



October 2020



Newsletter

I cannot quite believe that half term is nearly upon us. We are so proud of all of our pupils and the way they have coped with the return to school so far. New routines are now well-established and there is an increasing sense of normality to the school day. All of our children are back to full time learning in school and attendance has been good overall, currently at a pleasing 98%! The next half term will I'm sure have its challenges, but we are becoming very good at adapting to make the best of whatever situation we find ourselves in.

Communication

We have taken considerable steps this half term to embrace the digital world within school and we would like to thank you all for supporting us with this. Most communication is now being sent out via email and all payments are now being made using the online payments system. It probably feels like we have bombarded you with a lot new information this term, although we hope you all agree that the new systems are a step in the right direction.

Questionnaires

We are placing a huge emphasis on the wellbeing of our children and staff this term, and we wanted to find out more about how the children are coping with the return to school. The School Council members and myself worked together to create a return to school pupil questionnaire, which the children have been completing over the last few weeks. We also thought that it was important to seek the views of parents about the return to school, therefore we adapted the questions in the pupil questionnaire to create a parent version. We would be extremely grateful if you would take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to school by Monday 9th November. Your feedback, together with the children's, will be invaluable in helping us to address any issues and adapt what we are doing in school accordingly.

School Jam and Maths Flex

We have had some really positive feedback about School Jam and Maths Flex and I know that many of the children are excited to have homework sent home digitally. We are aware that some of you have experienced difficulties logging into Active Learn and we apologise for this. We have contacted Pearson for their help and they have offered the following advice:

- If you experience errors when trying to sign in to the portal, please ensure that you have cleared the cookies and cache in your browser and then retry. If you still experience errors, please try a different browser.
- When submitting queries, if the built-in form does not load on the page entirely, please ensure that you have cleared the cookies and cache in your browser and then retry. Alternatively please use a new Incognito or InPrivate window <https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/article/How-to-Clear-Browser-Cookies-and-Cache>
- If this does not work, we suggest you contact Pearson Technical Support direct at <https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/digital-contactus>

Remote Learning

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, if your child is off school because they are self-isolating or awaiting a COVID test, we will provide remote learning from the second day of being notified of their absence. All children in school this week will receive their login details to enable them to access the Office 365 suite, which will be the platform used for us to set remote learning tasks. When they log into the Office 365 suite, they will be able to access their own email address. They will be given a permanent password which will allow us to help them if they lose or forget their login details. Each class now has their own email address and this will be how teachers will set remote learning task directly to the children, should this be necessary. Please encourage your child to login over half term and become familiar with Office 365.

Class Dojo

Now that we have our new Office 365 email system up and running, we will be able to send out invitations to allow parents to see how many Dojo points their child has received, and what for. Part of the Professional Development Days this week (Thursday and Friday) will be spent on this and we should have this facility enabled after half term.

As well as each child working individually to collect Dojo points, we encourage them to work together to help reach a class target, which results in a class reward. I am really pleased to inform you that Class 4 are the first class to reach their Class Dojo target of 3200 Dojo points. They have chosen as a class that their reward is to have extra playtime/Golden Mile time. Well done Class 4!

New School Website

I am really excited to inform you that our new school website will be going live on Monday 4th November. Please take a look and familiarise yourself with the new format. The website will be increasingly used to communicate with parents, therefore it will be important for you to check it regularly. We hope that you like the changes and we would love to hear your feedback.

Before School Club

To update you on the proposed Before School Club, we have advertised internally to fill positions for 2 Before School Care Play Leaders and we are currently finalising our plans. We hope to get the club up and running soon after half term.

NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe Programme

I am pleased to tell you that after half term we will be participating in the **NSPCC's 'Speak out, Stay safe' online** programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. *Speak out, Stay safe* is a safeguarding programme which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly, interactive way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. You will have already received a letter giving further details, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Competition Success

Back in lockdown, the children in Class 2 entered a competition organised by the Prickwillow Engine Museum. They were asked to draw one of the engines from their website and I'm pleased to say that Rosie, Jack and Eric were judged as the first, second and third prize winners. They will each receive a prize when the pictures are put on display in the museum when they re-open, hopefully in the spring. All of the children who entered received a pen. Well done to all for taking part, and especially to the winners.



