



What an exciting term this has been so far with all the new families we have welcomed into our school community. It is a term of great change for all of us as we watch the new school getting closer to completion and the preparations for the move from the old building to the new.



New School

As November 7 was the day we should have opened the new Lord Deramore's, the staff went on a guided tour of the site. It was great to see the new Hall with a timber A frame and ample space, a luxury we can't wait to experience. Perhaps the most exciting thing for us was to see the flexibility of learning areas, the lightness of all the classrooms with shared resource areas and cloakrooms which will have lockers for our children. The staff have asked if they can have some too!

Goodbye party for the old school

At the end of the summer term, before we knew of the delays imposed on us on 23 August, we were planning a party to say goodbye to the old building. We plan to do this the week before the February half term. This will be for pupils, old and new, and the community to have a walk around school and share a few memories. It will be a social event with light refreshments.

We will send details later in the term.



Staffing

Just before half term, the governors appointed a new Y2 teacher, I am delighted to inform you that Miss Helen Smith was appointed as a permanent member of staff. Miss Mary McCormack will return to school after Christmas, following her maternity leave.

A bird's eye view of the new school!

Communication

We have had a lot of feedback regarding the new website, Facebook and Twitter last year. Thank you for telling us what you think and for bearing with us last term when we had a few challenges with ParentPay. All homework menus, visits and parent letters are circulated on ParentPay. There are still some families not using this, if you would like more information please come and talk to Miss Nicholson in the office.

Following our recent parent interviews last week, several parents kindly said they would complete the Ofsted questionnaire on Parent view. If you haven't already, please add your views at parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for their hard work in supporting our creative curriculum and enabling us to resource some of our new ideas. The Bingo night was a brilliant success with Miss Smith being the Bingo caller, introducing many of us to a whole new experience! A lot of fun was had by all. (Apart from poor Miss Dickenson, who bore the brunt of much of Miss Smith's teasing.)



The Halloween Disco and Pumpkin event in the Forest on Oct 20 was magical. It took a lot of work from a dedicated group of parents to enable this.



Attendance Matters

Along with our partner Secondary Schools we are trying very hard to promote the importance of good attendance and punctuality because this is at the heart of good progress, developing yourself as an independent learner and supports making friendships. Children who have above 95% attendance in a year succeed far better. We are asking families to avoid taking medical appointments during the school day where possible, if this unavoidable, children should be brought to school following the appointment or if it is later in the school day they should attend school prior to the appointment. Please ensure the school office know of any absence before the start of the school day. Please ring 01904 553890 or email the school at lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk

Exploring the options of converting to an academy

Thank you to all the parents who have asked questions and expressed their views on the consultation. The meeting on Thursday 10 November was attended by 28 parents. For those who were unable to attend, the presentation is on the school website. As questions emerge through the consultation period we will post them on the website too. The consultation closes on 25

Polite Reminder

The safety of our children is very important, please can parents/carers avoid parking in the staff car park at the beginning and end of the day. As the dark nights are upon us please be extra vigilant around the entrance to the Kier building site.

Thank you Mrs Gardonyi

You will have noticed on our Facebook page and Twitter feed that Mrs Gardonyi has given the school an amazing painting of the old school to go in the entrance of the new.

A rainbow over our new school

A perfect symbol for hope and positivity for the future.

