



June 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of this academic year. June has been another very busy month in school and here is a snapshot of the many events and activities the children have engaged with.

Commemorative Platinum Jubilee Book

Early in June the children all received a free commemorative book to mark Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Designed as an official once-in-a-lifetime commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee and written in collaboration with royal experts and historians, the book tells the story of a young girl, Isabella, visiting her Great Granny Joyce who tells her about the Queen and this year's Jubilee. We hope the children enjoyed reading the book and they will keep it as a souvenir of this historic event.



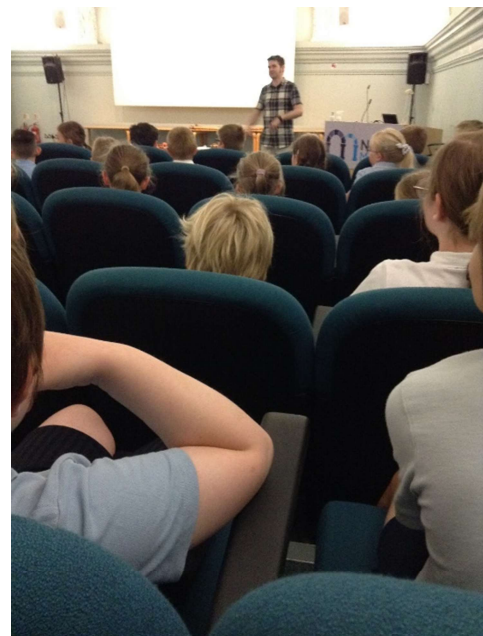
Batteries

A huge thank you to everyone who brought used batteries to school to be recycled. We collected more than 500 in total! These were taken to the local recycling centre at Crimplesham. Thank you for helping us to achieve another of our targets towards becoming an Eco-School.



Class 3's Visit to Norwich Castle

Here is Charlotte's account of Class 3's visit to Norwich Castle: On the 17th June, Class 3 went on a trip to Norwich Castle. We learnt about Ancient Civilisations, including: writing, philosophy, farming and building. First we went to a room with seats and a projector and learnt about farming. Then we saw the tools they used and learnt how to use them. Then we left and did some writing. We learnt about some different languages such as Egyptian. We used a wooden stylus and blue-tack to write a word in Phoenician. Next we had lunch, then we headed to another room and learnt about philosophy and how everyone had different opinions. We finished the day in the room we started in where we built a small city as a group and organised objects into how old we thought they were. Overall, it was a great trip!



Staff News

Unfortunately, Mr Sexton will be leaving us at the end of the summer term as he is moving up to Scotland. We will be very sad to see him go, but wish him all the very best in his new adventure. We will be holding interviews for his position before the end of term.

West Norfolk Beekeeper's Association Visit

There was a real 'buzz' in their air on Thursday 23rd June when Jill and Kev from West Norfolk Beekeeper's Association visited school to deliver an interactive presentation to all classes about bees. This visit was arranged to enrich our science curriculum about life processes, and to contribute to our Eco-Schools application. The children learnt about different varieties of bees, got to try on beekeeper suits and look at an observation hive which contained a nucleus of bees and a laying queen. The children really enjoyed learning about these wonderful little creatures that do so much important work. A huge thank you to Jill and Kev for giving up their time to share their knowledge of bees with the children.



Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Scheme

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun is a summer holiday activity scheme run by Active Norfolk in partnership with Norfolk County Council for children aged 5-15. Activities run from 25th July until 2nd September and include sport, drama, cooking, music, arts and crafts, dance, and much more. A free lunch is also offered. Activities are available for all children and **free** to those eligible for means-tested free school meals. If you don't claim free school meals, you could still get a free place. These places are for children needing extra support such as those with a social worker, looked after children and young carers. If you think this describes your child, please ask for an awarded place by emailing bnhf@norfolk.gov.uk. Booking is now much easier and Big Norfolk Holiday Fun codes are no longer required. Parents will be asked to add their child's school when booking so eligibility can be checked. To find out the available activities near you, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/bignorfolkholidayfun

New IT Equipment

Over the half term break, our desktop computers in the ICT suite were replaced by laptops which are stored on a laptop trolley and transported to each class to be used in both computing lessons and other areas of the curriculum. We also had three new interactive whiteboards fitted. The children are really enjoying using the new laptops and feedback from the children has been very positive indeed.



Library Project

Now that we have freed up space in our current ICT suite, we plan on transforming this space into a dedicated library to help promote reading in the school. We want to ensure that the library is an inspirational place for the children to spend time in and further enhance their love of books and reading. Obviously this will come at a cost and we are looking for local businesses who might be interested in getting involved either with donating items, time, skills or money to help make the vision a reality. If anyone knows of any businesses in Denver or the surrounding area that might be willing to help, please contact the school.