Colder Weather

In order to comply with the Covid-19 Health and Safety Compliance Code, we need to maximise ventilation in school by having doors and windows open wherever possible. Although we will have the heating on in school as we head into the colder weather, I'm sure you will appreciate that it will not be as warm as the children are perhaps used to. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing for the colder weather, for example jumpers, long sleeves, vests, thick tights etc. Children will also be allowed to wear coats in classrooms if the weather is particularly cold.

PPE

We have a good supply of PPE in school, although we are finding it difficult to source small latex gloves which the children need to wear for their cooking lessons. Last term, we had a number of generous donations of PPE from our parents and we would be extremely grateful if anyone could help us again. Thank you.

Staff News

Emma Partridge, a student from City College Norwich, has just started a placement with us for her Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning. She will be working in school 2 days each week and will provide support mainly in Class 2.

School Lunches

There are a few options on the lunch menu that are proving not to be very popular, therefore Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn have suggested some changes. In Thursday of Week 1, pasta, instead of a jacket potato, will now be served with the beef Bolognese. In Thursday of Week 2, the chicken curry will now be served with rice, or children can order a jacket potato with cheese and beans. I would like to thank the kitchen staff and MSAs for all that they are doing to provide children with the option of a hot lunch – it really is appreciated.

Office News

We are pleased to inform you that the new online uniform order shop is now up and running. Please see the attached letter explaining how the system works and the link for how to access it. <https://gooddies.co.uk/product-category/schools/denver-vc-primary-school/>

Please can we ask that **all** online payments to school include your child's surname and reason for payment e.g. JONES LUNCH or JONES DRINKS etc. It is very important that when a payment is made an email is also sent to payments@denver.norfolk.sch.uk to alert the office of the payment. Without this email, the office are finding it difficult reconciling payments at the end of the month. Thank you for your support with this.

Please remember that Miss de Vanche is the only member of staff now working in the school office and her workload is considerable. Whilst she will always endeavour to answer phone calls and emails promptly, please appreciate that this may not always be possible. Thank you for your patience.

Friends' Update

Bags2School

Thank you to all of you who brought in your bags of unwanted clothing, shoes, teddies etc. for the Bags2School collection last week – your support is much appreciated.

Class Sponsored Walks

This week, the children have all taken part in the annual sponsored walk within their class bubbles. Each class had a ½ hour time slot to complete as many laps as possible, either walking or even running.



Sponsor forms were sent out earlier in the month and we are hoping the event will raise some much needed funds for The Friends. Please send you sponsor money directly into the Friend's account, details of which are below, with your child's name as the reference:

Sort Code 20-46-65

Account Number 90026174

Meeting

The next Friends' meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd November at 4pm via Zoom. If you would like to be involved, please contact the school office.

Pantomime

For the past two years, the Friends have organised for the children to attend the pantomime at The Maltings in Ely. We have been communicating with the theatre about the possibility of the children still being able to attend this year, although with a number of safety measures put in place. We have arranged for us to be the only school on site for the performance, to enable us to maintain our class bubbles and distance the children accordingly. The children will travel to the theatre in separate coaches for each class bubble. We have been assured that the theatre will be deep cleaned after each performance. We have decided to only take Classes 2, 3 and 4 as Class 1 will have a Christmas party in school. We need to confirm numbers with the theatre very soon, therefore if you do not wish for your child to go to the pantomime, please contact the school by Friday 6th November. The safety of our children is paramount and should the COVID-19 situation change, we will of course re-visit our plans.

Forthcoming Events

Foodbank Donations – Week Commencing 2nd November

As part of our harvest celebrations, the School Council were keen to support the local foodbank again this year. Due to Covid-19, more and more families are struggling and the demand on foodbanks is significant. The members suggested that during the first week back after half term the children could bring a tin or a non-perishable item to school and place these in a box at the field gate. These items would then be quarantined and Miss Waters has kindly offered to deliver them to the local foodbank. Hopefully, our donations will make a difference to different families in these difficult times.

Flu Immunisations – 4th November

For those parents who completed the online consent, the flu immunisations will take place in school on Wednesday 4th November. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Open Afternoons – Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November

We are hosting a series of Open Afternoons aimed at the new Reception starters for next September from 3.30-4.30pm on Thursdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of November. Parents who have a child due to start school next year will be able to book an appointment to come into school with their child to have a tour of the school, spend some time in Class 1, and meet myself and Mr Sexton. Covid-19 safety measures will be followed. If you are a parent of a child due to start school next September, or know of someone who is, please contact the office to book an appointment.

