



February 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to our February newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful half-term break and found a moment to rest and recharge. It has been lovely to see some long-awaited sunshine this week—let's hope it is here to stay. Although this half term is a short one, it is already full of energy and purpose. We hope you enjoy catching up on everything that has taken place in school so far in 2026.

Class 3 Trip to Cambridge Central Mosque by Mr Bonham

On Monday 9th of February, Class 3 visited the Mosque in Cambridge. We had a guided tour and were told all about how and why the Mosque was built like it was. It was designed by the same people who designed the London Eye and uses harvested rainwater as part of its push to be as environmentally friendly as possible. We were able to look at the Prayer Hall and the area for washing (Wudu) as well as having a chance to ask lots of questions.



Comments for the children afterwards included:

"I liked the trip to the mosque. We learnt about how they respect Allah."

"I liked the patterns." *Robyn*

"We waited in the garden and then when we went inside the floor was warm." *Lily T*

"The mosque was MASSIVE!" *Jupiter*

"It was really cool, I could probably fit my house in it!" *Finn*



Downham Market Rotary Club Visit – War is Brewing by Mrs Henden

On Tuesday 10th February, children in Class 4 enriched their learning in DT through a thought-provoking challenge delivered by Downham Market Rotary Club. The challenge, War is Brewing, involved a limited amount of equipment and a lot of imagination.



The children set off in their groups of four creating some great ideas along the process. The panel then judged each teams' practical work and portfolios against set criteria.



Everyone did a fantastic job. The overall winners were The Fantastic Four: Flora, Sonny, Osian and Indi who received medals. Well done to everyone. We are very proud of all of the children! Thank you to Alan and Claire for a memorable day.



Children's Mental Health Week

From 9th-15th February, we engaged in Children's Mental Health Week, the theme of which was 'This is my Place'. The week supported the children to help them to feel they belong, emphasising the importance of belonging in their friendships, schools and communities. We were also joined by Louise Ramsey from the Swan Youth Project who delivered an assembly full of advice to help the children look after their mental health.

Tips on how families can support children's mental health can be found on our website under the Parents tab.



Class 1 RE Day by Mr Rackham

On 13th February 2026, Class 1 had an RE Day based on the topic: What makes some places sacred to religious believers? The children thought about what places made them feel safe and are special to them at the beginning of the day and drew their own safe places. We discussed how places which are safe and special can be for all people and thought about where these might be for some in the community.



The class then turned their attention to what places might be safe and special to Christians and learnt how churches are sacred to them because it is a place where they feel safe and closer to God. We went to the local church to investigate what key features there are in a church and what makes that place sacred. In coming back, the class worked on creating their own church in a variety of methods.



Later, the class learnt that there are other religions and faiths around the world and that they have their own special buildings to worship in. We learnt about Muslims and Jews and how they have their own buildings called Mosques and Synagogues. We learnt about what makes these places sacred to these believers and again tried to create our own versions.



The class ended the day comparing the different places of worship. We discovered that although there are lots of differences between the sacred buildings in terms of appearance, they are all similar as they are places where certain religious believers gather to worship their God / Gods.

150th Anniversary

This year marks a truly special milestone for our school as we celebrate our 150th anniversary. Since opening its doors in 1876, the school has grown, adapted, and thrived, all while keeping its strong sense of community at the heart of everything it does. Throughout 2026, we will be honouring this remarkable legacy with a series of events, including a special commemorative day on 11th June, that will bring together pupils, families, staff—past and present—and the wider community. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our history, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to the next chapter in our school's story. More details to follow soon.

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. We encourage children to think of issues they would like to speak out against and support them to become courageous advocates.

William in Class 3 was awarded our Courageous Advocacy award in a Celebration Worship on 13/02/26. He went to the Gambia in Africa and donated books and stationery to a school there to help the children who do not have as much as we do in our school. The governors were so proud of William they also awarded him with a special book token. Well done for being a courageous advocate, William!



The School Council also proved themselves to be courageous advocates when they organised a World Book Day costume donation event this week. They wanted to do this because they understand that costumes can be hard to afford and they also wanted to help look after the environment by recycling. Here are some of the members running the donation event. A huge thank you to all those who kindly donated any unwanted costumes for the benefit of others.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 10th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for our children. The children explored ways to keep themselves safe online in their computing lessons.

WOW Tokens

The Red team achieved the most WOW tokens for last half term and they voted to come to school in non-uniform as their reward. Well done to the Red team for letting their lights shine!

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term is compassion and this week in our collective worship we have challenged the children to each set a compassion goal to help them to consider how they can show compassion towards others.

