is not protected online can go viral and how something that was intended as a joke can quickly become something much more sinister.

We were also reminded of the age restrictions for many of the Apps, platforms and games. The vast majority are set at well over 13 to be able to have an account. These platforms will not protect us in the event of a breach as they insist that all users are over the age restriction because to have an account in the first place, you must state that you are of that age.

The sixth stop was with NHS wellbeing volunteers who used biscuits as an incentive to encourage active listening skills and also to explore the issue of consent.

The last stop was with a group of paramedics from the East Anglian Air Ambulance who explained how to make a 999 call, the information that would be requested in an emergency and how to perform CPR using dummies. It was an eye-opener what hard work it is to make continuous and deep enough chest compressions. Many of the children said that their hands hurt after just 30 seconds. In a real event this could take 30 minutes before a responder arrives.



If there is a take away from the day for parents to help with, it is about making sure your child knows their postcode so that help in any emergency can arrive in the most rapid way.

The whole event was free thanks to the charitable institutions mentioned above that run valuably important event, the knowledge from which could one day help the children to save a life.

Outdoor Learning Update by Mr Cawley

Summer term = better weather. Better weather = dry trees. Dry trees = need for water. Need for water = wet children. Wet children = fun. Fun = happy children. Happy children = happy parents; even if their children were mostly soaked to the bone on this scorcher of a Wednesday! We had a mission, and the mission was successful. In all battles (this one was with the heat), there are always casualties, only this time, the casualties were laughing, smiling and enjoying some reprieve from the hot sticky classroom which they have been in for lots of the day. The chance to get out and experience a little naughtiness whilst doing a very important and worthwhile job was welcomed by all, even if the water meter was running on overtime! Shhhhhh ;).



Having been gifted a brand new (child safe) greenhouse, it would have been rude not to involve the Outdoor Learners in having the opportunity to help to site it! With enthusiasm and tools at the ready, we set removing the slabs of the path to repurpose into a base for the new addition, under the expert supervision of Reyn's dad!

Other activities included helping to refresh the digging area (reducing the crater that was!) and playing 'Man Hunt' with the addition of Sticky Weed to make it more interesting; suffice to say that after a gallant effort, Ben lost!



The children have been instrumental in helping to reshape our outdoor area...long may their ideas continue to be seen in our outdoor space! Mr C



With the final club of this half term (it was a very short half term!) we had lots of jobs to get stuck into at outdoor learning club. There were straw bales to move for Friday's sponsored walk, trees to water, planks to move, Willow to weave, oh and a game of Manhunt with the obligatory sticky weed to mark those that had been caught! We were a few adults down this week, and it's notable the difference it makes...I would like to say a huge thank you to all who give their time to make the club such a popular success! See you all next half term!

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. April's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	96.2%
Class 2	95.3%
Class 3	93.0%
Class 4	96.9%

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

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **95%**, which is below our school target of 97%. 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.

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

To help protect the children from the sun this term, please ensure that your child/ren bring a sun hat and water bottle to school each day, and that they apply sun cream before coming to school. Thank you.

Footwear

For safety reasons, please can we ask that children do not come to school in open-toed sandals. Thank you for your support with this.

Neurodiversity Workshops

A huge thank you to those who attended the Neurodiversity Workshops delivered by the Schools and Community Team earlier in the month.

Supertots

Our Denver Supertots Playgroup will take place on the following Fridays (9.30-10.30am) after half term:

- 6th June
- 20th June
- 4th July
- 18th July

All pre-school age children and their parents are welcome to attend for a small cost of £1.00 each child, with children under 1 being free. A variety of games and activities are planned, with refreshments provided for the children and adults.

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term has been tolerance and we have spent in Collective Worship and in lesson time discussing the exploring the importance of respecting each other's differences. Our new value for the last half term of this academic year will be perseverance.

School Lunches

We politely request that all lunch balances are brought up to date and if your child/children are having a school lunch, ideally making payment on the same week as the meal. If you would like an update on your child's lunch balance, please email the school at office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk Unfortunately, if your child's lunch balance reaches £30 then we will not be able to provide them with a lunch until the balance has been cleared. If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals, you can find more information and an application form on our school website [Denver VC Primary School - School Lunches](#)

Parking

We have received several complaints from the public regarding parents parking inappropriately in the layby down Ely Road and blocking residents in, preventing them from going to work. Please can I ask that you are considerate of the local residents when parking at drop off and pick up.

Update from The Friends

Another half term looms as we approach the run in to the end of the school year. It has been a busy month for The Friends as we helped support the school with the VE Day celebrations, which was an amazing afternoon and experience to be a part of. The children enjoyed the activities on the playground, but we think the real winner was the military vehicles that were present on the field. It was a joy to see so many parents attending the festivities too.

