



December 2021

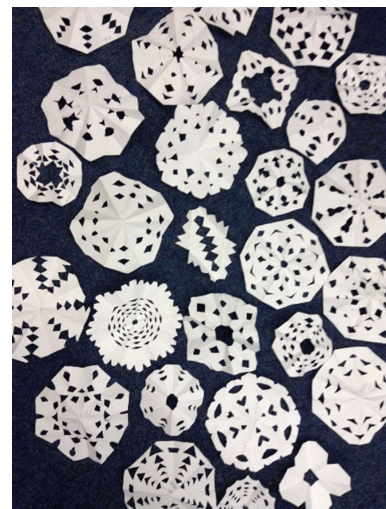
Newsletter



Welcome to the final newsletter of 2021! Where has the year gone?! December has been jam packed with different events and activities and this newsletter will hopefully give you a flavour of what the children have experienced in school. We are so pleased that we managed to go ahead with our planned events – we carefully considered the risks as well as the clear benefits to the children and we hopefully managed to get the balance right. We would like to thank all the parents/carers for your support in following the measures we requested, and of course to the children for being such stars!

Decoration Day

Our Christmas celebrations started right at the beginning of the month with our annual Decoration Day on 3rd December. This is always one of the highlights of the year as each class spends a fun-filled day making Christmas craft activities. Here are some photos of their creations.



Performance Club

Our Performance Club enjoyed learning a dance to 'Step into Christmas' which they performed at the last club of the year. Thank you to Mr Lawrence and Miss de Vanche for kindly giving up their time to run this club – it is evident from the lovely photo below that the children enjoy attending!



Playing Field Car Park

As you will all know, work on the Playing Field Car park has now been completed, and what an improvement the new surface is! Thank you to the Playing Field Committee for continuing to support the school, and to the Local Authority for contributing £5000 towards the cost of the works.



Light and Life Assemblies

On 6th December, we were joined by Jackie and Peter Smith from Light and Life Assemblies who told the Christmas story to the children in an interactive and engaging way.



Meet the Panto Cast

At the beginning of December, the School Council met virtually with some of the cast from the pantomime they would be visiting, *Sleeping Beauty*. They asked some excellent questions and were given an insight into what it takes to put a pantomime production on. Well done to the School Council for being great ambassadors for the school.



Christingles

On Monday 13th December, the children made Christingles in the morning and then joined Ely Cathedral's online Christingle service in the afternoon. A huge thank you to Morrisons in Downham Market for generously covering the cost of the Christingles. Thank you also to one of our governors, Jo Walton, for preparing all the components that make the Christingles.



Christmas Lunch

The children enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on 14th December. A huge thank you to Mrs Fenn, Mrs Ciesielska and Miss Palmer (who returned to help us on this day) for their hard work in making Christmas lunch a special occasion for the children. Thanks also go out to Lisa Cross and Michelle Maynard for donating the plates, cup and serviettes, along with The Friends of Denver School for donating the crackers and a number of parents who kindly offered to pay for additional lunches.



EYFS/KS1 Christmas Play

On Tuesday 14th December, Classes 1 and 2 performed 'Bobby's Baby Brother' to their parents/carers in the school hall. This is always one of the highlights of the school year for me, and the children certainly didn't disappoint. It was so lovely to see them perform to an actual audience; I have to admit that watching it brought a tear to my eye. The children were all fantastic and did themselves proud. Thank you to Mr Lawrence for writing another excellent play and to the KS1 staff for their help. Thank you also to the parents for following the requested safety measures.



KS2 Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service took place at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 15th December. It was a little different this year with only KS2 performing, but it certainly lived up to, if not surpassed, previous years. I have to admit that I felt very emotional watching the children's pure enjoyment of performing to a live audience, something they have missed so much due to the pandemic. All the children did exceptionally well and were a real credit to the school – I was certainly proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to Thomas Burt, a former Denver pupil, for kindly playing the organ, and to Mr Lawrence for his dedication to music and performance in the school. A total of £55.67 was raised through the collection for St Mary's Church.