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 school 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. Our Attendance policy can also be found on our website under About Us, Attendance.

To promote good attendance, we celebrate the class with the highest attendance each week in our celebration assembly and each month in our newsletters. February's attendance figures were as follows:

Class 1	94.1%
Class 2	97.5%
Class 3	93.4%
Class 4	94.5%

Well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of February!

Our overall school attendance so far this year is **94.6%**, which is below our school target. We ask that you continue to support us in improving school attendance to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Communication with School

Here is a reminder of the procedure for parents/carers to communicate with the school, which was shared earlier in the month:

1. All requests for a meeting, either in person or by phone, should be done through the school office either by calling 01366 383272 or emailing office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk Mrs Smith will take any details and return a call with a suggested appointment time as soon as this can be arranged.
2. Concerns, in the first instance, should be raised with the class teachers. If this does not resolve the issue, the above telephone number/email address can be used to request a meeting with Mrs Jones.

3. Please avoid sending emails or Dojo messages to any staff over the weekends or holiday periods. Any out of hours emails, Dojos or correspondence will be responded to within school hours.
4. **In the event of an emergency**, please email worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk as these emails are checked regularly and a response will be given. Other support services are listed on the school website.
5. Absence notifications, lunch arrangements and requests for before and after school care should only be made directly to the office.

We thank you for your cooperation as we seek to support the smooth and efficient running of the school for all members of the community.

Denver Supertots

Our Denver Supertots playgroup continues to run every Wednesday morning from 09:30-10:30. Please spread the word as we are keen to welcome new families.

Eat Them to Defeat Them

Once again, this year we will be engaging in the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign to promote vegetable consumption in children throughout the UK. The campaign launches on 2nd March and will last for the remainder of this half term. The children will be encouraged to eat a different vegetable each week in school and will receive a sticker for doing so. The children have already taken home a leaflet and some stickers - please use these to encourage your children to eat more veg! The first veg of the week (starting next week) is the humble carrot.

Mothering Sunday Posies

Each year, the children make posies in school to present to their mums on Mothering Sunday. The ladies from St Mary's Church have once again kindly offered to help prepare the items needed and the School Council will purchase the flowers. The children will be making the posies on Friday 13th March ready for Mothering Sunday on 15th.

RSHE Update by Mrs Henden

Class 2

Class 2 have been very busy learning about conflict and resolution and how to help if they see someone being bullied. As a class the children created a word art with words and phrases that could be used to help someone in this situation. During the following lesson the children were given anti-bullying card scenarios to act out how they could help someone. The children were extremely sensitive to each situation and worked together to come up with solutions to help. All the children were able to identify things which made them special and unique and the different ways we can celebrate each other and be proud of ourselves. Everyone completed an All About Me sheet and there were some fantastic answers.

The first lesson this half term was about cyberbullying and reinforced that bullying on any level is not acceptable. All the children agreed just because cyberbullying is not face to face it still hurts and can be extremely upsetting.

Class 3

During February, Class 3 have been looking at how we change as grow up. We have looked, in broad terms, at how our bodies change as we grow from babies to adults. We have looked at public and private situations such as how beachwear might not be appropriate in a restaurant and is it ok to cry in public.

Class 4

In our lessons we have been learning about terms relating to money. We explored the case study of Debbie by looking at her payslip. We discussed the difference between gross and net pay. We talked about the services that are provided with the money paid for tax and National Insurance. We discussed the other responsibilities that Debbie would have to meet with her net pay. We have also been learning about protecting our money by putting it in safe places and how money can be invested in savings. We have also looked at different scenarios of financial risk and worked out ways in how these can be managed.

Young Carers Session

We held our first Young Carers session of 2026 on Thursday 12th February, and for the first time we were delighted to welcome Young Carers from West Winch Primary School to join us. The theme for this session linked with **Children's Mental Health Week** as well as **Valentine's Day**.



The afternoon began with a parachute game, which acted as a fun ice-breaker and gave everyone the chance to introduce themselves. The Young Carers then took part in a range of activities, including board games, giant Snakes and Ladders, and giant Connect 4. Each child also created their own Valentine's box and added some Love Hearts to take home for someone special.



This year's Children's Mental Health Week theme, **"This is My Place,"** focuses on helping children and young people explore where they feel they belong. The Young Carers were invited to write down a place where they feel a sense of belonging. These were collected in a jar and shared at the end of the session while everyone enjoyed a snack and a drink. All too soon, it was time to say goodbye. However, we are already looking forward to planning another collaborative event in the near future.

