



# February 2020 Newsletter



I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half term. February seems to have flown by and it will not be long before we will gather together to celebrate Easter.

## **Eat Them to Defeat Them**

Earlier this month, ITV and Veg Power launched this year's 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign to promote vegetable consumption in children throughout the UK and this is something we felt was important to support. The campaign lasts for six weeks with each week featuring a family favourite vegetable, starting with carrots. The children will be encouraged to eat the vegetable of the week in school and will receive a sticker for doing so. We have set ourselves a school target of consuming 225kg of vegetables during this six week period. A visual progress tracker can be found in the school hall so the children can see how well we are doing towards our target. The children each took home a pack at the beginning of the week containing a reward chart and stickers - please use the packs to encourage your children to eat more veg!

## **ABC Reading Dog**

I am really pleased to inform you that very soon we will be engaging with the ABC Reading Dog scheme. Luna, a Labrador, and her handler, Jane, will come into school on a weekly basis to listen to children read. A small group of children will work with Luna each week for a period of six weeks, then another group of children will be chosen. This scheme has proved extremely successful in other schools and we are excited about the many benefits it will bring to our children.

## **Eco-Schools**

I would like to update you on the progress we are making towards becoming an international Green Flag Eco-School. Our Eco-Committee met just before half term and completed a school environmental review to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. This information will form the basis for our school's action plan which the Eco-Committee will be working on this term.

In order to cut down on the amount of paper we are using, we have started sending out, where possible, correspondence via the eldest sibling only. Thank you to all those parents who have provided us with an up-to-date email address. If you have not already done so, please just email the office using your child's name and class as the subject. We will start sending out correspondence, e.g. newsletters, by email in the summer term.

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

On 11<sup>th</sup> February, we joined many schools across the country in engaging with Safer Internet Day. The children took part in a variety of activities to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology. This included the children in Class 4 delivering the e-safety presentations they have been working on in their ICT lessons to each class. Class 4 also produced their own digital footprints. Additionally, we sent out an information leaflet for parents 'Keeping your kids safe online' which we hope you will find useful.



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

On 12<sup>th</sup> February, the children in Y5 visited Icen Academy for a Mandarin masterclass led by Mandarin teacher, Mr. Liao, a native Chinese speaker. The children learnt how to count to 100 and also how to write some basic symbols, including fire, trees, mountains and people. The children were very engaged in the session and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity. Due to the success of the visit, we have arranged for Y4 to attend another masterclass on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

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

A huge thank you to The Friends of Denver School for organising the St. Valentine's Day Disco at Denver Village Hall on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The event was very well attended and the children certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to all those volunteers who supported the disco and a special thank you to Michelle Maynard for creating the amazing photo frame used in the photo booth and Katy Grisman for donating the chocolate hearts.

### **Plant to Plate**

We are still collecting the Plant to Plate tokens. If you have any please place these in the box in the front entrance hall.

### **Performance Club**

From this week we are pleased to be offering a weekly Performance Club for children in KS2 run by Mr Lawrence and Miss Waters. The children will work on developing their acting, performing and singing skills in a fun and enjoyable way.

### **Australian Fundraiser**

I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the current total collected in our Australian fundraiser stands at £440.87. The idea was prompted by Finley in Class 4 who was very moved by the plight of the animals suffering in Australia as a result of the recent bush fires. The kangaroo, who the children named King Kangaroo, visited each class on a daily basis before half term collecting money in its pouch. Finley's sister, and former pupil of Denver, Ruby, also organised a sponsored walk at Brandon Country Park. This money, alongside other fundraising events by the family, will be added to our total and a final amount sent to RSPCA Australia. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated to this worthy cause and of course to Finley and his family for their amazing efforts.

### **Easyfundraising.com**

The Friends of Denver School are now registered with easyfundraising.com. This means that when parents choose to shop online at any one of the 4,000 shops accessible through the easyfundraising.com website the school will receive a donation. These donations really mount up and can make a big difference. We would really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely free and you can find the Friend's fundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/frdsofdenversch/>

### **Parent Governor**

As you will have seen in the letter that went out before half term, we have one vacancy on our governing body for a parent governor due to a current governor moving position on the governing body. If you are interested in this rewarding role, completed nomination papers must be returned to the school by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. If we receive more than one nomination then a ballot will be necessary. Ballot papers must be returned by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any queries about this process, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to come in and see me.

### **Before School Club**

We have received a lot of interest in the potential Before School Club – this is clearly something that many parents would value. A further letter will be sent home shortly asking those parents who expressed an interest to indicate how frequently they might use the club. Once we have this information, we can make plans towards its implementation.

