



# July 2025 Newsletter



I cannot quite believe I am saying this but welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year – where has the time gone?! As always, July has been an incredibly busy month with lots of activities and events for the children to enjoy. We have lots to share with you and we hope you enjoy reading this final instalment.

## Class 1 Outdoor Area

I am excited to inform you that Class 1's outdoor area is now complete. I am sure you will agree from the photos attached that this is a wonderful new area for the children to use. They have loved watching the project progress each day and they are really enjoying using their wonderful new equipment. Cassie, as class Prime Minister, had the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially open the new area. A huge thank you to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for providing grant to make this possible.



### **Staff News**

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Miss Cronin and Mrs Chilvers today. Sue Cronin has worked at Denver for 26 years and supported many children in her various roles in school. She has willingly taken on many responsibilities, including covering PPA and teaching cookery; she has even been Chair of the Friends. Bridget Chilvers has been working behind the scenes in the office as our secretarial assistant for nearly 5 years. Sue and Bridget will be greatly missed by the whole school community, but we wish them well in the future.

### **KS2 Production**

On Monday and Wednesday last week, KS2 performed their end of term play, The Noble Savages of the Papayaya in Denver Village Hall. The singing and acting were absolutely fantastic. You could see from their faces how much the children enjoyed performing. They should certainly all feel very proud of themselves – we were certainly proud of them as they really did let their light shine. A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved and in particular to Mr Lawrence for another original and very special production.



### **Y6 Leavers' Buffet**

Following Wednesday's performance, there was a buffet at school for the Y6 leavers, their parents and invited guests. There was a fantastic spread, and we are grateful to all the Y6 parents for providing the food. The parents had also clubbed together to organise inflatables for the children to enjoy. It was also lovely to welcome back last year's Y6 and learn about how they are getting on in their new schools. A huge thank you to the Friends for providing the drinks.

### **Move Up**

Last week, we held our 'Move Up' afternoons to give the children the opportunity to spend some time with their new classes and teachers for September. The afternoons went smoothly, and the children seemed to really enjoy spending time with their new classes. Our new Reception children had their first experience of Denver School life and on the Friday afternoon, we also welcomed our new Reception parents for the intake meeting. The new Reception children particularly enjoyed spending time outside in the new Class 1 outdoor area. We very much look forward to welcoming the new Reception children and their families to the Denver School community in September.

### **Farewell to Y6**

It is that time once again to say a fond farewell to our Y6 children. They have been a great cohort of pupils, and we will be sad to say goodbye to them. We hope they have many happy memories of their time with us at Denver and we wish them all the very best at their new schools and for the future. We wish Alfie, Jack, Jake, Amelia, Rosie, Max, Evelyn, Hope, Lily, Isla, Seren, Evie, Bobby, James, Eric, Oliver and Charlie all the very best. Good luck Class of '25!



### **Denver Fun Day**

On Sunday, our school choir performed a selection of songs from the KS2 production at the Denver Fun Day. Despite the rather soggy weather conditions, they were absolutely brilliant; we had lots of positive feedback about their performance. Thank you to all the choir members who were able to join us, Denver Fun Day for once again inviting us and to Mr Lawrence for his hard work with the choir this year.



### **Team Cup**

Throughout the year, the children have been earning certificates each week in their team colours and these are all added up to determine who wins the Team Cup. This year, it was very close with the Red team winning the cup with 384 certificates – the Blue team were incredibly close with 383 certificates and the White team not far behind with 368. Well done to the Red team!

### **Class 2 Visit to West Runton Beach by Mr Cawley**

The 10<sup>th</sup> July was a very long-awaited day for Class 2 as they finally got to go on their trip to West Runton. The weather could not have been kinder, the tide was in the perfect place, and the beach was free from other schools! We arrived safely and quickly made our way to the prime spot on the beach behind the groynes. The children excitedly began exploring and creating, as children do! In the rock pools, they found crabs and creatures, in the sea they found fun and laughter. Their behaviour was exemplary, and it was an absolute pleasure to spend an enjoyable time with them. Did they learn anything? More than we will ever know. I would like to thank all of the adults for making the trip possible. Here's looking forward to our next adventure!



### **Summer Moving Up Activities**

To help to prepare the children for moving up to the next year group, there are some useful English and Maths activities in the 'Parent' tab on our school website. These are completely optional, and are there should children wish to dip in and out of them.

### **Times Tables Rockstars**

Please remember that the children continue to have access to Times Tables Rockstars. We would encourage them to use this resource over the summer holidays: a sound understanding of times table facts is essential in becoming a successful mathematician.