Outdoor Learning Update from Mr Cawley

Making Hedgehogs – 04/02/26

Despite being short staffed this week the children enjoyed creating their own hedgehogs after being told all about them in our outdoor classroom. Mr C brought in some clay and the children enjoyed finding hedgehog spikes to adorn their creations. Once the hedgehog was made it was time to create a habitat for it to live in (although these were short lived, as the children all took their hedgehogs home). Lots of fun was had with the clay and lots of learning took place without them even realising! Another successful session for our outdoor learning club.



Fire and Apples, Smoke and Marshmallows 11/02/26

The last of our outdoor learning sessions this half term, and indeed for KS1 for a while, saw the children tucking into baked apples and marshmallows. The weather was determined to put a dampener on things, however with dry wood and high hopes we managed to fight the tide of what the weather threw at us. We weren't as fortunate when it came to the dodgy roll of tin foil purchased from a well-known local supermarket! As a result of the tin foil being more than useless, we resorted to sticks and skewers, which worked just as well.

I would like to say a great big thank you to all of our helpers this term. Without you there would be no outdoor club. So, to Mrs Collins, Will, Ben, Peter and Kelly - the children are very grateful for your ongoing help.



Art and Sculpture inspired by Andy Goldsworthy

On a beautiful sunny day, the first club of this half term, it was the turn of the key stage two children to enjoy our outdoor learning club. We kicked off with an art and DT unit where the children enjoy looking up pictures of Andy Goldsworthy's work. We used the outdoor area to inspire their creations, and they worked in teams or pairs (some individually) to create their own versions of what they had seen in the classroom. There was a plenitude of Materials for them to use such as leaves with different textures and colours, sticks and stones, and of course the age-old favourite mud... Lots of mud!

It was great to see the children cutting loose and enjoying something they wouldn't usually get a chance to. Next week, our key stage two children will build shelters; watch this space!

Mr C



"Alright Gov'nor?" by Carole Reich (Chair of Governors)

As well as working at a strategic level, the governors get the opportunity to visit the school to witness the activities and learning across the school and get the opportunity to help when special events occur to ensure we have DBS checked volunteers to help with visits etc.

This term has found one of the governors accompanying Class 3 on their visit to the Cambridge Mosque. They had a fascinating time and reported back what a fascinating visit it was. The staff at the Mosque were very welcoming and were keen to share their faith with the children. In reporting on the visit, the governor wrote:

"Without exception the children eager to look around the mosque and asked many good questions. At the end of our visit our guide complimented them on their behaviour and said that they had asked better questions than any other group she had worked with. Their behaviour was exemplary and they showed great respect for each space they went into."

As part of our monitoring role, we capture our visits in writing, so we have evidence of what we experience for Ofsted and Church inspections. One of our governors had a lovely experience in school one afternoon and wrote the following to capture the experience:

"An afternoon in school. The initial purpose of this visit was to meet with the Maths Lead, Mr. Rackham to discuss the provision of a suitable maths scheme for use across the school. However, before we were able to meet, I was drawn into a number of experiences that I had not anticipated, and which altogether gave me a delightful afternoon.

The first was an invitation from Mr Bonham to go into Class 3 to see their artwork, drawings of fruits and vegetables. The room was quiet with every child focused on their drawing. The subject of study were bananas and carrots. It was good to see that everyone was following their own ideas of what they wanted to show of the objects they were studying. The use of colour was strong and confident, and it was lovely to see that every drawing was different. There was a lot of enjoyment and pride in the children as they were keen to show me what they were doing. They were also sharing their artwork with each other and comparing what they had decided to do. On the whiteboard was information about the artist Cezanne which was the inspiration for the children's ideas.

As I left Class 3, I heard music from further down the corridor. In Class 2 Mr Lawrence was playing his guitar and the children were dancing with great energy and enthusiasm. There was great joy in the children as they rocked to the music – a lovely start to their music lesson.

Outside Mrs Jones' office a boy from Class 4 was waiting to show her his work. He was very pleased to be able to show it to me as he had to wait some time for Mrs Jones to be available. He was very patient, but also very proud of his beautiful handwriting in an extensive piece of work. He told me that he had worked really hard to write well and that it had been worth the effort as he had been awarded 2 awards which meant he would make a cube. Mrs Jones was eventually able to see his work and was delighted with his effort. One very happy boy.

There was also a small girl in the reflection area quietly looking through pictures and cards. She was very still and given the level of intense activity around her, the composure was impressive!

