



September 2021

Newsletter



Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. It has been a busy start to the term and it is lovely that a sense of normality has resumed. I cannot express how emotional it has been to see the whole school back together again in the hall for collective worship, something we have been unable to do for over 18 months! As always, I have tried to pack lots of information into the newsletter and share with you a flavour of day-to-day school life.

Reception Intake

I would like to start by welcoming our new Reception children and their parents/carers to the school. They have settled in really well and made an excellent start to their school journey here at Denver. Welcome to the Class of 2021!



Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Competition

You may remember that last year we took part in Royal Mail's Heroes Stamp Design competition. An incredible 606,049 entries were received from children across the UK, with an amazing 7,479 schools taking part. Although we did not have any individual winners, all the children who entered contributed towards a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the largest postage stamp design competition! The school has been presented with a special certificate which is proudly on display in the entrance hall.

Blue Peter Badge Winners

In the summer term, Blue Peter ran a Supersized Climate Heroes competition for children who show that they care about the environment and our planet. Our wellbeing gardening group were keen to apply and absolutely thrilled that their application to become Blue Peter Climate Heroes was successful. Not only have they each been awarded with a special Green Blue Peter Badge, they can also apply for a Blue Peter Badge Card to gain free access to over 200 attractions throughout the UK. Well done to our gardeners, what a fantastic achievement!



Eco Committee

We are keen to get our Eco Committee up and running again this term and the number of applications received from the children highlights the passion in the school for environmental issues. One of our focus areas this term will be on reducing our use of single use plastic within the school. The newly formed Eco Committee will soon be communicating with you the targets they would like us to achieve throughout the year.

Bike to School Week

This week has been Bike to School week and it has been lovely to see our new cycle shelters full of bikes! Well done to all those children who have cycled to school this week – certificates will be awarded in this week's celebration assembly.



Clubs

We are really pleased by the high uptake to the range of after school clubs we are offering this term. Feedback from the children has been really positive and I know they look forward to these clubs. If your child is unable to make a club for any reason, please remember to inform the school so that the person running the club can be made aware.

School Lunches

Mrs Fenn has found that apart from cheesy pasta, very few children are taking up the vegetarian option, and we are wasting a lot of food. For anyone wanting a vegetarian option, Mrs Fenn would like to trial providing vegetarian jacket potatoes or school sandwiches, rather than the vegetarian choice on the menu. She can also offer vegetarian sausages and Quorn products if the children would prefer. Cheesy pasta will continue to be offered on the days it is on the menu.

Hot Chocolate with the Head

The children who are awarded star of the week in each class now get an extra treat, hot chocolate, and a little treat, with me the following Friday. Here are the first 'stars of the week' enjoying their treat.



Paper Donation

Williams Lea from Wymondham have kindly donated some paper to the school. We are very grateful for their generosity.

It's Good to Grow

We're collecting the Morrisons 'It's Good to Grow' tokens. It's Good to Grow is a schools programme to inspire children to get outdoors, grow, learn and enjoy fresh produce. Every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll receive a Grow Token which we will be able to exchange for free gardening equipment to get our children growing. To start collecting Grow Tokens you need to download the MyMorrisons app and choose Denver VC Primary.



Summer Reading Bingo Challenge

A huge congratulations to everyone who engaged in the Summer Reading Bingo Challenge. We were so pleased with the number of children who returned their bingo cards and shared photos of themselves reading in all sorts of different environments. We have created a 'We Love Reading' display celebrating the children who read over the summer.



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 send class teachers details of these so they can be shared in the newsletter.

Sporting Stars

We also have a 'Sporting Stars' display which showcases children's sporting achievements, both in and outside of school. Please pass on any photos or certificates to Mrs Henden to be added to the board.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Thank you to those parents who joined our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings at the beginning of term. We hope these were useful. Please remember that teachers are available at the end of the school day if you would like to talk to them, or can be contacted via email or Class Dojo.

Bottle Tops

Mrs Collins would like me to thank all those who collected bottle tops over the summer holidays. The wellbeing gardening group will be using these for one of their projects this term.

Allergies

We have several children with nut allergies in school, therefore it is important that lunchboxes do not contain peanut butter or nut products. Thank you for your cooperation.

Water Bottles

It is important that the children are hydrated throughout the day, as being fully hydrated means that they will be able to think faster, be more focussed, and have greater clarity of thought. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school each day containing water only, thank you.

Shoe Box 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. We would be extremely grateful if the children could donate an item, or more if they are able to, which could be included in a shoebox. Items do not need to be brand new, although should be of good quality. For more information about the scheme and lists of suggested items, please visit www.rotaryshoebox.org

Foodbank Donations

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we would like to support the foodbank in the local area. If you are able to donate an item(s) to the foodbank, please bring these into school hall on the morning of Thursday 7th October. Items the foodbank really need are:

- tinned meat products (pies, mince, chicken etc.)
- tinned fish
- tinned fruit
- tinned vegetables
- tinned potatoes
- coffee
- hot chocolate
- items to use in baking and cooking (herbs and spices, flour, seasonings)
- cartons of fruit juice
- squashes such as orange or apple and black currant
- soup
- toiletries
- toilet roll
- dog food

Suggestions Box

If you have any suggestions or comments you would like to share with us, or indeed positive feedback, we have a Suggestions Box in the main entrance hall. If you have a suggestion, please send this in with your child who can add it to the box. Please put your name on your suggestion as this way we can respond to individuals and give feedback. Suggestions can also be emailed to the school.