Summer Reading Challenge

This year the Reading Agency and Norfolk Libraries are teaming up with the Science Museum Group for a very special science-themed reading challenge, Gadgeteers. The challenge this year is being brought to life by top children's writer and illustrator Julian Beresford. Gadgeteers will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for cool experiments and activities. Downham Library will be hosting lots of exciting events and fun things to do throughout the summer and we'd love our children to be part of it. As always, it's FREE to join. The children need to read 6 library books to collect smelly stickers along the way to achieving a certificate and medal. Fran Valentine from the library will be visiting school next week to talk to the children about the challenge.

Downham Market Foodbank

Downham Market Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area. It is located at The Eternity Church on the Trafalgar Industrial estate in Downham Market. They have been running as a foodbank for nearly 10 years and there to offer help, not only emergency food, but also a helping hand in other ways too. The foodbank is open on Tuesdays 12.30pm - 2.30pm and Fridays 10.30am - 12.30pm. If you feel you need help from the foodbank, or would like to donate to it, please contact 01366 384474 / 07707 191674 or go to info@downhammarket.foodbank.org.uk for more information.

Salvation Army

Every Monday and Friday, 9am-11am, the Salvation Army in Downham Market has **free** clothes and uniform on offer. If you need any clothes or shoes (both for adults and children), bedding or school uniform, why not go along and take a look, everyone is welcome. Donations are accepted. Please take your own bag. The address is:

Salvation Army Hall
Bridge Street
Downham Market
PE38 9DW

Denver Supertots Playgroup

Just a reminder that our Denver Supertots Playgroup runs once a fortnight during term time. We have two sessions left this term, one on 1st July and the other on 15th July. Please help us to spread the word as we are keen to welcome new families.

British Values

Throughout this half term, the children have been learning about the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They have been discussing how these values are promoted through everyday school life.

Christian Value

Our Christian value for this half term is creativity and the curriculum has offered plenty of opportunity for the children to be creative. They have also been learning a song about creation and the art exhibition will allow them to share their creative sides with you.

Attendance

Schools must aim to have the highest attendance possible for all their pupils in order for them to achieve their maximum potential. An attendance below 90% is regarded as persistent absence. We recognise Covid-19 has had a huge impact on attendance this year, although we need to work together to ensure that all children attend school regularly, unless they are too ill to do so, to ensure that their learning is not further impacted. Please remember that holidays during term time will not be authorised.

To promote good attendance, in each newsletter will now share the class attendance figures for the month and a class certificate will be given. June's figures are as follows:

Class 1	97.1%
Class 2	98.0%
Class 3	95.8%
Class 4	96.1%

Well done to Class 2 for having the highest attendance for the month of June! ☺

Our overall school attendance from (06/09/21 – 28/06/22) is 94.5%. Here is a breakdown of attendance figures for each class:

Class 1	92.7%
Class 2	94.1%
Class 3	94.9%
Class 4	94.5%

Well done to Class 3 who continue to have the highest attendance figures so far this year! ☺

10 Minute Shake Up

To help children to move more, feel good and have fun this summer, Better Health has teamed up with Disney to create some fun 10 Minute Shake Up games inspired by some of their favourite characters from Disney and Pixar's Lightyear, Disney's Encanto and Frozen, and Marvel's The Avengers. We recently sent out the 10 Minute Shake Up leaflets and we hope these activities will help the children to reach the recommended level of daily physical activity of at least 60 minutes.

PE Uniform

A polite reminder that PE uniform should be plain, in school colours and without logos. Football tops should not be worn. We are noticing an increasing number of children coming to school in incorrect PE uniform, therefore here is a reminder of what is appropriate:

- 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

Sun Protection

Please remember to send your child to school with a sun hat to help protect them from the sun. Sun cream should also be applied before coming to school. Thank you.

Out of School Hours Communication

Please remember that parent/carers can contact the school urgently out of school hours and in holiday periods, for example because of a safeguarding incident, by using the dedicated email address worried@denver.norfolk.sch.uk. 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.

Friends' Update

Non-School Uniform Day

The Friends have organised a non-school uniform day on Tuesday 12th July. Rather than asking the children to bring in a donation of £1, if you are able to, please donate a tombola prize (for the Denver Fun Day) in return for the children wearing non-uniform. Please bring the tombola prize on the morning of 12th of July and leave in the collection area by school gate at drop off.