Christmas Parties

This week, each class has enjoyed their own Christmas party. The Entertainer in King's Lynn, AT Johnson in Downham Market and Waitrose in Swaffham donated some party game prizes, and Michelle Caul-Byrne kindly wrapped up a pass the parcel for each class. Here are some photos of the children enjoying the festivities:



Pantomime Visit

The children in Y1-Y6 had a lovely end of term treat yesterday when they visited the pantomime, Sleeping Beauty, at the Maltings in Ely, whilst the Reception children stayed in school for their Christmas party. A huge thank you to the Friends of Denver School for funding such a wonderful opportunity for the children.

Christmas Jumper Day

To help spread some festive cheer through the school, the children all came to school dressed in a Christmas jumper or Christmas themed clothing today.

Visit from Father Christmas

Today the children had a visit from a very special person, Father Christmas. He managed to get his Covid passport in time to visit each class and deliver presents. Thank you for taking time out of your very busy schedule, Father Christmas.



Crisp Packets

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting crisp packets over the last few weeks. These will really help to support the local challenge to turn crisp packets into blankets for homeless people.

Poppy Appeal 2021

We recently received a thank you card from the Royal British Legion informing us that the school had collected a pleasing £206.45 in donations for this year's appeal. Thank you to the members of the School Council for selling the poppies and related merchandise each day, and to all those who engaged and donated to such an important cause.

Staff News

From January, Miss Pennock will be working 2 days per week, Monday and Tuesday. Mr Sexton will work in Class 2 from Wednesday-Friday. Mr Rackham will be full time in Class 1.

Holiday Communication

There are occasions that parents/carers may need to contact the school urgently over a holiday period, for example because of a safeguarding incident, bereavement or family separation. We have, therefore, set up a dedicated email address worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk which will be monitored over the Christmas holiday period. If you are worried about something, please do contact the school via this method and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Covid-19

As I write this newsletter, I am very aware that the Covid situation is changing rapidly. We will send out communication at the beginning of January to update you on any changes to the guidance for schools.

Friends' Update

Coffee Morning – 10th December

The Friends held a very successful Christmas Coffee Morning last Friday 10th December and raised an amazing £628.51! There were some very impressive prizes and the luxury Christmas hamper was won by Oliver in Class 1. A huge thank you to the Friends for their hard work in making this event such a success!

2022 Calendar

The Friends produced a lovely 2022 calendar showcasing pictures drawn by the children. So far the calendars have raised a pleasing £185.00.

2021 Friends of Denver School Fundraising Total

Here is a breakdown of the impressive fundraising by The Friends of Denver School during 2021:

Amazon Smile £6.16

Easter Bingo £97.10

Virtual Balloon Race £48.64

Summer Bingo £135.00

Sponsored Walk £655.00
Amazon Smile £7.66
Class Photos £468.48
Father's Day Cards £95.98
Fun Day Tombola £330.10
2nd Hand Uniform Sale £44.00
Bags 4 Schools £39.00
Amazon Smile £10.03
Reception Photos £80.28
Clothes Labels £8.71
Bags 4 Schools £36.00
Amazon Smile £8.29
Coffee Morning:
Refreshments £21.81
£1 raffle £203.00
Mr B Donation £10.00
Calendar £185.00
Jumpers £23.00
Xmas Fundraiser £164.73
Fund Raisins £97.29
Easy Fundraising £18.67

A massive total of £2793.93 – AMAZING! Thank you!

Thank You

I would like to say a huge thank you to all members of The Friends of Denver School for their fantastic fundraising efforts this year, and also to everyone who has supported these events. The children are really grateful for the resources and exciting opportunities like the pantomime and Christmas parties this fundraising supports.

Forthcoming Events

Carol Singing at Baytree, Hilgay – 18th December

The choir are looking forward to performing a selection of Christmas songs from 11am – 12pm tomorrow at Baytree Garden Centre, Hilgay. We hope to see many of you there.

Rotary Technology Tournament – 18th January

Class 4 will be taking part in a technology tournament organised by the Rotary Club on 18th January.

And finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for your support in what has been another challenging year for everyone. We have endured so much again, but I feel proud of what we have accomplished this year.

I also would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication to the school and children. And of course I would like to thank the children for being so resilient and positive - they truly are an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of all the staff and children, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I hope you are all able to spend time with your families and really enjoy the festive break. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2022!
Take care and stay safe!



Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Spring Term

January 2022	6 th	Thu	Children return to school
	18 th	Tue	Rotary Technology Tournament Class 4
February 2022	14 th -18 th		School closed for half term
	21 st	Mon	Children return to school
March 2022			
April 2022	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