



# November 2020

## Newsletter



Welcome to our latest newsletter. We have been very busy over the last month and would like to share with you some of the many positive things that are happening in school.

### **Foodbank Donations**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the local foodbank. As you can see from the photos, we had a super response and I'm sure that your generosity will make a huge difference to families struggling in these difficult times.



### **Little Princess Trust**

You may remember earlier in the term that Daisy in Class 4 had her hair cut to raise money for the Little Princess Trust. I'm pleased to inform you that in total Daisy raised £252! Well done Daisy, and thank you to everyone who donated to this good cause.



### **Children in Need**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, a splash of colour was injected into school when we had a non-uniform day 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 biscuits. Throughout the week, all classes engaged with 'Five to Thrive', a weekly programme of activities which focused on children's wellbeing. Many of the children also joined Joe Wicks in his workouts. In total we raised an impressive £195.76 - a super effort! Thank you for helping us to support such a good cause.



### **World Kindness Day**

We also celebrated World Kindness Day in school on 13<sup>th</sup> November. The children made kindness boxes and placed a variety of different things in them, including good thoughts, positive comments and letters about how to be kind. Whenever they are feeling a little sad, they can look in their boxes to cheer themselves up and remind themselves of the importance of being kind.



### Odd Socks Day

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, the children and staff came to school wearing a fantastic combination of odd socks to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week. The day sent out an important message that all children are unique and should be allowed to be themselves and free from bullying. Many of the children designed their own pair of odd socks and there were some fantastic creations! Thank you for helping us to promote this very important message.

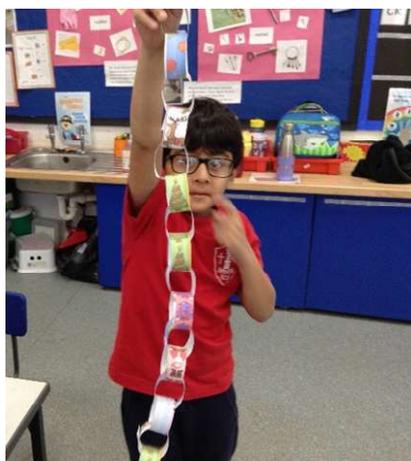
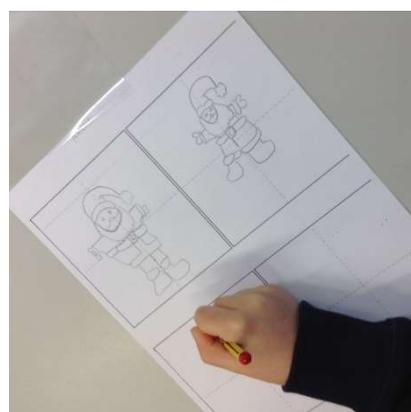


Throughout Anti-Bullying Week, each class discussed what bullying is and how to tackle it. Class 4 had a special class assembly to learn about the important work of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, whose theme this year is 'United Against Bullying'.



## Decoration Day

Today in school we had our annual Christmas Decoration Day. This is always a popular event with both children and staff, and this year was no exception. Christmas music filled the classrooms whilst all the children were busy working on their Christmas decorations. Here are some of the photos taken during the day.



### **Christmas Cards**

Normally at this time of year we would be dusting off the Christmas post box, ready for the children to post all their Christmas cards to their friends and staff members. This year, we are having to do things slightly differently to ensure that the cards can be delivered safely. Each class bubble will, therefore, have their own Christmas post box or collection area for cards to be placed into throughout each week. These will then be left over the weekend to be quarantined and delivered the following week. Please ensure that envelopes clearly show the recipient's first and last name, along with their class. Cards can be brought into school to be posted from next week and the last day for posting will be Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Questionnaires**

I would like to thank all the parents who completed the return to school questionnaires. Your feedback has been extremely valuable and we appreciate you taking the time to share your views.

### **Parent Governor**

I am pleased to inform you that Emma Goulding has been re-elected as a parent governor. Emma's was the only application received, therefore it was not necessary for an election to take place. Emma has been on the governing body since 2012 and we are really pleased that she is willing to continue in this role. We still do have one vacancy, therefore if anyone is interested in becoming a parent governor, or would like further details about what the role involves, please contact the school.

### **Parent Consultation Evenings**

Thank you to all parents who have engaged with recent parent telephone consultations. It is really important that we maintain a good dialogue between home and school so we can support each child effectively and help them to thrive. Class 3 parents will have their opportunity to talk to Mr Bonham next week. If for any reason you have missed this opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, please contact us and we will arrange for your child's teacher to contact you.

### **Parent Consultation Online Booking System**

I mentioned in my previous newsletter that we would have an online booking system for Parent Consultations up and running very soon. The reason we wanted this to be in place was to save time for Miss de Vanche in the office, and to make it easy for parents to book a slot as you are unable to currently come into school. Unfortunately, the system has not proved as easy as we had hoped for parents to use, and we have had a number of difficulties trying to set this up. We have, therefore, decided to continue asking parents to telephone the school to book a slot. I apologise for any confusion caused.

