



# January 2020 Newsletter



A belated Happy New Year to you from us all at Denver School. I hope that 2020 has started well for you all and proves to be a positive, healthy and happy year.

## **New Year's Resolution**

In an assembly at the beginning of term we discussed New Year's resolutions. The children had some fantastic ideas about what we could focus on this year to make our school a better place, and we took their ideas and linked these with our plans to become an Eco-School. Therefore, our school resolution for this year is: **'To be more caring towards each other, the school environment and the wider environment'**. We will continue to focus on these important values throughout the year.

## **Weather**

Thankfully, the weather has been reasonable so far this winter. For new parents, however, I would like to mention our procedures for inclement weather. I would like to reassure you that we always do our utmost to keep the school open. However, it may very occasionally be necessary to close the school in really bad weather as several members of staff travel long distances across Norfolk and beyond. If this is the case, regular announcements will be made on Radio Norfolk and KLFM soon after 7am. Details are also posted on the Norfolk County Council school closure list at: [www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.schoolclosures.norfolk.gov.uk)

## **Eco-Schools**

Recently we have started our journey to become an international Green Flag Eco-School. The Eco-School programme empowers pupils, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and can also lead to a financial saving. We now have an Eco-Committee who will meet next week to start work on our school's action plan. Once this has been decided, we will communicate this with you.

In addition, following requests from parents and our desire to cut down on the amount of paper we are using, we would like to send out more correspondence via email. A letter will be sent home shortly asking for current email addresses. It would be helpful if parents could email the office from the account they wish correspondence to be sent to, placing the child's name and class as the subject. This will hopefully eliminate the possibility of errors when copying down addresses.

### **Food Hygiene Rating**

I am very pleased to inform you that the school kitchen has once again been given a 5\* food hygiene rating from the Food Standards Agency. Thank you to both Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn for their hard work in ensuring such high standards are maintained.

### **Plant to Plate**

The Eastern Daily Press have recently launched their latest school token campaign, Plant to Plate. The campaign aims to help schools to develop school gardens and encourage children to engage with nature. Every school that collects more than 1000 tokens will receive a pack worth £130 containing a range of seeds and planters. The three winning schools will receive £1000 of gardening equipment. Our school garden is in much need of some TLC, therefore please support us by collecting these tokens and placing them in the box in the children's entrance. Also, if anyone could spare some time to help us manage the school garden, we would be extremely grateful.

### **Hilgay Silver Band**

I am really pleased that we are working once again with Hilgay Silver Band to offer an after school club for those in Classes 3 and 4 that were interested in learning a brass instrument. The club started this week and the children were extremely enthusiastic about their new instruments. We look forward to hearing about how they are progressing throughout the term. Our thanks go out to Maria Nicholls for giving up her time to run the club.

### **Australian Fundraiser**

At the beginning of term I was approached by Finley E in Class 4 about fundraising for the animals suffering due to the devastating bush fires in Australia. I was very impressed with how passionately he felt and approached the School Council to help. After much discussion, we decided that we would have a toy kangaroo which would come around the classes each afternoon to collect any donations in its pouch. Finley's family have already donated an impressive £75 to get the ball rolling. If you



would like to make a donation, the kangaroo will come around each class daily until the end of this half term. All money raised will be sent to RSPCA Australia who are using funds to help the rescue and treatment of animals affected by the fires. We will keep you informed about how much we are able to raise.

### **Behaviour Policy**

We are currently revising our Behaviour Policy in school. If you have any comments or ideas regarding this, please feel free to share these with me. I am keen to listen to views from parents, children and staff to help shape the new policy. Our current policy can be found on the school website.

### **Class 1 Assembly**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Class 1 entertained their parents and grandparents in their class assembly. They shared what they have been learning about in their topic on Chinese New Year. The children did extremely well and should feel very proud of themselves.



### **Parent Questionnaire**

At Denver we are always looking for ways in which we can improve as a school, therefore I thought that this was a good time in the year to seek your views. You will very shortly receive a parent questionnaire and I would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this as your feedback will help us to monitor our effectiveness. Please send in completed forms in an envelope to the school office. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Before School Club**

Following feedback from parents about the desire for more before and after school provision, we are looking to introduce a Before School Club. A letter will be sent home shortly asking for parents to indicate if this is something they would use and how frequently. This information will be key in determining costings and staffing levels required.

### **Volunteers**

We are very lucky to have a team of volunteers who give up their time to come in to school to listen to readers, help on school trips, etc. If you would like to volunteer in school, on a regular basis or just from time to time, please see me. We are always grateful for any extra support.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Safer Internet Day – 11<sup>th</sup> February**

We will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Safer Internet Day aims to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. We will join many schools and other organisations across the country to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. The children will discuss ways to keep themselves safe, at an age appropriate level throughout the day.