We have also just had this year's sponsored walk, including, what is now becoming a firm favourite, the obstacle course. It is always fun organising these events and having the parents come along to join in the excitement!

The recent Bags2school collection raised £48.20 – thank you to all those who sent in items for this.

And a quick last note, on the 18th May The Friends organised the Denver Yard Sale. This event always brings lots of foot traffic to the village and it was lovely to see so many people running stalls from their homes. This year we managed to raise over £500. A massive thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the day and to those who baked cakes to be sold. Have a fantastic half term.

Ben. G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School

Sports News

Tri-golf Tournament

At the beginning of the month, a group of children from Classes 2 and 3 visited Holy Cross Primary School for the annual cluster tri-golf tournament. They took part in a variety of different activities and they all gave positive feedback about the event. Congratulations to Lily and Lauren who were awarded medals for being excellent team players.



Dynamos Cricket Tournament

A squad of 12 children from Class 4 took on other teams in the local cluster cricket tournament on Thursday 22nd May at Downham Market Memorial Field. The children performed very well coming in an excellent second place overall with Alfie also being named player of the tournament. Many thanks to Luke and Mrs Fenn for coaching the team and also to Mrs Williamson who accompanied Luke and the team. Because of their second place finish, they have now qualified for the area finals which take place on 2nd June. We wish them the best of luck.



Forthcoming Events

Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course- 5th and 12th June

Joanne Turner from the Schools and Community Team will be running an Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course over two sessions on 5th and 12th June. All parents and carers are welcome; refreshments will be served.

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.

Quad Kids – 23rd June

The Quad Kids athletics event for Y5/6 children will take place on Monday 23rd June at Lynnsport.

Sports Day – 24th June

Our annual Sports Day will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 24th June. All are welcome to cheer the children on.

Reserve Sports Day – 26th June

Should the weather not be kind to us, the Sports Day reserve date will be Thursday 26th June.

Y5/6 Mini Tennis – 27th June

On Friday 27th June it is Class 4's turn to participate in the Mini Tennis tournament at Lynnsport

Active Kids – 30th June

The final session of Active Kids for Y1 takes place on the morning of Monday 30th June.

Area Sports – 1st July

The annual cluster Area Sports will take place on the morning of 1st July. This will involve children from KS2.

Class 2 Visit to West Runton – 10th July

Class 2 are looking forward to a trip to the beautiful beach at West Runton on Thursday 10th July. Let's hope the sun shines for them!

KS2 Production – 14th and 16th July

Mr Lawrence has, once again, written an original play for KS2 to perform at the end of the year. There will be two performances on Monday 16th and Wednesday 16th July. More details to follow soon.

Move Up Afternoons – 16th, 17th and 18th July

On the afternoons of 16th, 17th and 18th July, we will welcome the new reception intake into school and the whole school will move up to their next year group/class. A meeting for the new reception parents/carers will take place on Friday 18th July at 2pm.

Denver Fun Day – 20th July

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 20th July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall again this year and the school choir will be performing. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

School Games Festival – 21st July

The children will all take part in our School Games Festival on the penultimate day of term.

End of Year Assembly – 22nd July

Continuing with tradition, we will have our end of year assembly on the last day of term, starting at 2pm.

And finally...

I hope you all enjoy the half term break, although I think the lovely weather we have experienced recently looks set to change which is a shame. The second half of the summer term looks very busy, so please do make a note of the forthcoming events in the diary dates below.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2024/2025

Summer Term

June 2025	2 nd	Mon	Children return to school
	5 th	Thu	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	6 th	Fri	Tag Rugby Tournament at WNRFC – Class 4
	6 th	Fri	Supertots
	9 th -16 th		Y1 Phonics Screen
	12 th	Thu	Understanding Your Child's Behaviour Course
	20 th	Fri	Supertots
	23 rd	Mon	Quad Kids – Y5/6
	24 th	Tue	Sports Day
	26 th	Thu	Reserve Sports Day
	27 th	Fri	Y5/6 Mini Tennis
	30 th	Mon	Active Kids Y1
July 2025	1 st	Tue	Area Sports
	4 th	Fri	Supertots
	14 th	Mon	KS2 Production
	16 th	Wed	KS2 Production
	16 th , 17 th , 18 th		Move Up Afternoons
	18 th	Fri	Supertots
	20 th	Sun	Denver Fun Day
	21 st	Mon	School Games Festival
	22 nd	Tue	End of Year Assembly
22 nd	Tue	Last day of summer term	