### **Clubs**

Just a reminder that this week (23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November) is the last week for clubs this term. I would like to thank all the people who have, despite restrictions being in place, been prepared to lead after school clubs – we really do appreciate it. Clubs will resume again in January and a letter will be sent out at the beginning of term giving further details. Y6 booster club on a Wednesday will, however, continue right up to the end of term and resume on the first week back in January.

### **Class Dojo**

We hope that you have all now received an invite to join Class Dojo and are able to see and celebrate you child/children's Dojo points. I am really pleased to inform you that both Class 2 and Class 3 have now reached their Class Dojo targets. As their class reward, the children in Class 2 chose to watch cartoons whilst colouring; the children in Class 3 chose to have extra break time. Well done Classes 2 and 3! 😊

### **New School Website**

We hope that you have all had a chance to look at our exciting new website. We are trying to add as much content as possible to keep you fully informed of what is happening in school, so please do regularly check the website to keep up to date.

### **NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe Programme**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November, each class participated in the NSPCC's '*Speak out, Stay safe*' online programme. The children all watched an age appropriate assembly introduced by Ant and Dec, the theme of which was 'Speak Out – Stay Safe'. The children learnt how to recognise categories of abuse and how to seek support from Childline and any other trusted adults should they have any worries about themselves or their friends. After the assembly, the children were able to reflect on the people, things and places that make them feel happy and safe.



### **Colder Weather**

Just to remind you that it can be quite cold in school currently due to the need for us to have windows and doors open for ventilation, therefore please send your child/ren to school in warm clothing, for example jumpers, long sleeves, vests, thick tights etc. Thank you.

### **Office News**

We still have a number of parents who have not returned permission forms sent out at the beginning of term. Please can we ask that these are returned as soon as possible to the office. If you require another copy, please speak to Miss de Vanche.

Our email communication system has proved to be very successful. As we now send all information in this way, would you please check regularly for emails from us as we will continue to use the system to communicate with you. Please also update us if you have any changes of email address. Generally, emails will come from [office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) so please add this to your safe senders list. We also have several other dedicated email accounts which help us to organise important information more efficiently. If you are sending us an email would you use the following please:

[office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) for general information and enquiries;

[payments@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:payments@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) to let us know that you have made an online payment to us;

[attendance@denver.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@denver.norfolk.sch.uk) to let us know of an absence from school.

### **School Garden**

Throughout this term, a group of children have been working hard with Mrs Collins on developing the school garden. They would like to create a path around the garden made of pebbles with each child's name on. If you have any pebbles we could use for this project, an example of which can be seen here, we would be very grateful if you could donate these. The pebbles need to be of a reasonable size for the children to write their name on.



### **Shoebox Appeal**

Each year, we support the Rotary Shoebox Scheme to spread a little happiness to those less fortunate than ourselves in many different countries across Central and Eastern Europe. Each class now has a shoebox and we would be extremely grateful if the children could donate an item to add their class box. Please see the information sheet attached to this newsletter about suggested items that could be included. Items do not need to be brand new, although should be of good quality. For more information about the scheme, please go to [www.rotaryshoobox.org](http://www.rotaryshoobox.org)

### **First Admission to School**

We have been asked by the Local Authority to remind parents that applications for children starting school in Reception next September need to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The easiest way for parents to apply is online at [www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk) or they can request an application form from the Customer Services Centre on 0344 800 8020. Additional information, and a link to the online application, is available on the County Council's website: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/admission-to-reception-classes](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/admission-to-reception-classes). We are extending our open afternoons into December, therefore if anyone is interested in their child starting here at Denver in September, or knows of anyone else who is interested, please contact the office to arrange a visit.

### **Free School Meals**

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we realise that this has been an extremely challenging year financially for many families and that Christmas will place extra demands stretching family finances even further. Eligible families can register for free school meals and the council is raising awareness about the free school meals scheme via a 'Free school meals' Facebook campaign to encourage eligible families to sign up and apply. For more information, please visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>. Please be reassured that any information about free school meals will be kept confidential.

### **Families in Hardship**

Support is also available for families who are facing hardship and need support now at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 0344 800 8020. Anyone experiencing hardship can also receive support through the Norfolk Assistance Scheme, which already provides support for food, fuel, clothes and other essential household items to families experiencing hardship. The easiest way to get in touch is to visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/NAS). If families cannot access the internet, they can call 01603 223392 (option 5).

There is also a local scheme which is offering help to families - 'No child goes hungry' and 'No child goes hungry at Christmas'. Details can be accessed through the latest news section on our website.