### **Summer Bingo Challenge**

In order to avoid the summer dip in reading, we would very much like all the children to complete the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge over the summer holidays. Certificates and Dojo points will be awarded in September for each child who completes a bingo sheet. This challenge is a great way to help the children to keep up with their reading during the long summer holidays; regular reading throughout the summer can really help to maintain literacy levels and make a difference to children's reading levels. Once again, will be creating a reading display in school to celebrate the children's engagement in the challenge, therefore we would be very grateful if you could send in photographs of them completing some of the tasks. The children have already received their bingo sheets – these can also be found under the 'Parent' tab on our school website.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

We would like as many of our children as possible to engage in the national Summer Reading Challenge, the theme of which this year is: **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors** [Summer Reading Challenge](#) This exciting new theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature. As always, the challenge is FREE to join. The children need to read 6 library books to collect stickers along the way to achieve a certificate and medal.

### **Volunteers**

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers in school. We have a number of regular volunteers who come in to school to listen to readers, help on school events and trips etc. and we are always looking to expand our team. If you feel you have some time to spare, please let me know. We really would be grateful for any extra support.

### **Meet the Teacher Sessions**

We will be, once again, organising 'Meet the Teacher' events in the first few weeks of the autumn term to give parents/carers the opportunity to meet our class teachers and learn more about the forthcoming year. More information will be sent out at the beginning of the new term.

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

Just a reminder that you can contact the school urgently over the summer break, 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.

### **Support for Families**

The summer holidays can be a great time for families, but they can also be challenging and stressful. Sometimes you might need some extra support to manage and enjoy the time together. The following link signposts support that can be accessed.

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/article/60347/Support-services-and-offers-to-families-in-your-schools-over-the-summer>

## **Reports**

Thank you to those of you who completed the online parental comment form sent home last week. We really appreciate your comments and feedback.

## **Clubs**

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in running our school clubs this year. We are grateful that so many people give up their valuable time to offer extra-curricular opportunities for our children. I would like to offer my particular thanks to Luke Fenn who has run both our football and cricket clubs this year, ably supported by Mrs Fenn, as well as accompanying many of our sporting fixtures. Thank you, Luke!

## **Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme**

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun is a summer holiday activity scheme run by Active Norfolk in partnership with Norfolk County Council for children aged 5-15. Activities start from 23<sup>rd</sup> July and include sport, creative and outdoor activities with a free healthy meal. These sessions are available for all children and free to those eligible for means-tested free school meals. There are also places available for vulnerable children. To find out the available activities near you and information on how to book places, visit:

<https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/bignorfolkholidayfun/>



## **June Young Carers by Mrs Wright**

For our June session we took advantage of the warm weather and went onto the field to play some games. The children decided to start with dodgeball!

The teams were a mix of year groups and again the older children demonstrated their kind and caring nature by taking them all under their wings to help and protect them.

Next, the children wanted the parachute out. The first game was all about working together to keep a ball on top of the parachute. The children soon realised this was not as easy as they first thought but eventually were able to get the hang of it.

The final game, still with the parachute, was to take turns in running under the parachute before it touched them, then telling the group something they had really enjoyed about the sessions so far.

It is clear to say they are all enjoying the sessions so far.





### **July Young Carers by Mrs Wright**

Our final session for the year!

This session took place in the hall and the children had the opportunity to try out the new play equipment we were able to buy from the grant money we received.

We also had two visitors to see how the sessions run, Rosie from the Benjamin Foundation and Sarah from Norfolk County Council's Family Hub.

Just like all the other sessions the children were very excited and couldn't wait to get started.

On offer to them was-

- Connect 4
- 10 pin bowling
- Kerplunk
- Monopoly
- Snakes and ladders

Everyone engaged in all the activities and as always worked together and ensured everyone was involved without any disagreements or falling out. In fact, Rosie and Sarah both commented on how well the children organised themselves and looked out for each other.

Unfortunately, as always time was against us and the session ended.

Thank you to all the Young Carers who took part in the sessions, and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Finally, to our Young Carers leaving Denver Primary to go to high school. Keep being the wonderful caring young people you are and please come back to visit from time to time.



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

Class 1	94.5%
Class 2	96.7%
Class 3	95.5%
Class 4	96.9%

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

Our overall school attendance this year was **95.0%**, which is below our school target of 97%. We ask that you please continue to support us to improve school attendance in the next academic year to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

### **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.

### **Christian Value**

Our Christian value for this half term has been perseverance and we have been exploring in Collective Worship and in lesson time how we can show perseverance even in difficult times.