### **Yellow Lines**

Please, for the safety of the children, I must remind parents/carers not park on the yellow zig zag lines at the front of school when dropping off/picking up. This area is only for buses and taxis. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Parent Questionnaire**

I would like to thank all those parents who completed the parent questionnaire before half term – we had a pleasing 47 responses in total (we have 74 families in school). The results have been collated and can be found overleaf. Your responses have helped us to identify areas of strength and importantly areas in which we can make improvements. It would be particularly useful for those parents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with any of the statements to provide more information about their concerns to enable us to address these in future, either via the suggestions box or meeting with me. Also, if anyone has any questions about the findings, please do not hesitate to see me.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	N/A	No Response
My child is happy at this school.	19	27			1		
My child feels safe at this school.	31	16					
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	24	21	1				1
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	3	12	3		16	7	6
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	26	18	2		1		
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	19	24	3		1		
The school has high expectations for my child.	14	24	2	1	4		2
My child does well at this school.	15	27	3		1		1
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	11	30	5				1
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	21	23	1				2
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	11	28	3	1	3		1
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	24	16	3	1	1		2

I would recommend this school to another parent	Yes	No	No Response
	43	2	2

## **Forthcoming Events**

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

This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Once again we are asking that the children come to school dressed as their favourite book characters. We would also like to invite parents in to school from 9 - 9.30am to share a story with their child/ren. Children in Class 4 will read with those children whose parents are unable to attend on this occasion. The School Council have arranged with Miss Palmer to sell biscuits on the day for 50p each. The money raised from this will go to School Council funds. World Book Day is always one of the highlights of the school year and we are really looking forward to seeing what the children will come to school dressed as this year.

### **Learning Café – 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Class 1 will be holding another of their popular Learning Cafés on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 9am. Parents/grandparents of children in Class 1 are invited in to school to engage in some Easter themed activities alongside their child. Please be reminded that mobile phones cannot be taken into Class 1 for safeguarding reasons.

### **Mothering Sunday Posies – 20<sup>th</sup> March**

The ladies from Denver Church will be coming in on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to help the children make posies. We always look forward to welcoming the ladies in to school and we hope that the posies will help to make Mothering Sunday very special.

### **Class 3 Assembly – 24<sup>th</sup> March**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Class 3 will share some of what they have been learning about in school in their class assembly. 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 3 are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

### **Eco-Day – 26<sup>th</sup> March**

As part of our work to become an Eco-School, we are planning an Eco-Day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The School Council are arranging a 'Go Green' non-uniform day where children will be asked to bring in a donation to come to school dressed in something green to highlight our commitment to being eco-friendly. A range of exciting activities are planned for the day. We would like to use this day to work on improving our school garden and would be grateful if anyone could dust their wellies off and give up their time to help us. Please see me if you are able to help.

### **Y6 SATs Information Session – 27<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be holding a SATs information session for parents/carers of children in Y6 on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 9am in the ICT Suite. The session will aim to give a greater understanding of the SATs and ways in which parents/carers can support their child. There will also be an opportunity to look through some example papers. We hope that many of you will be able to attend.

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

Just a reminder that 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 on 18<sup>th</sup> March**. The children's work will be in the school hall again 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 that class teachers are also available after school on most days if you need to speak with them.

### **Easter Egg Hunt – 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Following many requests to the School Council, we will be having an Easter egg hunt for the whole school on the last day of term. More details will follow later in the term.

### **Y2 SATs Information Session – 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

We will be holding a SATs information session for parents/carers of children in Y2 on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 9am in the ICT Suite. The session will aim to explain how the Y2 SATs are administered and what they are used for. There will also be an opportunity to look through some example papers. We hope to see many of you there.

### **Village Yard Sale – 26<sup>th</sup> April**

The popular Denver Village Yard Sale this year is being held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April starting at 10am. For those of you who are new to the school, pitches can be purchased for £5. Refreshments will be sold in Denver Village Hall; maps can also be purchased here. If anyone is able to spare some time to help on the day, ideally with the refreshments, please see Miss Cronin. This event always proves to be a good fundraiser for the school, therefore we hope that many of you will come along and support us.

### **Bags2School – 4<sup>th</sup> May**

The Friends of Denver School have organised another clothes and shoe collection with Bag2School on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May. The previous collection raised £148 – we hope that the next one will be just as successful.

## **Sports News**

### **Cluster Netball Tournament**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, our netball team travelled to Alive Leisure in Downham Market to participate in an indoor round-robin style tournament against other schools in the Downham Market Cluster. The team finished fourth out of seven teams – very well done to all involved! The final tournament of the year will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March and will be outdoors.



### **Cluster Football Tournament**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, both of our football teams (Denver Broncos and Denver Dynamos) returned to Hillcrest for the second of three tournaments against other cluster schools. The current standings are that both teams are equal fourth in the league with 5 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses each. The Denver Broncos are slightly ahead with a better goal difference. Both teams are doing exceptionally well considering there are 16 teams in the league – well done footballers!

### **First Steps Netball Tournament**

On 25<sup>th</sup> March, we are hosting the cluster First Steps netball tournament for children in Years 3 and 4. This event will see many teams from cluster schools join us here at Denver to take part in a fun morning of skills development and the chance to take part in mini matches.

### **Norwich City Football Training**

We are pleased to inform you that Tom Armit of Norwich City Community Football Foundation will be continuing with us this half term offering football coaching skills to both Class 1 and Class 2 on Friday afternoons. He will also continue to run the popular after school club each Friday until Easter.

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

**Spring Term**

March 2020	5 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	World Book Day
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Class 1 Learning Café – 9am
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Mothering Sunday Posies
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Class 3 assembly 2.45pm
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Eco-Day
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Y6 SATs Information Session
	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	Easter Egg Hunt
	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
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thu	Y2 SATs Information Session
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Village Yard Sale
May 2020	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Bag2School Collection
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	School closed for Bank Holiday
	11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>		Key Stage 2 SATs
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fri	Sponsored Walk
	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