Whilst looking for Mr Rackham I was surprised to see Mr Cawley in Class 1 engaged in making clay stars with the children amongst much excitement. Mrs Blount was elbow deep in clay as were the children and it was a scene to warm the heart!!

The day ended with an unexpected opportunity to share worship with Class 1. Mr Rackham chose to focus on Spirituality as this has been a focus across the school. The children were able to share their ideas about what this means, helped by photographs of the Peak District which Mr Rackham shared and explained why this was a spiritual place for him. The children responded to the question 'Is there a place that makes them feel calm and happy': a holiday home and swimming pool; a forest; playing with cousins; memories of happy places with family; playing with their dog. Worship ended with a short prayer to which the children listened quietly and responded with the 'Amen'.

Overall, I saw a great deal of purposeful activity and felt that there was a very happy atmosphere in the school with everyone focused on their tasks with commitment and enjoyment."

It is such a privilege to see the learning process in action and to bear witness of the effort that is made by staff to offer such diverse and interesting learning opportunities.

Carole Reich - Chair of Governors

Update from The Friends

Hello everyone, we hope you all had a wonderful half-term. How is it the end of February already?

Things are starting to pick up pace for the Friends, and we've got lots coming up. First, a big thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Valentine's Disco — we raised over £70. A huge thank you as well to everyone who helped organise the event, and an extra-special thank you to DJ Ed for making the evening such a success.

Keep an eye out for a Dojo post next week... we have a special someone looking for a new home. It's soft, cuddly, and loves carrots (and no, it's not a real one!).

We'll be serving teas and coffees during Parents' Evening next month, so please pop over for a chat if you have any questions. We also have a large selection of pre-loved uniform available. If you need anything, you can use the form on the school website to let us know.

Our next Friends' meeting will be held on Friday 6th March, and we'd love to see some new faces. If you can't make it into school, we can also add you via Teams.

Ben. G - Chair of the Friends of Denver

Sports News

OMNES Speedstacking

On Monday 9th February, a group of children from Classes 2 travelled to Lynnsport to take part in a speedstacking event as part of the Omnes games. Speed stacking is a great way to help with hand eye co-ordination and it is always very popular with the children.

London Mini Marathon

We will be taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon for schools in the summer term. The children will complete two miles across their Daily Mile sessions.

Forthcoming Events

World Book Day – 5th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th 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 2.45pm to read with your child/ren. Please refer to the letter sent out today for more information about World Book Day.

British Science Week – 6th – 15th 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.

Parent Consultations – 9th and 11th March

We will be offering face-to-face parent consultations on the 9th and 11th March. More details about how to book appointments will be sent out after half term. Sarah Downes from the Family Hub and Allison Burt from the Schools and Community Team will be offering bookable appointments on the 11th.

Class 1 Learning Café – 10th March

Class 1 will be inviting parents and carers to their Learning Café on Tuesday 10th March at 2.15pm. Learning Cafés are a wonderful opportunity for families to join their children in the classroom and take part in their learning. Mr Rackham has hinted that dragons will be created during the session, so it promises to be an exciting afternoon! We hope to see many of you there.

Mother's Day Posies – 13th March

The ladies from St Mary's Church will once again be coming into school on 13th March to help the children make posies for Mothering Sunday.

Bee Netball Tournament – 16th March

A Bee netball tournament for children in Class 3 is taking place on 16th March.

OMNES Games – 23rd March

Some children in Class 2 and Class 3 will get the opportunity to try out a different sport, New Age Kurling, on 23rd March.

Cluster Netball Tournament – 24th March

The cluster netball tournament for children in Y5/6 is due to take place on 24th March at DMA. Good luck to the team!

Cluster Football Tournament – 27th March

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!

Easter Service – 27th March

We are planning to have our Easter service in St Mary’s Church on the last day of term at 2pm.

And finally...

Please remember to keep sharing photos of the children’s spiritual spaces for our Spirituality Area and also any photos of children’s sporting successes out of school for the Sporting Stars board.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

2025/2026

Spring Term

March 2026	5 th	Thu	World Book Day
	6 th -15 th		British Science Week
	9 th	Mon	Parent Consultations
	11 th	Wed	Parent Consultations
	13 th	Fri	Mothers’ Day Posies
	16 th	Mon	Bee Netball Festival
	23 rd	Mon	OMNES Games – New Age Kurling
	24 th	Tue	Cluster Netball Tournament
	27 th	Fri	Cluster Football Tournament
	27 th	Fri	Easter Service – St Mary’s Church
	27 th	Fri	Last day of spring term

Summer Term

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