



**Lord Deramore's
Primary School**



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Headteacher Update



Google Chromebooks

Within school, we have been exploring how technology can help us move the quality of our teaching and learning even further and have recently invested in a new class set of Google Chromebooks. This set, shared between Years 5 and 6, is having an excellent impact on engaging the children in their learning – whether it be in school or at home. Thank you needs to go to Mr Robinson for leading recent staff training on the use of Google Apps.

Supporting our children and families

We have recently commissioned the charity 'Adoption UK' to lead a whole-staff training day in September on how best to support our adopted children and their families. As a school, we are constantly looking at both our universal and specialist provision and what we can put in place to support all groups of learners – whether they be boy readers, gifted mathematicians or those with special educational needs.



Keeping our children safe

This month, we have been evaluating our safeguarding and child protection systems and ensuring that they are secure. Caroline Williamson (Safeguarding Lead from City of York Council) came in to conduct a full audit on everything, ranging from staff recruitment and training through to e-safety and how we teach our children to keep safe online.

Science Week

The children throughout school recently enjoyed our annual Science Week. Mrs Gulliver, as science coordinator, had worked with the staff to organise a variety of practical experiments for the children to enjoy. This was alongside several visiting specialists who came into Lord Deramore's to inspire our future professors!



Drama Workshop

Mrs Jach organised for York Theatre Royal to lead a drama workshop with Years 3 and 4 yesterday on 'Everything is Possible: The York Suffragettes'. This play, which is currently being shown at York Theatre Royal over the next several weeks, is written by one of our very own Lord Deramore's parents - *Bridget Foreman* (Eve and Lilah's mum in Year 3). The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the concept and history of democracy, equal rights and the fight our ancestors had in order to have a voice. It was also great to see the children developing their drama skills – we certainly have some talented, young thespians here in school!



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<https://twitter.com/lordderamores>



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School Attendance

As a school, we are obliged to flag up children's attendance if it drops below 95% and have a statutory duty to formally monitor children with less than 90%. Naturally, we understand that children do need to take time off school when they are poorly but we must actively encourage parents to do all they can to keep their children's attendance as high as possible. This includes not organising family, study or work holidays during term time. Our current attendance figure this academic year stands at **96.4%** which is around the national average.

+98%	Outstanding Attendance
95%	Good Attendance
90%	Improvement required
Below 90%	Persistent Absentee

As we approach the end of the academic year, school staff are busy preparing themselves for the wide-range of events coming up. From organising our sports day and the Year 6 leavers' party through to finalising end-of-year reports and visiting our new starters in their pre-school settings – the last few weeks promise to go very quickly. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

James Rourke
Headteacher