



July 2021

Newsletter



I cannot quite believe that I am writing the last newsletter of the school year. It really doesn't seem that long ago since we waved goodbye to the children for the summer last year, but oh my goodness, what a lot has happened since!

I am so pleased that we have managed to get through the year without any of our bubbles bursting. This is a real testament to the control measures in place and everyone in the school community supporting these.

Although it has been disappointing not being able to invite parents into school to share our end of term events, this newsletter will hopefully give you a flavour of what the children have been up to over the last few weeks.

KS2 Performance

This term the children in KS2 have been working extremely hard on their end of year production, *The Animals of Wensley Wood: The Curse of The Badgered Bottom*. Monday this week was performance day and children did a fantastic job! A huge thank you to Mr Lawrence for writing and directing the performance, and to all the adults in school who have helped with props etc. Thank you to the parents for providing costumes and face paints, and to Emma Goulding and Jo Glover for their excellent face painting. DVDs of the performance can be ordered through Mr Lawrence and the show can also be found on the Whole School Assembly section on Teams. Here are some photos of the children in action.





Move Up

Last week, we held our 'Move Up' afternoons to give the children the opportunity to spend some time with their new classes and teachers for September. On Friday afternoon, we also welcomed our new Reception children and parents into school. The afternoons went very smoothly and there was an excited buzz about the transition to a new year group or class. We are really looking forward to properly welcoming the new reception children and their families to the Denver VC Primary family in September.

Cycle Shelters

We are really pleased that the bike shelters are now available for use. Well done to those children who have either been cycling or scootering to school over the last few weeks. We hope that more children will make good use of them next year.



Y6 Leavers' Picnic

Yesterday, the Y6 children enjoyed their leavers' picnic. We were extremely fortunate to receive a £250 voucher from Waitrose which went towards providing an afternoon tea and drinks for all the Y6 children. It was lovely to see them enjoying themselves. Thank you Waitrose Swaffham for their generosity!



Farewell to Y6

I cannot believe that it is that time of year again when we have to say goodbye to our Y6 children. They have had a difficult Y6 but they have worked hard, remained positive and been excellent ambassadors for the school. We could not be prouder of them! We are so glad that they were able to visit Eaton Vale, be part of the KS2 performance and of course enjoy their leavers' picnic yesterday. We wish Aimée, Brandon, Chloe, Daisy, Dan, Edward, Finley, Joseph B, Joseph Br, Joseph D, Laura, Ralphie, Sam, Rocco and Roman all the very best in their new schools and for the future – we will really miss you! Good luck!



It's Your Move

Last week, the children in Y6 all received an 'It's Your Move' booklet from the Downham Market Churches. The book is a secondary school survival guide and has lots of useful tips for a smooth transition. Thank you to the local Downham Market Churches for their kind gesture – I know the children will find the books really useful. Here is Chloe proudly showing off her book...



Choir Performance

We were thrilled that our school choir were asked to perform at the Denver Fun Day last Sunday. Thank you to all the choir members who were able to join us and share their beautiful singing. It was lovely to see them have an audience and be able to showcase what they have been working on throughout the year. A huge thank you to Mr Lawrence for his hard work with the choir this year.



Summer Moving Up Activities

To help to prepare the children for moving up to the next year group, we have placed some useful English and Maths activity packs in Teams and under the 'Parent' tab on our school website. These are completely optional, and are there should children wish to dip in and out of them.

Times Tables Rockstars

Please remember that the children continue to have access to Times Tables Rockstars. We would encourage them to keep playing it over the summer holidays as a sound understanding of times table facts is key in being a successful mathematician.

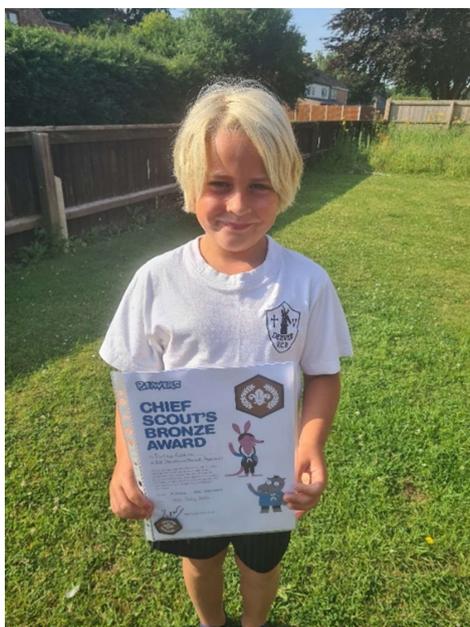
Summer Reading Bingo Challenge

In order to avoid the summer dip in reading, we would very much like all the children to complete the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge over the summer holidays. Certificates and Dojo points will be awarded in September for each child who completes a full house. This challenge is a great way to help the children to keep up with their reading during the long summer holidays; regular reading throughout the summer can really help to maintain literacy levels and make a difference to children's reading levels. We will be creating a reading display in school to celebrate the children's engagement in the challenge, therefore we would be very grateful if you could send in photographs of them completing some of the tasks. The children have already received their bingo sheets, although these, and more information, can be found under the 'Parent' tab on our school website.

Also don't forget that the children can use the books they are reading as part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge 'Wild World Heroes'. To find out more information about the challenge, please contact your local library or **visit:** www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries.

Beavers

Finley, from Class 3, has recently achieved double success at Beavers. Not only was he awarded Beaver of the term, being praised for looking after the new, younger Beavers and helping them to settle in, he was also awarded the Chief Scout's Bronze Award, which is the highest award a Beaver can complete. He had to complete a number of badges and challenges to gain this very special award. Well done Finley, we are very proud of you!



