



# December 2019

## Newsletter



I cannot quite believe that Christmas is now very nearly upon us. Where has the Autumn Term gone? December is always a busy time in school and, as you will read about in this newsletter, this year has been no exception.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for your support in my first term as Headteacher. Thank you for the suggestions you have made, your comments are appreciated. I feel very proud of what we have achieved this term and look forward to continuing to build upon the school's many strengths in the New Year.

On behalf of all the staff and children, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Enjoy the well-deserved festive break and we look forward to welcoming you all back in 2020!

### **Poppy Appeal 2019**

We recently received a thank you card from the Royal British Legion informing us that the school had collected a pleasing £186.01 in donations for this year's appeal. Thank you to the members of the School Council for selling the poppies and related merchandise each day, and to all those who engaged and donated to such an important cause.

### **Class 4 Assembly**



On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, the children of Class 4 shared an assembly based on their learning from this term. The assembly took on a news broadcast style format with children acting as either newsreaders, correspondents and journalists or the general public reporting as eye-witnesses. The children did an excellent job and are thankful to those who took the time to watch and support them.

### **Bag2School**

Thank you to everyone who filled a bag (or 2 or 3!) with unwanted clothes for the Bag2School collection. It proved to be a very successful fundraiser for the school, raising a total of £148. Thank you to Mrs Caul-Byrne for organising the collection.

## Decoration Day

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November was Decoration Day in school. Each class spent a fun, glitter-filled day making Christmas crafts which they will be taking home at the end of term.



## Christingles

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the ladies from the church came to school to help the children make Christingles. They went into each classroom, supporting the children and talking about what each part of the Christingle represents. The ladies commented on how well the children behaved and engaged with the activity, so well done to the children. Our thanks go out to all of the ladies who helped; it is always lovely to have them in school.



## Class 2 Assembly

Class 2 held their first class assembly on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December in which they gave the audience a flavour of what they have been learning this term. Thank you to all the parents/grandparents who came in to watch – your support really does mean a great deal to the children.



### Learning Café – 6<sup>th</sup> December

Class 1 held another Learning Café on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Parents/grandparents of children were invited in to school to help make decorations to be on display at the Nativity. The children always really enjoy sharing their learning with family members, therefore thank you to those who were able to join in.



### Choir Sing at Denver Windmill

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the school choir entertained the visitors to Denver Windmill's Christmas Market. They sang a medley of songs that they have been working on in their choir time, as well as a few Christmas favourites. The choir sang beautifully and created a lovely atmosphere for the shoppers. Thank you to Mr Lawrence for his hard work with the choir. Thanks also go out to the parents for helping us support the local community.



### Christmas Coffee Morning

Our annual Christmas Coffee Morning took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Each class came to the hall to perform a festive song and entertain those who attended. The raffle comprised of two fantastic Christmas hampers as well as a whole range of other prizes. Mince pies were donated by Denver Post Office and cakes by Mrs Watts. Thank you to the members of the Friends who organised the event, and for the kind raffle prize donations. Our thanks also go out to the parents and grandparents who came along to show their support. This year we raised £395 – an impressive amount. Thank you!



### **Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day**

On 13<sup>th</sup> December the children came to school in Christmas themed clothing, with a whole array of fantastic Christmas jumpers/outfits on show. The whole school, including staff members, sat down to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch along with crackers donated by Denver Post Office. A huge thank you to Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn for their hard work in making Christmas lunch a special occasion for the children – and of course for cooking over 100 Christmas lunches!



### **Maths Masterclass**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, a group of 7 children from Y6 attended another Maths Masterclass at DMA. This time the children were given a rather challenging logic puzzle to complete, as well as a numeric crossword which required teamwork to complete the clues.

### **EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 16<sup>th</sup> December**

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Classes 1 and 2 performed this year's nativity 'The Enormous Christmas Tree' to a hall packed full with parents and grandparents. This was one of the highlights of the school year for me and the children really did themselves proud. Thank you to Mr Lawrence for writing another excellent nativity, and to Miss Pennock, Mr Sexton, Miss Cronin and Mrs Alves for their directing skills. Thanks also go out to Cher Archer for making many of the costumes.



### **Carol Service – 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Our annual whole school Carol Service took place at 6pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December in St Mary's Church, Denver. I am sure you will agree that, once again, the children performed exceptionally well and were a credit to the school. Thank you to Mr Young for kindly playing the organ, and to all parents/grandparents for supporting the children. A total of £162.72 was raised through the collection for St Mary's Church.

### **Visit from Father Christmas**

On 17<sup>th</sup> December, the children had a very special visit from none other than Father Christmas himself. He managed to take time out of his very busy schedule to meet with each class and deliver presents.

### **Dick Whittington**

The children enjoyed a wonderful treat on the last day of term – a trip to see the pantomime Dick Whittington at the Maltings in Ely. The Reception children also enjoyed a party. Thank you to the Friends of Denver School for funding such a wonderful opportunity for the children.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **Speed Stacking – OMNES Games – 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January**

The OMNES Games will continue for Class 3 in the Spring Term with speed stacking. A taster session is being delivered to the whole of Class 3 on 7<sup>th</sup> January and the actual event will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Class 4 Swimming – 10<sup>th</sup> January**

Throughout the Spring Term, Class 4 will be swimming and learning about safe water rescue techniques every Friday morning, starting on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Please ensure that they have the correct swimming kit each week.

#### **Active Kids Festival – 14<sup>th</sup> January**

All of the children in Year 1 will be going to the next Active Kids festival on 14<sup>th</sup> January. The theme this time is 'Army Bootcamp'.

#### **Class 1 Assembly – 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Class 1 will be organising their first class assembly on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January to share some of what they have been learning about in school. The assembly will start at 2.45pm and finish in time for the end of the school day. All parents/grandparents of children in Class 1 are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

## **Sports News**

### **Sportshall Athletics**

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 18 children (9 boys and 9 girls) from Class 3 travelled to Lynnsport to take part in the area SSP Sportshall Athletics event. It was well attended with 21 schools from the area taking part over the course of the day.

All events were held indoors. There were a number of track events: 1 lap relay, 2 lap relay, 4 x 1 lap relay, 2 x 2 lap relay and an obstacle course. On the other side of the hall there were the following field events: foam javelin, chest push, standing long jump, five strides, vertical jump and the speed bounce.

Each member of the team was allowed to enter two track and two field events to earn points for the team. Denver participated well but did not progress to the county finals.

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

#### **Spring Term**

January 2020	6 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Speed stacking taster session – Class 3
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 4 swimming lessons start
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Active Kids Festival - Year 1
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	OMNES Games Speed Stacking – Class 3
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Class 1 assembly 2.45pm
February 2020	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>		Half term break
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2020	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 3 assembly 2.45pm – details to follow
April 2020	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Last day of spring term
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thu	School closed for staff Professional Development Day

#### **Summer Term**

April 2020	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
May 2020	8 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	School closed for Bank Holiday
	11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>		Key Stage 2 SATs
	25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>		Half term break
June 2020	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>		Statutory Phonics Screening Check for all children in Y1 and those in Y2 who did not meet the standard in Y1
July 2020	21 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	Last day of summer term
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	School closed for Staff Professional Development Day