Denver Village Family Fun Day

After last year's huge success, The Friends of Denver School will once again be running a tombola stall at the Denver Village Family Fun Day on Sunday 17th July from 10am. All money raised will go towards funding the pantomime visit, school trips, coaches, resources and much more. If anyone is available to help run the stall on the day, please speak to Michelle Caul-Byrne. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Father's Day

Thank you to everyone who ordered Father's Day cards and mugs. A pleasing £54.55 was raised through this fundraiser. I'm sure the Dads appreciated the thought.

Ice-cream

On a very hot Friday afternoon, the Friends sold ice-creams and lollies at the end of the school day. Sales raised an impressive £70! Thank you to all those involved in organising this welcome treat!

Class Photos

The Friends are hoping to take and sell class photographs again this year to raise funds for the school. More details will be sent out soon.

Spending

The Friends continue to work very hard to fundraise for the school to provide children with extra-curricular activities, visits, resources etc. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team of volunteers. Here is a summary of what they have recently funded:

- £310 to fund transport to Norwich Museum
- £95 entry to Norwich Museum
- £14.85 Prefect badges for next year's Y6 children
- £97.60 for ties for Y6

- £113.60 bags for new reception intake starting in September
- £331.20 to fund the visit KS1 visit to Welney and transport

Sports News

Quad Kids

On 14th June, a team of 10 Year 6 children travelled to Lynnsport to compete against other schools in the West Norfolk area. The event was called Quad Kids and focussed on 4 fundamental athletics skills: endurance, sprint, jumping and throwing. The team comprised of five boys and five girls. Each had to take part in all four disciplines and then a team relay. Scores were pooled to create a final team score. The team performed incredibly well, especially in the endurance run which is testimony to the impact of the Golden Mile. They finished in second place and are rightly very proud of their medals. Once again they showed excellent behaviour and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Well done!



Ultimate Frisbee

Friday 24th June saw a group of Y3/4 children compete in the OMNES Games Ultimate Frisbee event at Lynnsport. The whole class had already had an Ultimate Frisbee taster session earlier in June. The team really enjoyed taking part and it was great fun to watch. We were very proud of their attitude, ability and teamwork. Sonny said, 'We played very well as a team, winning 5 games, drawing 1 and lost 1. It was such good fun.' Ella-Rose said, 'We had to play against a year 6 team who were twice as big as us!'



Sports Day

On Tuesday 21st June, we held our Sports Day and what a fantastic day we had! The sun shone and we were so pleased to be able to welcome our families back to spectate for the first time in 3 years!

The afternoon began with the KS1 inclusive carousel of activities. This allowed the children to experience a range of non-competitive events that explored fundamental movement skills. The activities included Tri-golf, the water race, the dressing-up race and the foam javelin. They also participated in these track events: egg and spoon, quoits, skipping and running. The Class 4 children were fantastic leaders, running each event and keeping the scores.

Immediately after was the KS2 traditional sports day. The children did a sprint, a skipping race, hurdles, the ball and bucket race, the egg and spoon and a house team relay. Then the winners of the throw and jump competitions that had been held in PE lessons were involved in a final face off to earn points for their team. Again, the children in Class 4 did a fantastic job of ensuring that everything ran very smoothly and that people were encouraged and supported.

Children across both key stages earned points for their house teams. The overall winners were once again the White team with a very impressive 199 points. Well done to all the children, regardless of their team, for their sportsmanship and for being willing to have a try.

A huge thank you to Mrs Henden and Miss Cronin for organising the event, and to the children in Class 4 for being fantastic sports' leaders.





Area Sports

After a three-year break due to Covid, the Downham Market Cluster Area Sports event for Key Stage 2 finally resumed. In past years, schools competed as a team in the small schools and large schools events. This year there were 8 teams in attendance so it was decided that the children would compete individually for medals in their respective events, rather than as a schools competition. Medals were awarded for first place only. The following events were held for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: hurdles, endurance, sprint and a mixed team relay on the track; long-jump and vortex howler throw on the field. There was also a tennis ball throw for Years 3 and 4. The children all represented the school very well and there were also many individual successes which is especially impressive when up against some much larger schools from the area. It was a pleasure to take such an enthusiastic and sporting team. Well done to everyone!



Horse Riding Star

Isla in Class 3 did incredibly well at the recent Gorefield Show. She took part in three showing classes on her pony, Cobweb. She came 1st in the Lead Rein, 1st in the Native Pony and 4th in the Junior Rider event. Well done Isla!