Downham Games

This term, the children were all asked to design a medal for the Downham Games. I am pleased to tell you that Edward G's design, in Class 4, was chosen as the winner! Edward's design will now be placed on posters and of course the actual medals. What a fantastic achievement, well done Edward!



Celebrating Success

In the words of our school vision 'Seeking to discover and celebrate what is good in each individual', we are always keen to celebrate our children's achievements, both in school and out, therefore please do continue to send us details of these next year so they can be shared in the newsletter.

Before School Club Talent Show

Over the last few weeks, the children attending our Before School Club have been working hard practising for a talent show which they shared with us yesterday. Members of staff were invited and we thoroughly enjoyed the show! Well done to all the children involved, and of course to Mrs Fenn for her hard work. Here are some photos of the children sharing their talents.



Class 2 Reward

Last Friday, to celebrate the class Dojo total for the year, Class 2 spent some time learning a simple bit of origami and made paper airplanes. Everyone had great fun making their own planes and adding their own designs and modifications. The weather was perfect for trying them out afterwards too!



Bottle Tops

Mrs Collins has requested that children in all year groups collect bottle tops over the summer for a project the wellbeing gardening group will be doing in the autumn term. These could be: milk, cola, squash, wine, lager etc. Thank you.

Class Organisation

From September, we have made some changes to the way the classes are organised. Here is how the classes will be taught:

- Class 1 – Mr Sexton (Mon) and Mr Rackham (Tues-Fri)
- Class 2 – Miss Pennock (Mon-Wed) and Mr Sexton (Thurs-Fri)
- Class 3 – Mr Bonham
- Class 4 – Mrs Henden

Staff

With Mrs Fenn taking on the Cook Manager's role, we recently advertised for a new cleaner and I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed Amanda Metcalfe. We look forward to welcoming her to our staff team in September.

Reports

By now you will have all received your child's end of year report and had the chance to discuss this with your child's class teacher at last week's parent consultations. Thank you for your feedback regarding the new format, these will be taken on board.

Volunteers

We are very keen to welcome volunteers back in school in September. We have a number of regular volunteers who come in to school to listen to readers, help on school events and trips etc. and we would like to expand our team. If you feel you have some time to spare, please let me know. We really would be grateful for any extra support.

September

In line with recent guidance from the government, many restrictions for schools will be lifted in September. We will no longer need to organise our children in 'bubbles' and social distancing measures will be removed. Parents will also not be required to wear masks on the school grounds. Some measures, however, such as handwashing, increased cleaning and ventilation will still be in place.

As a result of the changes, we will be going back to our usual start and finish times of 8.50am-3.15pm for all children. We have decided to keep using the field gate as the only access into school. This is a much safer way for the children to come in and leave the school grounds, and I personally enjoy greeting the children every day. KS1 parents will continue to come onto the school grounds to take their children to the Class 1 gate.

Our risk assessment will be updated to take into consideration these changes and will be available by the end of the summer on our school website.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about what will happen if children, or their immediate family members, test positive for Covid-19 in September. We will communicate guidance with you once we receive it.

We have decided to go back to asking the children to bring in 20p in cash for their drinks. Ideally, children will bring in £1 in a named envelope at the beginning of the week. Milk, apple juice and orange juice will be available.

Should guidance change over the summer, we will communicate with you via the website. If you have any questions or concerns about September, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Friends' Update

Thank You

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of the Friends for their support of the school this year. With restrictions in place, it has been a difficult year for fundraising, but the Friends have been very creative and still managed to raise a significant amount of money. We really do appreciate people giving up their valuable spare time to support us. Well done for a successful year and thank you!

Denver Fun Day

The tombola and second-hand uniform sales at the Denver Fun Day last Sunday raised an impressive £325.10. You could see by the long queue to the stall just how popular it was. Thank you to all our families for the generous donations for the tombola on our non-school uniform day.

Bags2School

The recent Bags2School collection raised a pleasing £39 for the Friends. Thank you to all those who had a clear out and supported this fundraiser.

Class Photographs

A huge thank you to the Friends for organising the end of year class photographs. These have been very popular with many orders taken. It's always lovely to have such a lovely memento.

Name Labels

Don't forget that the Friends have partnered up with Stikins to take advantage of their offer of wash and dishwasher proof stick on name labels offer. For every order placed quoting fundraising number 36218, the school receives 30% commission. Labels can be ordered online at www.stikins.co.uk or by phone and have multiple uses including clothes, shoes and lunchbox items.

And Finally...

I just want to finish by expressing my sincere thanks to the whole school community (children, parents, staff, governors and Friends) for the amazing support the school has received in what has been another challenging year. By working together, we have come through another lockdown, remote learning, and the ongoing impact of Covid-19. I could not be prouder of our amazing children and dedicated staff. I truly feel honoured to be part of the Denver VC Primary family.

Hopefully September will bring more normality to school life. I feel excited about the new academic year and the many things we are hoping to be able to achieve. It will be lovely to welcome parents and visitors back and bring the school community together once again.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break, and hopefully lots of sunshine! I look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Please take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Louise Jones

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

September 2021	6th	Mon	Children return to school
October 2021	25 th – 29 th		School closed for half term
November 2021	1 st	Mon	Children return to school
December 2021	17 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2022	5 th	Wed	Children return to school
February 2022	14 th -18 th		School closed for half term
	21 st	Mon	Children return to school
March 2022			
April	1 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
	20 th	Wed	Children return to school

Summer Term

May 2022	2 nd	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	30 th - 3 rd June		School closed for half term
June 2022	6 th	Mon	Children return to school
July 2022	22 nd	Fri	Last day of summer term