### **Courageous Advocacy**

'Courageous advocacy' is the act of **speaking out against an issue of injustice**, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. At the end of each year, we reflect back on who is school has been a courageous advocate and award a trophy in our end of year assembly. This year, our courageous advocate is Jake in Class 4 for his charity work (mainly washing cars) to support the Teenage Cancer Trust. Hopefully Jake will inspire other children to become courageous advocates too.

### **Worship Ambassadors Leading Collective Worship**

On 8<sup>th</sup> July, our Worship Ambassadors (Jack, Isla, Seren and Jake) planned and delivered another collective worship based on our Christian value for this half term, perseverance. They based the worship on the book 'Stuck' by Oliver Jeffers to reflect Chapter 6, Verse 9 from Galatians which says, 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up'. A 'hand' prayer was shared by Seren and they chose the song 'Give it all you've got' to conclude the worship. Well done to our fantastic worship ambassadors, they really have been excellent this term!



### **School Lunches**

If you have not already done so, we politely request that all lunch balances are brought up to date. 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](#)

### **RSHE Survey**

Thank you to those parents/carers who completed the RSHE survey sent out earlier in the month.

### **Parent/Carer Survey**

We would also like to thank the many parents/carers who took the time to complete the recent survey sent home. We are a listening school, and your feedback will help us to shape future priorities.

### **Earrings**

Just a reminder that earrings need to be removed for PE lessons; it is our policy not to tape over earrings for safety reasons. The summer holidays are always a good time for children to have their ears pierced as there is time for them to settle so they can be removed for PE lessons.

### **Update from The Friends**

And here we are, the end of another school year. My word how the time has flown. It has been my first year as the Chair and it has been an amazing year. I have been so grateful to have had the opportunity to help this great school. I thoroughly look forward to another year arranging events and raising funds towards great trips and events for the children.

We started July with getting the end of term photos taken, these are done by class and year group, with and without teachers. Thank you to everyone who has placed orders, we shall get these to you as soon as possible. A massive thank you goes out to Leslie B, who gives up her free time to take the photos.

We then hosted the Year 6 leavers' buffet for this year's class of 2025 leavers. It was a brilliant event and so nice to see the year 6 children and their parents let off some steam after a really hard year. It was also lovely to welcome back last year's Year 6's and see how they are adapting to high school life. Congratulations go out to Year 6, good luck at your respective high schools, we will miss you all!

We have also been introduced to the new Reception class parents, we look forward to having them at the school and hope to have some new volunteers coming through the door.

Then it was Denver Fun Day, where we held our annual tombola stall. It was great to see so many of you out and about and thanks to all those who came along and tried their luck. You helped us to raise over £210.00, which will go back into funding events and activities for the school.

And finally, we give a massive thank you and farewell to Friend's secretary Sarah P. Sarah has held many positions in the Friends and has been part of the group since her eldest joined Denver school. We will miss you terribly Sarah, thank you for everything you have done over the years.

Have a fantastic summer everyone. See you in September.

Ben G - Chair of the Friends of Denver School.

### **Sports News by Mrs Henden**

#### **School Games Gold Award**

We are thrilled to have once again been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award! This is an incredible achievement for a small school, and we are extremely proud of this achievement and the acknowledgement of how PE and sport is given a high priority in school. Thank you to all children, staff, parents, carers and volunteers for working together to help us to achieve this award. A particular thank you goes out to Mrs Henden for her continued hard work in promoting PE, sport and the School Games values in school.

#### **KS2 Rounders Tournament**

The annual Key Stage 2 rounders tournament took place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Representing their own house teams, the children were able to play in both field and bat against each other.

Red house team were the winners as they won all of their matches. Bizarrely, Blue and White teams both scored six points when against Red team and then scored six points apiece when they played each other making them joint second place. Well done to everyone involved.

### **Cluster Girls Only Euros Tournament 2025**

In recognition of the current Euros for women, a tournament was held for girls' teams across the cluster by our School Games Organiser. Our squad of 8 travelled to Hillcrest on a sweltering morning of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July. The girls played against all of the other entrants and a last-minute goal scored by Seren in the final match cemented a very creditable second place. A raffle also took place where all competitors across the cluster gave their names in a bid to win an England shirt. Well done to Seren who was the lucky winner. Many thanks to Luke Fenn and Mrs Collins for supporting our successful team.



