



November 2019 Newsletter



November has been a very busy month in school, and with Christmas fast approaching I'm sure that the next few weeks will also fly by. This newsletter tries to capture some of the key highlights, of which there have been many, since the half term break.

Playground Extension

Despite inclement weather, the playground extension was successfully completed over the half term break. The new surface is a welcome addition to the playground and is being put to good use by the children.

Author Visit

The children really enjoyed the author E. R. Reilly's visit to the school on Monday 28th October. Eamon shared a range of his books in a special assembly and gave the children some top tips to remember when writing their own stories. A number of children purchased his books which he then signed for them. Thanks to these purchases, we now have a number of Eamon's books in our library for the children to enjoy.



Guy Fawkes

Thank you to those parents who volunteered to help us produce some Guy Fawkes to enter into the Round Table's 'Make a Guy' competition. Our entries were not placed in the top three, but the children had great fun making them.



Maths Master Classes

On Friday 1st November, a group of children from Class 4 attended the first of the Maths Master Class sessions held at Downham Market Academy. These sessions bring together able mathematicians across the cluster schools to challenge them in a range of thought-provoking problem-solving activities. The seven members of Y6 who attended really enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to future sessions throughout the year.

Odd Socks Day

To celebrate Anti-Bullying week, the children and staff came to school on Tuesday 12th November wearing a wacky combination of odd socks. The day sent out an important message that all children are unique and should be allowed to be themselves and free from bullying. Thank you for helping us to promote this very important message.

Open Morning

On Wednesday 13th November, we held our first Open Morning aimed at parents who have a child due to start school next year. Parents and their children spent some time in Class 1 and engaged with some of the fantastic learning that takes place. The children enjoyed themselves so much they didn't want to leave. Thank you to Vanessa, Ruby, Harvey and Hollie from Class 4 who were excellent ambassadors for the school when giving our guests a tour of the school.

Children in Need



On Friday 15th November, we had a non-uniform day in school to support Children in Need. Miss Palmer kindly made Pudsey biscuits which were sold at break time. The staff also took part in the Duck Race Sweepstake. Thank you to the members of the School Council who collected money on the day and also sold the delicious Pudsey biscuits. In total, we raised an impressive £197. Thank you for helping us to support such a good cause.

Maths/Reading Information Sessions

Thank you to those parents who attended the recent maths and reading information sessions. We hope that these sessions helped parents to understand our approach to the teaching of maths and reading, and offered some useful advice on how you can help support your child at home.

Class 4's National Space Centre Adventure



On Monday 18th November, Class 4 travelled to the National Space Centre in Leicester to further their understanding of their current science topic 'Earth and Space'.

The children explored the different galleries, their interactive displays, games and shows. Rocket Tower told the story of the race between the Soviet Union and the United States of America to launch a person into space and then to land on the Moon. The downstairs galleries included 'Space Travel', 'The Universe and the Big Bang', 'Outer

Space', 'The Solar System', 'Earth and Moon' and 'Tranquility Base Astronaut Training'.

One of the highlights of the day was the 'Astronaut' show in the Planetarium. It really did feel as though the children were training as astronauts and were experiencing the unusual effects of being in space. Many had to look away



when the centrifuge was spinning as it was so realistic and stomach churning.



Although the journey was quite long, the children were a credit to the school and had a fantastic time; some have already said they want to convince their parents to take them back again, so be warned!

Scholastic Book Fair

We were extremely pleased with the success of the recent Scholastic Book Fair. Total sales



were in excess of £750, meaning that we received this value in new books for the school, a welcome addition to the library shelves. The new books will soon be added to the library, providing exciting new material to inspire the children with their reading. Thank you to all those who supported the Book Fair, and to the members of the Friends and School Council for helping to run it.

Christmas Fair

On 21st November, we held a very successful Christmas Fair in school. A range of stalls were set up in the school hall, along with a raffle and a refreshments area. The children in Class 4 also did a super job of organising and running a range of exciting stalls in their classroom, including a very successful tombola. Thank you so much for all the donations of prizes – we were overwhelmed by the level of support and generosity from both the school community and local businesses. The total raised was £646.80 - a fantastic effort. Thank you to the members of the Friends for giving up their time, it really is appreciated.



