



March 2021 Newsletter



I cannot believe that we have reached the end of the spring term, and what a term it has been! From the announcement that schools would close on 4th January, to the challenges of remote learning, and of course the children's return on 8th March, we've had it all this term! Although looking back it has been a difficult term, I could not be prouder of the school community. This newsletter reflects back on the whole of the spring term, and I hope you will agree that there are many positives to be taken from it.

Covid-19

We feel extremely fortunate that we still have not had any positive cases of Covid-19 in school time. This is testament to the control measures in place, and the response of the whole school community in working together to make the school as safe a place as is possible. During the Easter holidays, if any of the children develop symptoms and test positive for Covid-19, please inform us as soon as possible to enable us to work with PHE and Track and Trace to contact those who may need to self-isolate. If you need to contact the school for this reason, please email office@denver.norfolk.sch.uk - this email will be checked regularly.

Lateral Flow Tests

Just a reminder that regular rapid testing is now available for parents of nursery, school children and college students. To support the testing, public health colleagues are extending the access to test kits via a range of community collect facilities. You can now collect test kits from Downham Market Library for you to use at home. For more information about testing, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Children's Mental Health Week

In early February, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year was 'Express Yourself' and began with the school joining together to watch a special launch assembly online with the Oak National Academy. To ensure the children had plenty of opportunities to express themselves and to have a much needed break from online learning, Friday 8th March was 'Screen-Free Friday'. The children were encouraged to do the things that made them feel good about themselves, including cooking and decorating cakes, doing art and design activities, enjoying nature walks and extra PE.



Rainbow Superhero Day

Back in February, we joined many Norfolk schools in a collective Rainbow Superhero Day to celebrate hardworking critical workers, especially the NHS frontline staff. The children at home and in school dressed up as superheroes and wrote messages of thanks which we sent to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn.



World Book Day

Although World Book Day fell in the school closure period, it did not stop us from celebrating, both in school and at home. As usual, the children dressed up as their favourite book characters and took part in different activities to celebrate reading. They also took home a £1 World Book Day voucher. Here are some children in Class 1 in their fantastic costumes.



Toys

Throughout this term, the children in Classes 1 and 2 have been studying toys from long ago. They would normally visit Ely Museum to learn more about this topic, however the museum is currently closed due to coronavirus. Instead, an online Teams session with the museum was organised for both the children in school and at home. On the children's return, they were able to handle the resources that had been left in school. The children enjoyed discovering the toys and asking lots of questions.



English Football League – The Joy of Movement

Children across the school were treated to a special welcome back assembly on March 8th focussing on the positivity of physical exercise and the values of the 'EFL -The Joy of Movement Winter Games' which link closely to wellbeing.

The assembly was led by Paul, Jake and Ryan who are representatives of Norwich City Community Sports Foundation. They linked up via Microsoft Teams to our 4 bubbles. The assembly gave the children opportunities to be active by playing games such as 'Do this, do that' and 'Guess the sport'. In between activities the children were given opportunities to reflect on their experiences during lockdown, celebrating achievements, their feelings about returning to school and what they hope to achieve in the coming weeks and months.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience that had the children smiling (as you can see from the pictures) and interacting in a positive way and banishing any butterflies on the very first day back to school after lockdown.



Mothering Sunday Posies

On March 12th, we continued with tradition and once again made Mothering Sunday posies in school. A huge thank you to three of our governors, Jo Walton, Carole Reich and Amanda Dawson, along with ladies from St Mary's Church, for enabling this to happen this year. If you have not already returned the plastic trays, please could you do so after the Easter break as these can then be re-used next year.



Pantomime Fun

On 12th March, to mark the end to a positive first week back at school, the children were treated to watching a recorded version of The Wizard of Oz. To help bring the theatre to the classrooms, Miss Palmer and Mrs Fenn kindly donated ice cream and popcorn for the children to enjoy. A huge thank you to The Friends for organising and funding the pantomime for the children, and of course to all the parents for supporting the Friends' fundraising events to enable such treats to happen.