Children in Need – 13th November

The School Council have once again chosen Children in Need as this year's charity to support. They have organised a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November and are asking the children to dress up in brightly coloured clothing (spots or Pudsey themed optional) for a suggested donation of £1. Donations will be collected by the School Council members in each class bubble. Biscuits, kindly baked by Miss Palmer, will also be sold for 50p each, again in each class bubble. The School Council would also like each class to engage with 'Five to Thrive', a weekly programme of activities in the run up to Children in Need day, which focus on children's wellbeing, including a daily workout lead by Joe Wicks.

Parent Consultation Evenings - November

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Parent Consultation Evenings will be delivered via telephone consultations with your child's class teacher after half term. Appointments will be available to book from 3.30-6pm on the dates below and will be limited to 10 minutes for each child. Appointments with me will also be available on all of the dates below.

- Class 1 – Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November
- Class 2 – Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th November
- Class 3 – Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd December
- Class 4 – Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November

We will have an online booking system for you to book appointments directly available on our new school website.

Sports News

Active Kids

The children in Class 1 have been virtually participating in the first of the Active Kids events in their PE lessons. The theme has been target games and they have enjoyed working in teams practising throwing, kicking and aiming skills in game situations, including Beanbag Challenge, Dominoes, Zone Ball, Finders Keepers and Boccia.

Cross County

The children in Classes 2, 3 and 4 have been participating in a cross country event within their class bubbles. This forms part of our intra-school festivals, where we compete against each other, and also the inter-schools festivals against other schools in the area. Each year group runs a particular distance: Y2 - 1000m; Y3 and Y4 - 1200m; and Y5 and Year 6 - 1400m. The children's times are recorded and then averaged to get an overall year group average. This is then submitted to the School Games Organiser who compares our average times to those of the equivalent year group in other schools. Results will be revealed in December.

Norwich City Rising Star

Sonny, in Class 3, is doing extremely well with his football and playing in the pre academy at Norwich City Football Club. Below are some photos of him in his kit, and when he played for the Norwich City under 7's team away at Watford and at Tottenham Hotspur. He is currently playing in the under 8's team. Well done Sonny, we are all proud of you!



Sporting Stars

Please do email in photos or certificates celebrating children's sporting achievements for our 'Sporting Stars' display board. We are keen to brighten up the corridor with the amazing things the children have been doing in the world of sport outside of school.

New Kit

We are really pleased to have received a brand new sports kit from Premier League Sporting Stars. The pack includes tops, shorts and even socks! I know that the children will be really keen to wear the kit when sporting fixtures out of school are allowed to resume once again. Here are our Sports Councillors, Laura and Roman, sporting the brand new kit.



Mini Moto Success

Archie, in Class 4, has been awarded 3rd place in the LC40 Elite Class and 4th place in the AC40 Pro Class at the Mini Moto Championships. Also known as Fab Racing, he regularly competes all over the country at a very high level. He recently went to Brands Hatch to receive his impressive trophy. What a fantastic achievement, well done Archie!



And finally...

I hope you all have a restful half term, and are able to do some of the things you enjoy. These are uncertain times and things seem to be changing at a rapid pace. We will, of course, keep you fully updated as and when we receive more guidance from the government about future changes or further restrictions. Take care and stay safe!

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

October 2020	w/c 19th	Mon	Class Sponsored Walks
	22 nd -30 th	Thu	School closed for half term
November 2020	2 nd	Mon	Children return to school
	w/c 2nd	Mon	Foodbank donations
	4 th	Wed	Flu immunisations
	5 th	Thu	Open Afternoon – appointments only
	10 th	Tue	Class 4 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	12 th	Thu	Open Afternoon – appointments only Class 4 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	13 th	Fri	Children in Need
	17 th	Tue	Class 2 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	18 th	Wed	Class 2 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	19 th	Thu	Open Afternoon – appointments only
	24 th	Tue	Class 1 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	25 th	Wed	Class 1 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
26 th	Thu	Open Afternoon – appointments only	
December 2020	1 st	Tue	Class 3 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	2 nd	Wed	Class3 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	18 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2021	4 th	Mon	Children return to school
February 2021	15 th -19 th		School closed for half term
	22 nd	Mon	Children return to school
March 2021	26 th	Fri	Last day of spring term

Summer Term

April 2021	12 th	Mon	Children return to school
May 2021	3 rd	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	31 st – 4 th June		School closed for half term
June 2021	7 th	Mon	Children return to school
July 2021	21 st	Wed	Last day of summer term