



# Newsletter for November and December 2018

As we return to school after the October half term, there are several things to look forward to in the run up to Christmas. The children will be preparing for the annual Nativity service in the church and, as a result of the hard work done by the *Friends*, those in Years 1 to 6 will be visiting Ely to see a pantomime. There will also be something special organised in school that day for the children in Reception.

Summer has finally left us and the weather has turned much colder. Please ensure that your child brings a jumper and coat to school each day as playtimes can be very cold!

Once there are coats and PE bags on the pegs in the corridor though, it does become more difficult to keep the corridors clear - we are very short of space and coats and bags do tend to fall off pegs. Increasingly, some children - in Classes 3 and 4 - are bringing in very large back packs, some of which end up blocking the fire exits at the top of the corridor. Often these bags are empty once a lunch box has been removed. Please encourage the children to leave large bags at home whenever possible. PE bags, which hang easily from the pegs, and book bags, which can be taken into classrooms, are always available from the school office.

I am pleased to tell you that the new sun sail was installed on the school field during half term. This will provide extra shade on the school field which will become increasingly necessary if we have more summers like the last one. Thank you to the *Friends* for the organisation that went into this and to all of you who put tokens in the box at Tesco's to enable us to obtain funding.

## **Children in Need**

Once again, School Council has decided to support the annual 'Children in Need' appeal on 16<sup>th</sup> November. In exchange for a donation brought to school on the day, children may wear spots instead of school uniform. There will also be cakes on sale at break time for 50p each.

## **Christmas Carol Service**

We are looking forward to holding our Carol Service in the church at the end of term and we would like all the children take part in this annual event. The children in Classes 1 and 2 will be contributing to a performance and those in Key Stage 2 will be involved in a variety of activities. Teachers will be planning and preparing the children for the event so **please inform their class teacher by 12<sup>th</sup> November at the latest**, if your child is not able to attend.

Space in church is limited so, as always, we ask that parents only attend in the evening and that any grandparents or pre-school children wanting to take part in the service come to the dress rehearsal in the morning. This usually means that there is a seat for everyone both in the morning and the evening and also that the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are able to perform their play in the evening without distractions from younger children. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

## **Website**

Please remember to have a look at our website from time to time. There is information about the school's curriculum; online sites to help you to support children's learning and safety and a number of school policies including our Behaviour and Safeguarding Policies. All recent newsletters are there as well as some children's work. [www.denverschool.co.uk](http://www.denverschool.co.uk)

## **Keeping Children Safe**

As a school we do our utmost to keep children safe. For this reason, if you help out in school in any way we need to ensure that relevant checks have taken place and that you have read and understood our policies for keeping children safe. You will also be asked to wear a visitor's badge so that the children know that you are a welcome visitor. Staff training - including how to keep children safe online - is updated annually.

## **Staff News**

We are happy to welcome Mrs Bridget Chilvers to the team. Bridget is our new secretarial assistant and will be working in the school office 4 mornings a week.

## Sad News

Many of you will remember Jamie Pammenter who started Denver School in Reception and stayed with us until the end of Year 6. Sadly, Jamie passed away very recently and far too soon. Some of your children will remember him and the staff all have such fond



memories of a bright and mischievous child who coped with his increasing disability with great courage.

Our sincere condolences go to his parents Gary and Dawn, his younger brother Luke and the rest of his family. Jamie will not be forgotten.



It is appropriate, at this time of year, to read the words he wrote a few years ago for Remembrance Day.

### **NORMANDY**

**Today**  
**There is no blood in the sea**  
**No fallen soldiers on the beach**  
**No sniper fire**  
**No incoming rounds**  
**From battleships**  
**Parked miles off shore.**  
**No landing crafts**  
**Overtured in the surf**  
**No enemy machine gun fire**  
**Piercing the air**  
**No cries of medic**  
**No young lives**  
**Seeping into the sand.**  
**I cup my hands,**  
**Raise the cold Atlantic**  
**To my lips**  
**Taste the salt**  
**Of a nations tear.**



**Jamie Pammenter**

## Reminders:

If you bring younger children onto the playground in the morning, please ensure that you supervise them closely. The older children are allowed to play football and if toddlers are running around on the pitch, they may get hurt. It is best if they stand with you rather than be allowed to run around. Thank you for your support with this.

## Dates for your diary.

**Please refer to the dates below when booking your holidays. Holidays taken in term time will not be authorised.**

- Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> November: Class 4 Victorian visit
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Pamper Evening organised by the *Friends*.
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Flu immunisation for YR-Y5.
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November: last week of clubs.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Coffee Morning. Details to follow from the *Friends*.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Christingle making in school.
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas lunch.
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm: Annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church at 6pm. Dress rehearsal in the church at 9.30am.
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Pantomime for Y1-6.
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Last day of term.
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December: **School closed for staff Professional Development Day.**

## Spring Term

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January: Children return to school.
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Half Term break.
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February: Children return to school.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April: Last day of spring term.

## Summer Term

- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: Children return to school.
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May: School closed for Bank Holiday.
- Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May: Key Stage 2 SATs.
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup>- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Half Term break.
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Children return to school.
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June: Class 4 Residential to Eaton Vale.
- Week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June: Statutory Phonics Screening check for all children in Year 1 and those who did not meet standard in Year 2.
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July: Last day of summer term.

