



# NEWSLETTER FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2019

As I write, the children in Key Stage 2 are preparing for their end of term production - *When the Boss Came to Town* - which will be performed soon. We are very much looking forward to it and thank Mr Lawrence for yet another original play. Tickets will be issued for the first performance- two per KS2 family- and we ask that any which are unwanted are returned to school as soon as possible. These spare tickets will be available on a 'first come first served' basis from the school office. Parents of children in year 6 will receive their invitation to the Tuesday performance and buffet.

It is time to say 'goodbye' to the children in Year 6 as they go to their new schools. I can remember all of them as Reception children and I am not sure where the last 7 years have gone! We wish them all the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about their progress. We hope they return to see us sometime.

Soon, we shall be welcoming the Reception children who will be joining us in September as they visit, for three afternoons, to become familiar with the adults and routines they will meet next term. Children already in school, who are moving into another class, will also have the opportunity to meet their new teacher during the afternoons that week.

Reports will be issued in July -should you wish to discuss your child's report, please make an appointment with their class teacher. Year 6 SATs results will be sent out once they are received in school.

## **Eaton Vale**

The children in Class 4 had a very successful visit to Eaton Vale where they spent the best part of 3 days taking part in outdoor and adventurous activities. They had reasonable weather, but even enjoyed what they did in the rain. Everyone looked rather exhausted on their arrival back in school!

Thank you to Mrs Henden, Miss Waters, Miss Cronin and Mr Fenn for giving so generously of their time to allow this visit to go ahead.



### Healthy School

We attempt to educate the children about healthy eating and keeping themselves fit. We provide nutritious school lunches which we encourage children to eat and also teach them to prepare and cook food which is good for them. Please support our aims by ensuring that children who prefer a packed lunch, also eat healthily. Sandwiches, wraps, fruits, vegetables and yoghurts are healthy and ensure that children are not hungry in the afternoon. It is not necessary to put sweets into lunch boxes and we would ask you not to do this.

This year the children have enjoyed their golden mile and they certainly have travelled a good distance- 5,774 miles at the time of writing, which is further than London to Los Angeles!

The school now has a named *Mental Health Champion*, which will add to the expertise currently in school. Mr Sexton successfully completed the training recently.

### Book Bags - a reminder

Following advice from our Fire Officer, the Governing Body has decided to make it mandatory that **all** pupils should have a book bag from September 2019. This is due to the increased fire safety risk caused by rucksacks blocking fire exits in school, a problem highlighted in the last Governing Body newsletter. Book bags can also easily be stored in the classroom.

The Friends of Denver School have kindly offered to buy a book bag for all children currently in Years 3, 4 and 5, as well as the new Reception intake. The children currently in Years 1 and 2 already use book bags. The new book bags will be given to the children by the end of the school year. PE bags will also be issued to the aforementioned year groups.

## **Staff News**

Mrs Collins, who has worked in Class 3, for the last year will be leaving us at the end of July. She has done a fantastic job supporting the children, the class teacher and the school. She will be missed and we wish her all the best for the future.

Mr Sexton will be working full time next year.

## **School Sport- a report from Mrs Henden**

Since returning from the Easter holidays, Denver children have enjoyed a number of sporting activities. KLCF has commenced a Monday club for tennis and athletics, Martyn Wardle from Denver Cricket club has provided a Kwik Cricket club on a Tuesday and Mrs Henden is leading a Tri-golf and Golden Mile club on a Thursday.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 10 children from Class 4 participated in the cluster Kwik Cricket tournament. The skills they had learnt in club paid off as they finished an impressive second and progressed to the area finals, which were held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at North Runcton Cricket Club.

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, four children from Class 3 participated in the cluster mini-tennis competition, representing themselves and the school admirably.

Class 4 addressed the outdoor and adventurous aspect of the PE curriculum through an excellent residential visit to Eaton Vale from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June. The residential was a success, thoroughly enjoyed by all. It included a number of challenging activities such as abseiling and raft building, encouraging the children to work as a team and to venture out of their comfort zones.

The children in Class 3 completed their OMNES Games activities at Lynnsport when the final group took part in the Ultimate Frisbee challenge. This was very much enjoyed by all who took part. The OMNES Games events have been important in increasing the range of activities available to the children.

Forthcoming events include Sports Day, the third and final Active Kids session, Area Sports and our School Games intra-sports festival.

## Finally

This is my last newsletter. As you know, after twelve years, I will be retiring at the end of August. It really does not seem that long since I first walked through the door of Denver School and knew it was where my future lay. It has been wonderful to see so many children pass through the school, to see them grow in confidence and to discover their talents.

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work during those years- some parents may not realise what a hard working group of people they all are, and the range of tasks their jobs entail. They all give 100% which is something that does not happen in every organisation. We are lucky to have them.

Thank you to those who have served and continue to serve as governors of the school. Your unpaid work is invaluable and ensures that the school remains good. Thank you to all the parent helpers and 'Friends' committee members past and present- again your help has been invaluable.

Finally, thank you all also for the support you have all given me throughout my headship. Although I will continue to do some work for Ofsted, I am looking forward to having more 'me time'. I will miss the children and every one in school but I certainly won't miss the long car journey in winter!

I would like to wish Mrs Jones all the very best as she takes over in September. I have every confidence that the school will continue to thrive under her leadership.

## **Dates for your diary**

**Please note the school holiday dates next year- holiday in term time will not be authorised.**

### **Summer Term**

- 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 12<sup>th</sup> June: Infant Music Festival
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June: Whole school photograph
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Sports Day (pm)
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June: Y5 taster Day at Downham Market Academy
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June: Reserve Sports Day (pm)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July: New Reception intake afternoons
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July: Meeting for new Reception parents
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: KS2 Production at 6pm - tickets available later.
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July: KS2 Production at 5.30pm and Leavers' Buffet. Invited guests only -invitations to follow.
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July: Last day of summer term. End of year assembly in the school hall at 2.15pm. Parents welcome.

**Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September 2019**

**Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Last day of autumn term: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Children return to school on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020**