### **Mandarin Masterclass – 12<sup>th</sup> February**

The children in Y5 have been invited to engage with a Mandarin masterclass at Iceni Academy on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The masterclass will be led by Mandarin teacher, Mr. Liao, a native Chinese speaker. This will be a fun, interactive masterclass where the students will learn through games and speaking. Mr. Liao will cover some basic Mandarin and they will have the chance to practise Chinese characters. We look forward to learning some Mandarin words/phrases from them on their return.

### **Valentine's Disco – 14<sup>th</sup> February**

The Friends of Denver School have organised a Valentine's Disco at Denver Village Hall on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 5.30-7pm. Tickets cost £5 per child. Drinks and biscuits will be available for 20p. If you have not already purchased your tickets, please do so by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Thank to you all those who have volunteered to help with this event – the children really do appreciate it.

### **Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge**

We will soon be embarking on Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge, the theme of which this year is 'God's Creation, a Gift or a Loan?' The children will take part in a variety of different activities to help them to consider more deeply about how we care for the world both now and in the future, which ties in very nicely with our work on becoming an Eco-School.

### **World Book Day -5<sup>th</sup> March**

This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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. More details will follow nearer the event.

### **Easter Assembly - 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Our end of term Easter assembly will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 9.30am in St Mary's Church, Denver. All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.

### **Spring Term Consultation Evenings – 30<sup>th</sup> March, 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Parents Consultations will happen at the end of the Spring Term. These will again be over three consecutive evenings to offer more choice to parents. The lists of available times will be made available from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Anyone unable to get in to school on that day will be able to make an appointment by telephoning the office **after 9.30am**. The children's work will be in the school hall, and members from the Governing Body and the Friends will also be available to talk to. Please do try to come to discuss your child's progress with their teacher. Remember, also, that class teachers are available after school on most days if you need to speak with them.

## Sports News

### **Active Kids Festival**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, the Y1 children went to Lynnsport for the spring session of Active Kids. The theme this term was **Boot Camp**. This follows on from the autumn event where the theme was **Gymnastics**.

The children participated in a wide range of activities. One of the favourites was the obstacle course where the children had to walk along a bench and through a tunnel. Another fun activity was to build a tall tower. They had to work as a team and use Quadro to make a tower taller than the other team. They had great fun trying to balance the parts and make their tower the tallest. They also played a *Minefield* game where they needed to select the correct route through the cones to safely cross to the other side. They also played *Stuck in the Mud*.



All the children had a great time and were excellent representatives for the school. They are eagerly anticipating the summer event.



### **Cross Country**

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, the children in KS2 who had been placed in the top ten in the cluster cross country tournament travelled to Lynnsport to compete in the SSP area finals. The aim was a place in the county finals which are to be held at Holkham Hall in March. Well done to Hollie, Ruby, Sophie, Roman and Aimee in Class 4, and Chloe, Jacob, Edward D and Logan K in Class 3 for representing themselves so well in the bitter cold. Although no one progressed to the county finals, all enjoyed the experience of tougher competition. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting your children in being able to attend the event.

### Speed Stacking

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, Class 3 enjoyed a speed stacking taster session as part of the OMNES (which means 'for all') Games. The children enjoyed the session which really tested their fitness, agility, concentration and reaction times.



Following on from the taster session, 16 children (eight from Class 2 and eight from Class 3) attended Lynnsport on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January for the actual OMNES speed stacking event. The children played speed stacking games in teams of four alongside other children of their age group in a non-competitive environment. The KS1 pyramid formation was 3, 2, 1 and KS2 formation was 3, 6, 3. The children appeared to thoroughly enjoy the afternoon, and showed excellent team skills and sportsmanship. Further events are planned for later in the year. Thank you to Mrs Collins, Mrs Cross, Mrs Alves and Mrs Mills for supporting this visit.



### Norwich City Football Training

Following on from the resounding success of last term's taster visit to all classes, we have been delighted to be re-joined by Tom Armit of Norwich City Community Football for a half-term of football coaching skills across Key Stage 2 on Friday afternoons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions so far. Tom has taught a wide range of skills and mini-games to the children which can be played inside and outdoors. Tom has also been running a successful after school club on the days that he is with us. We are grateful to the Premier League for funding part of these sessions and hope that further links can be made with NCCF in the coming terms.



#### **Class 4 Swimming**

Since returning to school after the Christmas holidays, Class 4 have been attending Downham Market Alive Leisure swimming pool on Friday mornings. Throughout this term, the children are learning to improve a range of swimming strokes and will also be learning about safety on the water, including rescue techniques as the lessons progress. The lessons have begun positively. We value the importance of being able to swim in an area with so much open water and our thanks go to Mrs Penney, the main instructor, for her support.

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

**Spring Term**

February 2020	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Safer Internet Day
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Mandarin Workshop Y5
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Valentine's Disco
	17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>		Half term break
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Children return to school
March 2020	5 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	World Book Day
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 3 assembly 2.45pm
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-5pm
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	Parent Consultation Evening 4.30-6.30pm
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	Easter Assembly – 9.30am
April 2020	1 <sup>st</sup>	Wed	Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-5pm
	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