PE Uniform

As we have continued to ask children to come to school wearing PE kit on the days they have PE, we would like to remind parents of appropriate PE kit. The children should wear the following:

- Plain PE t-shirt in the appropriate team colour, ideally with the Denver School crest
- For colder weather — plain blue or black jogging/tracksuit bottoms, a plain blue or black long-sleeved warm top, socks and trainers
- For warmer weather — plain blue or black shorts, plimsolls/trainers, socks
- For children with long hair, please provide a hairband so that hair can be tied up

We ask that children do not wear football tops or clothes with logos. Thank you for your support.

Volunteers

We are very keen to once again welcome volunteers into school. 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.

Birthdays

We know that many children enjoy bringing in cakes to share with their class on their birthday. If you are planning on sending a treat (no sweets please) in for the class, we ask that these are individually wrapped, thank you.

Holidays in Term Time

Regular attendance at school is vitally important for children's education, even more so following the disruption they have experienced due to the pandemic. Please remember that holiday requests in term time will be unauthorised, unless in exceptional circumstances.

Office News

Emails

Please check your emails regularly as this is now our main form of communication between home and school.

Permission Forms

Thank you to all parents for returning their permission forms – we have now received the completed forms back for every single child. We will no longer require parents to complete these annually and the permissions you provide will remain valid for the period your child attends Denver Primary School. Please let us know by email/in writing if you wish to withdraw or change consent at any time.

Drinks Money

Thank you for supporting us with paying for drinks in cash once again. This system is working well and is much more manageable for the office.

Dinner Money

We would like to thank all parents who pay promptly for their children's meals. Increasingly, however, we have a few instances where considerable sums of dinner money have not been paid. We ask that parents do not let dinner money debts mount up as this causes difficulties for the school.

If your child has recently moved from Class 2 to Class 3, a reminder that, unfortunately, school lunches are no longer free of charge! School meals are now £2.35 each day and the school bank details are as follows:

Name of Bank:	Barclays Bank plc
Account Name:	NCC Denver VC Primary School (Norfolk County Council)
Bank account number:	70793051
Bank sort code:	20-62-61

Please send an email to: payments@denver.norfolk.sch.uk to let us know you have sent a payment. Thank you for your cooperation.

Friends' Update

Raisin Fundraiser

The Friends of Denver School are busy planning their fundraising ideas for the year ahead, the first of these being the aptly named 'Fund Raisin'. Next Monday, the children will come home with box of raisins to enjoy and the Friends would like for each child to fill their box with some loose change and return to school on Friday 8th October. Thank you to Tesco for donating the raisins.

Bags2School

The next Bag2school collection is organised for 11th November. This is an excellent opportunity to have a clear out at home and also raise money for the Friends. More details to follow soon.

Forthcoming Events

Harvest Assembly – 7th October

We are having a Harvest assembly at St Mary's Church, Denver on Thursday 7th October. This event is only for the children to attend.

Open Morning – 15th October

We are hosting an Open Morning aimed at the new Reception starters for next September on Friday 15th October. 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 spend some time in Class 1 and see some of the fantastic learning that takes place. If you are a parent of a child due to start school next September, or know of someone is, please contact the office to book an appointment. We are sending a copy of the Open Morning poster with this newsletter and we would be grateful if you could display it, or pass onto someone who might be interested. Hard copies are available from the office.

Ely Cathedral Schools' Day – 18th October

On 18th October, the children in Class 3 will be joining many other schools across the diocese for an online Ely Cathedral Schools' Day. The aim of the day is to investigate the refugee experience and the vulnerabilities that come with being forced to flee your home, comparing the experiences of refugees from the north in 1071 and modern refugees before finding out more about the Christian response to these issues.

Active Kids – 19th October

We have arranged for the Y1 children to participate in three different Active Kids festivals throughout the year, and the first of these will take place on 19th October at Lynnsport in King's Lynn. We are really pleased that these are happening face-to-face rather than virtually. We hope the children enjoy the first festival.

Parent Consultation Evenings – 11th and 17th November

We have decided to have our parent consultation evenings after half term this year. These provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments will be available on the above two dates and will take place via Teams. More details will follow before half term.

Sports News

Tennis

Evie, Chloe, Ivy and Logan in Y5 were finally able to take part in the deferred mini-tennis development tournament at KES Academy Tennis Centre on Friday 17th September. They had an enjoyable afternoon of festival fun and we are very grateful to them for representing our school. Thank you also to the parents for making it happen.



Bikeability

Last week we were joined by two instructors from Outspoken Training for Year 5 children to receive four days of intensive Bikeability Cycling Proficiency training. For Level One training, the children were taught how to check a bicycle for roadworthiness and how to perform safe starting, stopping, turning and signalling manoeuvres from within the school grounds.

Successful completion of Level One allowed the children to move on to Level 2 and practise their skills on progressively busy roads. This is included how to position at junctions and how to navigate parked vehicles and obstacles. The instructors remarked upon the good skills and behaviour. The children learnt a great deal about road safety and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are very thankful to the instructors and a very special thank you also goes to Mrs Dawson who kindly gave up her time to support both groups for the entire four day period.



National Fitness Day

On Wednesday 22nd September, it was National Fitness Day so we joined in with the Alive Leisure initiative to complete an active mile. Each class had some time on the Golden Mile track to complete 8 laps and meet the target. Well done to everyone!



And Finally...

Please remember that if your child displays any of the symptoms of Covid-19, they should self-isolate and you should immediately order a PCR test for them. We have done so well thus far in keeping Covid-19 out of the school and we hope that, by working together, this will continue.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Autumn Term

October 2021	7 th	Thu	Harvest assembly
	15 th	Fri	Open Morning
	18 th	Mon	Ely Cathedral School's Day
	19 th	Tue	Active Kids Festival Y1
	25 th – 29 th		School closed for half term
November 2021	1 st	Mon	Children return to school
	11 th	Thu	Parent Consultation Evening
	12 th	Fri	Flu Vaccinations
	17 th	Wed	Parent Consultation Evening
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