History Curriculum Day

On Friday 22nd November history came to life across the school when we held our history curriculum day. The children learnt about significant periods in British history and enjoyed engaging in a range of practical learning opportunities. Thank you to parents for your



contribution to this fun day in terms of the children's costumes and the books and other objects that many pupils brought in to school. Thanks also go out to Mr Sexton for coordinating this event.



Choir Visit to the Dementia Café



On Monday 25th November, the school choir visited the Dementia Café in Downham Market to share some of the songs they have been working on in their choir lessons with Mr Lawrence. The event was very well attended and the choir certainly brought a

smile to many faces with their excellent singing. Thank you to Mr Lawrence for his hard work in preparing the children.



Tea Towels/Greetings Cards

Thank you to everyone who ordered tea towels and greetings cards this term. These purchases have raised just over £220. Our thanks go out to the Friends, particularly Michelle Flack, for organising this fundraiser.

Big Book Boost

When Christmas shopping, please remember that if you use the online bookseller 'Book People' you can earn rewards for our school. If you make an online purchase over £10, please select Denver Primary at the checkout. £1 will be donated to the school for every order over £10.

Clubs

Just a reminder that this is the last week for all clubs. Thank you to everyone who has given up their time to run a club this term. Clubs will start again in the New Year.

Christmas Post Box

We have a brand new Christmas post box this year thanks to Michelle Maynard. The post box can be found in the corridor outside of Class 3. Children can post their Christmas cards to their friends in the post box and the children in Class 4 will deliver these each day. Please ensure that children's full names and their class are marked clearly on the envelopes to avoid any confusion and ensure that all cards are delivered to the correct person.

Suggestions Box

Thank you to those parents who have shared their suggestions with us - we greatly value your ideas. We have so far received suggestions from 6 parents with some great ideas that we are currently exploring further. A Christmas jumper day was one of the fantastic suggestions which we felt the children would enjoy and help them to get into the Christmas spirit. As also suggested by a parent, each class will be singing at the Christmas coffee morning. Please do continue to share your suggestions with us, either in person or via the suggestions box located in the children's entrance.

Forthcoming Events

Bag2School – 2nd December

Every child was sent home with a Bag2School bag earlier this term. If possible, please fill the bags with any unwanted clothing, bedding etc. and bring these into school on the morning of 2nd December. If you have more items than can fit into one bag, other bags will be accepted. All money raised will go to the Friends.

Christingles – 3rd December

The ladies from the church will once again be coming in to school to help the children make Christingles. The Christingle service will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 4th December in St Mary's Church, Denver.

Class 2 Assembly – 5th December

Class 2 will be organising their first class assembly on Thursday 5th December 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 2 are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Learning Café – 6th December

After the success of their Learning Café, Class 1 will be holding another on Friday 6th December. Parents/grandparents of children in Class 1 are invited in to school to engage in some Christmas themed activities alongside their child.

Choir Singing at the Denver Windmill Christmas Market – 6th December

To further improve our links with the local community, we have arranged for the school choir to sing at Denver Windmill's Christmas Market on 6th December. The children will be singing at 5pm for approximately half an hour. Please drop in and support them if you are able to.

Christmas Coffee Morning – 10th December

Please join us on Tuesday 10th December for our annual Christmas Coffee Morning. The Friends are organising another bumper raffle and each class will be coming along to entertain us with their lovely singing. This is always a successful fundraiser for the school and we hope that this year it will be once again well supported.

Christmas Lunch – 13th December

This year, Christmas lunch will be on Friday 13th December. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, please return the booking form that was sent home by Monday 2nd December. For those who do not normally have a school lunch, the cost for KS2 is £2.30. All children in KS1 will receive a free lunch as usual.

Christmas Jumper Day – 13th December

Following a suggestion from a parent, at the latest School Council meeting we discussed having a Christmas jumper day. We thought that it would be perfect to tie this in with Christmas lunch on 13th December. We are not asking the children to bring in any money, just to get into the festive spirit by wearing a Christmas jumper/outfit.

EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 16th December

The children in Classes 1 and 2 are busy rehearsing this year's nativity. This year, they will be performing this to parents/grandparents in the school hall, rather than in the church, starting at 9.30am on Monday 16th December. The performance should last no longer than 45 minutes. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Carol Service – 16th December

Our annual whole school Carol Service will take place at 6pm on Monday 16th December in St Mary's Church, Denver. We ask that the children arrive no earlier than 5.45pm.

Dick Whittington Pantomime Visit – 18th December

On the last day of term, the children in Years 1-6 will be visiting the Maltings in Ely to enjoy the pantomime, Dick Whittington. Children in Reception will be staying in school and enjoying their own Christmas party. Our thanks go out to the Friends of Denver School for funding the entire visit. We hope that the visit will prove to be an exciting end to the autumn term.

Sports News

Cluster Football Tournament

This year we have entered two football teams in the cluster football league: The Denver Broncos and the Denver Dynamos. The first of three tournaments was held at Hillcrest Primary on Friday 18th October. Each team played 4 matches and the current standings are that Denver Dynamos are 4th in the league with 3 wins and 1 loss. Denver Broncos are 6th in the league with 2 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. Both teams have made an excellent start to the league, especially with a record number of 15 teams this year. Keep up the excellent work footballers!



Clubs

The free four week before school Dodgeball club for both KS1 and KS2 proved a huge success. One child commented that it was *'the best club ever'*. Thank you to Jade from Premier Sports for running both clubs. We hope to continue to offer such opportunities through the year as they become available.

Tag Rugby

Denver's tag rugby team took part in the area SSP tag rugby tournament on Wednesday 6th November, held for the first time at West Norfolk Rugby Club in North Wootton. The event was very well attended with 16 teams from across West Norfolk in attendance. Denver team performed very well and finished in 7th place. Very well done!

Dodgeball Tournament

On Friday 8th November, ten children from Class 3 and ten children from Class 2 travelled to Lynnsport to take part in the second Omnes Games event of this academic year. The children took part in a series of matches against other teams in their own key stage.

Omnes means for all and aims to encourage children to try new sporting activities to inspire an interest in being fit and active. Prior to the event, Sam from KLCF came to the school to train children in Class 3 for the event during a special PE lesson. The children enjoyed participating in the event and look forward to more activities over the coming months.

Young Leaders

Since returning from the half-term break, all children in Class 4 have been taking part in the 'Young Leader' training course delivered by King's Lynn Community Football Club coaches. The course leads to children achieving 'Playmaker' awards and equips them with the skills to be able to create, organise and lead a range of PE games and sporting activities in school, including festivals. The award also recognises leadership in the activities that they do outside of school. The principles of leadership taught are PACE – People, Area, Communication and Equipment. The children learn through playing different games what is effective and what works less well so that they can consider these variables when arranging their own events.



Swim Gala

On Thursday 21st November, a number of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 attended the annual cluster swim gala at the Alive Leisure pool in Downham Market. The swimmers competed against other teams from the area in the front crawl, backstroke, breast stroke and butterfly races. Although we did not have any first place finishes, we had many second and third places. Well done to all those who took part.

Dates for your diary - please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

December 2019	5 th	Thu	Class 2 assembly 2.45pm
	6 th	Fri	Class 1 Learning Café
	10 th	Tue	Christmas Coffee Morning
	13 th	Fri	Christmas lunch/Christmas jumper day
	16 th	Mon	EYFS/KS1 Nativity – 9.30am in the school hall Whole school Carol Service – 6pm at St Mary's Church
	18 th	Wed	Pantomime for Y1-Y6
	18 th	Wed	Last day of term
	19 th	Thu	School closed for staff Professional Development Day

Spring Term

January 2020	6 th	Mon	Children return to school
	30 th	Thu	Class 1 assembly 2.45pm – details to follow
February 2020	17 th -21 st		Half term break
	24 th	Mon	Children return to school
March 2020	24 th	Tue	Class 3 assembly 2.45pm – details to follow
April 2020	1 st	Wed	Last day of spring term
	2 nd	Thu	School closed for staff Professional Development Day

Summer Term

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