Comic Relief

On Friday 19th March, we had a non-uniform day to mark Comic Relief. A number of children came to school wearing their red noses. We raised a total of £93.50 which was split between the School Council Funds and Comic Relief. Here are some photos of the children wearing their red noses.



National Day of Reflection

On Tuesday 23rd March, we joined the whole country in observing the minute's silence to mark National Reflection Day. We thought particularly about those who have suffered grief and loss, both as a result of Covid-19 and due to other causes.

Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge

Throughout the period of Lent, we have been engaging with Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge, the theme of which this year has been about hope and the future. Each week during Lent, we have looked at a different theme and thought carefully about what our hopes are for the future. The children engaged with a range of activities, including writing prayers of hope. They also worked on a song about hope with Mr Lawrence and for the first time in a year we gathered the whole school together, socially distanced, on the playground to record a final version which will soon be available on Teams. We also looked to reach out to the local community, in particular care homes, to send Easter messages to bring some much needed joy to those most affected by the pandemic.



Easter Fun

All of the children will be coming home today with an Easter egg generously donated by our former Vicar, Judith Grundy. Waitrose also kindly donated eggs for the children and the different bubbles had fun today searching for these in Easter egg hunts.



Before School Club

Just a reminder that to increase our wrap around care provision, we now offer a Before School Club. The club starts at 8am daily and offers a wide range of fun activities for the children to engage with. Feedback from the children who regularly attend (and their parents) has been extremely positive. In certain instances we can cater for children at short notice, providing the club has space. Booking forms, including prices, can be found on the website.

School Lunches

As from 12th April, the new spring lunch menu will be available in school. As well as the main and vegetarian options detailed in the menu, the children can order a jacket potato with cheese and/or beans; or tuna, cheese or ham sandwiches. Our catering company, Norse, have decided to freeze the proposed 5p increase for school meals until September, therefore the price of school meals remains at £2.30. Please remember that if your child is in Class 1 or Class 2, we ask that they do not switch between school provided lunches and lunches brought from home. The new lunch menu can be found on the school website.

Friends' Update

Bingo Fun

Last Saturday, it was eyes down for a virtual Bingo night. A huge thank you to the Friends for organising this fundraiser, and of course to Matt Valentine for being such a fantastic bingo caller. It was a really enjoyable evening and raised £100 for the Friends of Denver School.

Father's Day Coasters/Cards

As Father's Day is fast approaching, the Friends thought that the children might enjoy creating a colourful coaster design over the Easter break. The children's designs will be printed onto a coaster and presented in a specially designed A5 card – ideal gifts for dads and grandads. Information about this fundraiser, including the template form, were sent out earlier in the week.

Forthcoming Events

There is still a lot of uncertainty about what restrictions will look like for schools in the summer term and if we will be able to organise some of our traditional events, even if in a slightly different way. We are becoming quite good now at being creative in our approach and will do our very best to ensure that the children are still able to enjoy some of the events they normally look forward to.

Booster Sessions – starting w/c 12th April

As part of our recovery curriculum, we are offering before school booster sessions in reading and maths for a number of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 throughout the summer term. These sessions will start in the first week back after the Easter holidays; the children involved have already received a letter.

Parent Consultation Evenings

We would normally have Parent Consultation Evenings in the spring term, although we have decided to have these instead in the summer term once the children have had more time back in school with their teachers. More details will follow next term.

And finally...

I would like to thank you all, once again, for your continued support and understanding in these strangest of times. In the spirit of the Lent Challenge, I truly believe there is a lot to be hopeful for in the future. On behalf of us all at Denver V. C. Primary, I wish you a very Happy Easter. I hope you all enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on 12th April, for what we hope will be a more settled term.



Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Summer Term

April 2021	12 th	Mon	Children return to school Before school booster sessions begin
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