## **Friends' Update**

### **Pantomime**

In my previous newsletter, I explained that we were looking into whether it was still possible for us to attend the pantomime at Ely. After much careful consideration, we have decided, for the safety of the children and staff so close to Christmas, not to go ahead with the visit. We have, however, arranged to purchase a recording of the performance which will be made available for us to stream in January. As with so many decisions this year, this one has been incredibly hard, however we feel that for everyone's safety it is the right decision to make. It will also give the children something to look forward to when they return in January.

### **Christmas Cards**

I'm sure you all enjoyed seeing your child's Christmas card design and the sale of these has raised a super £297.55 for The Friends. Thank you to Victoria Fradley for organising this.

### **Bags2School**

The recent Bags2School collection raised a pleasing £66! Thank you to all of you who brought in bags, and to Michelle Caul-Byrne and The Friends for organising the collection.

### **Class Sponsored Walks**

The class sponsored walks took place just before half term and we are pleased to inform you that the total amount raised was an impressive £837.60! Thank you so much to all who supported this fundraiser.

### **Christmas Reindeer**

To raise more money for The Friends, Miss Palmer has kindly donated a wooden reindeer, although unfortunately the wooden reindeer cannot remember its name! We are asking the children to help and bring in a suggested donation of £2 to choose one name. The lucky winner will get to keep the reindeer, and also a chocolate reindeer. The board of names will come around to each class bubble every afternoon next week and the name will be revealed on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.



## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Before School Club – from 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

We are really pleased to officially launch the Before School Club on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. As a school, we aim to provide as much wrap around care as we possibly can and we hope that the new club will prove to be a success. A letter and booking form have been sent home via email, both of which can be found on the new website under 'Parents' and then 'Letters'.

### **Christmas Parties – last week of term**

To help get the children, and indeed staff, into the festive spirit, this year we have organised for each class to have their own Christmas party in their class bubble. Christmas music will fill the hall and the children will play a variety of traditional party games, with prizes on offer. We hope that the parties will be something the children can look back fondly on.

### **Christingle Service – 14<sup>th</sup> December**

This year we are going to be taking part in a virtual Christingle service with Ely Cathedral at 1.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December. The ladies of the church are kindly preparing all the items needed to make the Christingles and the children will make these in the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> December. A huge thank you to Morrison's in Downham Market for kindly donating items for the Christingles.

### **Christmas Lunch – 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Although we cannot get the whole school together, Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn are sure to add some Christmas sparkle to this year's Christmas lunch. A huge thank you to Lisa Cross for donating Christmas plates, bowls and cups, and to Denver Post Office for donating crackers to help make Christmas lunch a special event for the children.

### **Christmas Jumper Day – 18<sup>th</sup> December**

To help spread some festive cheer through the school, we are asking that all children come to school dressed in a Christmas jumper or Christmas themed clothing on the last day of term, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We are asking that they each bring in a donation of £1; all money raised will go to the Friends of Denver School.

### **Sports News**

Throughout the term, Classes 2, 3 and 4 have been taking part in some virtual sports tournaments, organised by West Norfolk School Sports partnership. Here is a summary of what they have been doing:

#### **Gymnastics**

Class 2 have been taking part in a virtual gymnastics competition. They have been creating floor routines which will be videoed and then sent off to be judged by the Norfolk School Games organisers.

#### **Tri-Golf**

Class 3 have been working in groups on various different Tri-golf challenges as part of their virtual tournament, including: Dominoes, Grand National, Tunnel Ball, Zone Ball and Go for the Green. Scores are being kept and these will again be sent off to the School Games organisers.

#### **Five to Thrive**

All classes engaged with Five to Thrive as part of Children in Need. As well as joining in a daily assembly on different aspects of wellbeing, the children participated in daily five minute Joe Wicks workouts to boost wellbeing and raise physical activity throughout the day.

### **Sportshall Athletics**

Class 4 are currently working on Sportshall Athletics. There are 5 disciplines to complete and scores are collected for each event and then submitted to the games organisers. These are then ranked against other participating schools. So far, they have completed the first two disciplines: target throw and speed bounce.



### **Norwich City Rising Star**

Harry, in Class 4, is very talented at football and plays for the under 10's at Norwich City Elite PDC. Although his training sessions are currently online, he is really looking forward to getting back to training with his teammates and playing in matches again. Playing at this level is an impressive achievement and we are all really proud of you Harry!



### **And finally...**

We are really pleased that we have come this far into the term without having to isolate any of our bubbles due to positive tests of Covid-19. Thank you to the whole school community for helping to make the school Covid-19 secure and as safe as we possibly can. Please continue to remain vigilant over the next few weeks and adhere to guidance from the government to ensure that this continues to be so.

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

**Autumn Term**

December 2020	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	Class 3 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wed	Class 3 Parent Consultations – 3.30-6pm
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thu	Launch of Before School Club
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Virtual Christingle Service – 1.30pm
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Christmas lunch
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Christmas Jumper Day Last day of autumn term

**Spring Term**

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

**Summer Term**

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