



December 2020

Newsletter



I cannot believe that I am writing the final newsletter of 2020; what a year it has been! December has been a really busy month in school and we have filled it with many fun activities to ensure that the year ends on a high for the children. Although you have not been able to come in and share in the festivities, I hope this newsletter will give you a flavour of the exciting build up to Christmas in school.

Poppy Appeal

We recently received a thank you card from the Royal British Legion to say that the school had collected a super £162.02 in this year's appeal. Thank you to the members of the School Council for selling the poppy merchandise each day, and to the children for supporting this important cause.



Christmas Reindeer

Our forgetful reindeer finally found his name. Dancer headed home with Jake, in Class 4, and from the photo below he looks like he's settled in well to his new home. Thank you to the Friends and Miss Palmer for organising this fundraiser for the school – we raised an impressive £151!



Shoebox Appeal

This year, we worked with St Mary's Church, Denver to 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. In total, a fantastic 38 shoeboxes from our school were collected and will shortly be making their way abroad – a tremendous effort by the children, and in such a short space of time! We have since received a certificate from the Rotary Club to thank us for our amazing efforts. I would like to particularly thank Jo Walton, one of our Foundation Governors, for coordinating this appeal, and to Heather Nash for donating an impressive 80 hand knitted items, made up of jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves and scarves.

Before School Club

At the beginning of December, to offer more wrap around care for our parents, we launched the new Before School Club. The club starts at 8am daily and offers a wide range of fun activities for the children to engage with. Initial feedback from the children (and their parents) has been extremely positive. Here are some photos of the children having fun with Mrs Fenn.



Fun in the Snow

On Friday 4th December, an unexpected snowfall brought a huge smile to the children's faces. They all wrapped up warm and enjoyed spending time outside making snowmen and just enjoying playing in the snow.



Christingle Service

On 14th December, the children all made Christingles in school and later took part in the virtual Christingle service at Ely Cathedral. The ladies of the church prepared all of the items needed to make the Christingles, many of which were kindly donated by Morrison's in Downham Market. The day was made even more special as Judith, our former Rector, joined us via Teams when the children were making their Christingles. It was lovely for the children to see her familiar face, and I know seeing the children again really made her day!



Christingle Boxes

Thank you to all of the children who filled and returned their Christingle boxes. These will be sent to The Children's Society to help make vulnerable children's lives better. Here are some of Class 3 holding their boxes.



Christmas Lunch

On 16th December, Christmas music filled the hall while the children sat down, in their class bubbles, to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch. A huge thank you to Lisa Cross for donating tableware, G and B Superstore (Denver Post Office) for donating the all-important crackers, and of course to Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn for their hard work in making Christmas lunch such a special occasion for the children. I cannot ever imagine having to cook Christmas lunch for nearly 100 people, so very well done to them both!

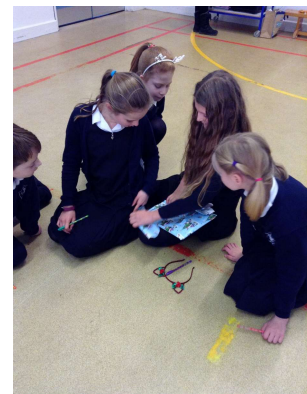


Christmas Performances

We are really disappointed that we were not able to have our annual Nativity and Carol Service this year, however we put on our thinking caps and created some Christmas performances to share with you. We hope you have all been able to access these via Teams on your child's Office 365 account – they really are rather lovely! A huge thank you to Mr. Lawrence for his hard work in enabling this to happen.

Christmas Parties

Excitement filled the school this week as the children enjoyed their Christmas parties. The Friends of Denver School and The Entertainer in King's Lynn donated party game prizes, and some very patient members of the Friends wrapped up a pass the parcel for each class (that's a lot of layers for Classes 3 and 4!). Some sweet treats were also donated by Waitrose in Swaffham and Denver Youth Club. Thank you to all involved for helping to bring some fun and festive cheer to the children; this really helped to end the year on a positive note. Here are some photos of the children (and some Class 3 aliens!) enjoying the festivities:



Christmas Jumper Day

Today was Christmas Jumper/Festive Dress day in school. We had a whole variety of fantastic Christmas jumpers/outfits on show, some of which can be seen below. The money raised will go into the Friends' funds.



Father Christmas

This afternoon, a certain special visitor made his first ever Teams appearance in school to wish the children Merry Christmas. Father Christmas was, unfortunately, unable to visit in person this year due to him being so busy with the added restrictions, but he still found time to talk to each class and listen to what is on the children's Christmas lists. He also dropped off some presents. It was a lovely, if a little different, way to end the year!

Staff News

Earlier this term, Miss Pennock requested to reduce her hours to work only three days a week to spend more time following her own interests as she nears retirement. I am really pleased to inform you that we appointed Mr. Craig Rackham as the new part time Class 2 teacher and he will be starting with us in January. Miss Pennock will be teaching the class Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mr. Rackham on Thursdays and Fridays. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Rackham to the Denver school community.

Catch Up

Throughout this term, we have been carrying out some assessments and we have identified some children in Classes 3 and 4 who would benefit from extra catch up sessions. These will take place before school and will start in the spring term - more information will be sent out in the first week back in January.

Field Gate

As I'm sure you will have noticed, work has begun on a new field entrance to the school. We are having a new gate and permanent surface put down to make it safer for children and parents when entering and leaving school each day. From January, the old gate will become redundant and the new gate will be ready for use.

Forthcoming Events

Before School Club – from 4th January

The Before School Club will resume again on 4th January. If you would like your child to attend in the spring term, please complete the booking form, which can be found on the website under 'Parents' and then 'Letters', and email to the school office.

Online Pantomime – 8th January

The Friends of Denver School have organised for the children to watch an online version of The Wizard of Oz on the 8th January. Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn have kindly offered to provide popcorn and ice cream to help make it a memorable afternoon for the children.

Class 4 Swimming – Starting week commencing 4th January

Throughout the spring term, Class 4 will be swimming and learning about safe water rescue techniques every Tuesday morning, starting in the week commencing 4th January. Please ensure that they have the correct swimming kit each week. Strict adherence to Covid safety guidance will be followed. A letter regarding swimming will be sent out today – please look out for it in book bags.

And finally...

It has been an extremely difficult year for all of us, however the support we have received from the school community throughout has made such a difference and really helped to boost morale – thank you so very much!

The children have been absolute superstars throughout the year and should feel so proud of how they have coped in such strange times. They never fail to surprise me with their resilience and positivity - they really are a credit to the school.

I would like to thank my hard working team of teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, midday supervisors, cooks, cleaners, governors, students and volunteers for their dedication to the school and its pupils in such adversity. I would also like to thank the Friends of Denver School for their hard work and excellent fundraising for the school.

On behalf of us all at Denver V. C. Primary, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and more settled 2021. Enjoy the well-deserved festive break and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.



Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Spring Term

January 2021	4 th	Mon	Children return to school
	w/c 4 th		Class 4 swimming starts
	8 th	Fri	Online pantomime
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