### **Area Sports Athletics**

A team of 23 of our talented athletes travelled to Hillcrest on 1<sup>st</sup> July to compete against the other schools in our Downham Market cluster. The event was very well-attended with the majority of other schools present. Although there is no longer a team event for schools as a whole, children competed on an individual basis in running, throwing and jumping activities with the winner of each event awarded a gold medal. Denver children once again performed very well. We are very proud of how well they displayed sportsmanship and tried their hardest.

Here is a list of our 12 gold medal winners:

#### **Year 3**

Libby – 50 metre sprint

Libby – 400 metre endurance

#### **Year 4**

Lauren F – 50 metre sprint

Lauren F – 400 metre endurance

Isla – tennis ball throw

Matthew L – tennis ball throw

Lauren F, Osian, Evie and Hugo – mixed 50 metre relay

**Year 5**

Chase – 600 metre endurance

**Year 6**

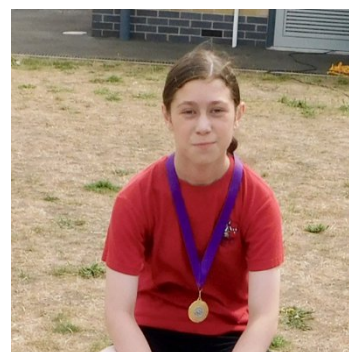
Oliver – 60 metre hurdles

Evie – 100 metre sprint

Amelia – 600 metre endurance

Oliver – Vortex howler throw

The whole team did us proud. Many thanks to Mrs Collins, Mrs Stansfield and Luke Fenn for providing the support.



## Denver School Games Festival 2025

We held our annual School Games Festival on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July. This year's events were centred around the current Women's Euros football competition.



We gathered together for an introductory assembly learning about the Euros competition and were pleased to learn that England are currently still in the competition with the semi-final due the following day.

Classes 1, 2 and 3 were divided into 6 mixed groups and took part in a carousel of activities led and scored by children in Class 4. These activities included lap training, football dominoes, dribbling, Attacker Vs Defender, Boccia and Beat the Goalie.



The afternoon concluded with a final gathering to reveal the scores. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to team 3 who were the overall winners. Many thanks to the children of Class 4 and the adult helpers who ensured the afternoon was a great success and lots of fun!



## **Thank You**

There are so many people I would like to thank for the support they have given the school throughout the year.

The Governing Body continue to be a fantastic support for the school, holding us to account and providing strategic direction. We are grateful to them all for their hard work. Emma Goulding is sadly the Governing Body after 12 years of dedicated service; we are extremely grateful for her support over the years.

Thank you to Rev'd Nigel, Heidi Moat and all involved with St Mary's Church for the many ways in which they provide support for the school. We always enjoy inviting in the ladies from the church to make Christingles and Mothering Sunday posies.

Thank you to Carole Reich, Janet Wilde, Fraser Reich, Rev'd Nigel and Heidi Moat for leading collective worship in school throughout the year.

Thank you also to all those involved in running Supertots, particularly the students from DMA.

We have many volunteers who give up their time to listen to readers, help with outdoor learning club, go on school visits and much more. We really appreciate the time they give up supporting the school.

And finally, I want to thank an amazing group of people who give up so much of their time to organise events and activities for the children to enjoy - The Friends of Denver School. Their fundraising has been very impressive this year and we are so lucky that they give up hours of their valuable spare time to support us.

In particular, I would like to thank Sarah Pettit from The Friends who will be leaving us this year as her son is moving to secondary school. Sarah has supported the Friends in many different roles over the years and we are extremely grateful for her contributions. We also wish Nikki O'Mara all the very best with her new baby boy who was born on Sunday.

## **And finally...**

I cannot express how proud I am to be a part of the Denver VC Primary community; it truly is a wonderful school. Thank you to everyone who helps the school and all those within it to 'let their light shine'.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and a relaxing break! Let's hope that the good weather we have experienced so far this summer continues!

I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for a very special year at Denver VC Primary as it is the school's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we will have lots to celebrate.

Best wishes

Louise Jones

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

**2025/2026**

**Autumn Term**

September 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wed	Children return to school
October 2025	27 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup>		School closed for half term
November 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
December 2025	19 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of autumn term

**Spring Term**

January 2026	6 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Children return to school
February 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2026	27 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of spring term

**Summer Term**

April 2026	14 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Children return to school
May 2026	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>		School closed for half term
June 2026	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
July 2026	17 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Last day of summer term