Forthcoming Events

Art Exhibition – 1st July

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to our Art Exhibition tomorrow. The children have been looking at various artists from the 20th century and used this as stimulus to create their own artwork. They are very proud of their work and excited to share it with you. You are welcome to join us in the school hall at 3pm to view the exhibition. Please enter school via the field gate. If you would like to view the exhibition with your child, please go to their classroom to collect them. We hope to see many of you to celebrate the children's fantastic artwork. A huge thank you goes out to Mr Bonham for his hard work in organising the exhibition, and to Carole Reich, one of our Foundation Governors, for her fantastic screen print work with a group of children.

Eaton Vale – 6th - 8th July

The children in Class 4 are getting very excited now about their forthcoming residential visit to Eaton Vale in Norwich. They have a very full programme of outdoor and adventurous activities planned and we hope they have a fantastic time – fingers crossed for good weather!

Welney Wetland Visit for Classes 1 and 2 – 8th July

The children in Classes 1 and 2 are looking forward to their visit to Welney Wetland Centre on Friday 8th July. We hope they enjoy their visit.

Fitness Tracker B – 12th July

Gary Hawkins will be returning to Key Stage 2 to track their progress for Fitness Tracker B.

Move Up Afternoons

On the afternoons of 13th, 14th and 15th July, we are looking forward to welcoming the new reception intake into school. The whole school will also move up to their next year group/class on these afternoons. A meeting for the new reception parents/carers will take place on Friday 15th July.

End of Year Reports – 15th July

The staff are busy writing finishing the end of year reports and these will be sent home on Friday 15th July. Please do sign and return the attached acknowledgement page – your feedback/comments are also very welcome.

Denver Fun Day – 17th July

Denver Fun Day is taking place on Sunday 17th July. The Friends will be running a tombola stall and the school choir will be performing at approximately 12.30pm. We look forward to supporting the local community at this very popular event.

KS2 Production – 18th and 19th July

KS2 are busy rehearsing their end of year play 'Miguel's Mexican Adventure' which they will be performing on Monday 18th July at 6pm for parents/carers of children in Years 3, 4 and 5 and Tuesday 19th July at 5.30pm for parents/carers of Y6 and invited guests. Classes 1 and 2 will watch the dress rehearsal of the play during school time. To ensure that the experience of the performance is the same for both audiences, and to ensure that the play is the best it can be, we request that the children be present at both shows, which last approximately one hour. The Tuesday performance will be followed by a Y6 leavers' buffet.

Commonwealth Festival – 19th July

As part of our application for the School Games Mark and to celebrate the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, we shall be holding a festival of Commonwealth Games activities organised and delivered by Young Leaders in Class 4. The principal theme is 'Bringing People Together' with sub-themes of unity, equality, destiny and humanity. This is due to take place on the afternoon of 19th July.

Active Kids – 19th July

The final of the Active Kids festivals for Y1 children will take place on Tuesday 19th July. The children have really enjoyed the previous two sessions and I'm sure the final one will be just as enjoyable.

End of Year Assembly – 22nd July

We are having an end of year assembly on the last day of term at 2pm to celebrate what we have achieved in school this year. Special awards will be presented and we will say goodbye to our Y6 children. All are welcome to attend. Please enter school via the field gate entrance.

And finally...

The next few weeks are extremely busy in school with various different events happening; we look forward to welcoming you into school to share many of these with us.

Dates for your diary- please keep for future reference:

Summer Term

July 2022	1 st	Fri	Art Exhibition
	6 th – 8 th	Wed-Fri	Class 4 residential visit to Eaton Vale
	8 th July	Fri	Classes 1 and 2 visit to Welney Wetland Trust
	13 th - 15 th	Wed-Fri	Move up afternoons
	17 th	Sun	Denver Fun Day
	18 th	Mon	KS2 production
	19 th	Tue	KS2 production and Y6 leavers' buffet
	19 th	Tue	Active Kids Y1
	22 nd	Fri	Last day of summer term
	22 nd	Fri	End of year assembly – 2pm

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Autumn Term

September 2022	6 th	Tue	Children return to school
	24 th – 28 th		School closed for half term
October 2022	31 st	Mon	Children return to school
November 2022			
December 2022	16 th	Fri	Last day of autumn term

Spring Term

January 2023	4 th	Wed	Children return to school
February 2023	13 th -17 th		School closed for half term
	20 th	Mon	Children return to school
March 2023	31 st	Fri	Last day of spring term
April 2023	18 th	Tue	Children return to school

Summer Term

May 2023	1 st	Mon	School closed for Bank Holiday
	29 th - 2 nd June		School closed for half term
June 2023	5 th	Mon	Children return to school
July 2023	21 st	Fri	Last day of summer term