



**Lord Deramore's
Primary School**



School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE

Tel: 01904 553890

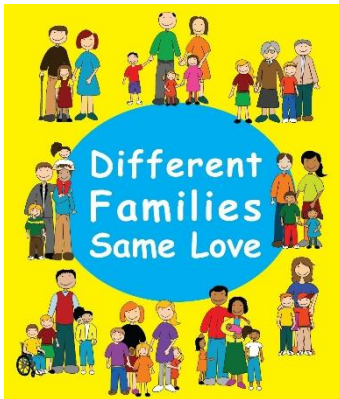
Email. lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk

Friday 6th October 2017

Headteacher Update

Morning Drop Offs

Thank you for the positive comments and feedback regarding our new morning drop-off routine. It is lovely to see the children settled and learning very promptly each morning. We will continue to trial the routine until October half term when we will make a permanent decision. Should you wish to share your opinion, please do email school via lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk



Different Families, Same Love

Thank you to everybody who has sent in a family photograph for our whole-school display. We are creating a display within our new school to celebrate the diversity of our Lord Deramore's families. It would be wonderful if we could have every family represented so please do take the time to email in a photograph by this Monday. The email address is listed above.

Robinwood Residential Visit

Our Year 6 children have just returned from an action-packed residential visit to Dobroyd Castle in Todmorden. They were excellent ambassadors of our school, exhibiting outstanding manners, teamwork and communication skills throughout their visit. On behalf of everybody here at Lord Deramore's, may I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for being such wonderful children. They have certainly made their parents and our school very proud.



National Fitness Day

Thank you to Mr Richards for organising an excellent range of activities for *National Fitness Day*. It was certainly an energetic experience and I was particularly impressed by his whole-school 'Mr Motivator' step aerobics lesson (complete with pink neon sports socks).

PTA 'Cook Out'

It was wonderful to see so many of you attending our recent Forest School 'Cook Out'. Events such as these are very unique to Lord Deramore's Primary School and we should feel rightly proud of our long-standing commitment to outdoor learning. Thank you to all of the parents who organised the event. We hope to see everybody at the next one!



Phonics Morning

Thank you to the many parents, carers and family members who joined us for our Phonics and Early Reading open-morning. It was lovely to see so many of you joining in with lessons and activities which promote children's early reading skills. If you were unable to make it, teachers would be more than happy to chat to you about any questions you may have. On Wednesday 8th November, we will be holding a similar morning for Key Stage 2 families. Save the date!

Extra-Curricular Clubs

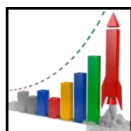
In our recent parental questionnaire (more details in this update), some parents asked us to increase the number of extra-curricular clubs on offer. Mr Richards has taken a lead on this area. If you have any contacts of who could potentially offer a club, please do pass on their details to him via mark2.richards@york.gov.uk.



This half term, we have 'Coding', 'Tu Tu Funky', Zumba, Football, Crafts, Multisports, Chess, Rock and Pop band, Orchestra and guitar tuition on offer. We aim to increase these further over the coming months.

School Development Priorities

Over the past few weeks, staff and governors have reflected on our school's strengths and areas for further development so that we can live out our vision of '**striving to be the best we can be**'. We have four core areas that we are working very closely on this year. I will update you regularly with our progress.



Priority 1: Embed a simple and accessible **assessment** system that informs future learning, promotes rapid pupil progress and ultimately ensures that all children reach their full potential.



Priority 2: Design our curriculum so that it further motivates and engages all learners, focussing especially on **writing** and narrowing any gender attainment gaps in literacy.



Priority 3: Strengthen further the provision for our most vulnerable learners, (particularly **disadvantaged children** and those with English as an Additional Language) so that barriers to learning are reduced.



Priority 4: Develop our indoor and **outdoor learning environments** so that our new school becomes a wonderful place for children to play, learn and grow.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

In order to provide the best possible support for our children, we are advertising for an additional Teaching Assistant to work with Mr Richards, Mr Sharpe and Mrs Lee in Years 5/6 – alongside supporting Mrs Hitchon in delivering special educational needs and English as an Additional Language support on an afternoon throughout the school. Details are on our website.

Parental Questionnaires

Thank you so much to everybody who completed and returned last month's parental questionnaire. We had **75** returns in total. It is extremely pleasing to report that **99%** of parents and carers would recommend Lord Deramore's Primary to others. Here are the results, complete with responses to some of the questions or queries flagged up. Governors and Senior Leaders will ensure that your views are considered and that regular opportunities are provided for you to feed into our school development work.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child is happy at Lord Deramore's Primary School (75 responses)	73% 55	27% 20		
My child feels safe at Lord Deramore's Primary School (74 responses)	81% 60	19% 14		
My child makes good progress at Lord Deramore's Primary School (74 responses)	64% 47	35% 26	3% 2	
My child is well looked after at Lord Deramore's Primary School (75 responses)	73% 55	25% 19	1% 1	
My child is taught well at Lord Deramore's Primary School (75 responses)	69% 52	28% 21	3% 2	
My child receives appropriate homework for their age (75 responses)	51% 38	37% 28	12% 9	
Lord Deramore's Primary School makes sure its pupils are well behaved (74 responses)	64% 47	36% 27		
Lord Deramore's Primary School deals effectively with bullying (68 responses)	49% 33	49% 33	3% 2	
Lord Deramore's Primary School is well led and managed (73 responses)	73% 53	26% 19	1% 1	
Lord Deramore's Primary School responds well to any concerns I raise (73 responses)	56% 41	40% 29	4% 3	
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress (75 responses)	59% 44	35% 26	7% 5	

Feedback	Response
School dinner issues and feedback	Jenny Scholes (School Business Manager) can relay any detailed feedback regarding menu choices or quality to Caterlink. She can be contacted via jenny.scholes@york.gov.uk . Naturally, our provider Caterlink is keen to work with school and families to provide the best meals possible.
Wet coats and clothing being stored in lockers	We are unable to place coat pegs in the vestibule areas because of lack of space and due to Health and Safety reasons. Because the cloakroom areas are emergency exits, coat pegs could potentially lead to coats being left on the floor and partially blocking escape routes. In order to allow children's wet coats or clothing to dry before being stored in lockers, teachers are allowing children to hang any damp clothing over their classroom chairs until they are dry.

We would like to see more extra-curricular activities	We have started to increase the number of extra-curricular clubs this term and have organised for a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team (Mr Richards) to lead on orchestrating this vital area of curriculum enrichment.
Homework	<p>We had several comments relating to homework. As you may be aware, the school reviewed its homework policy last year – taking on board parental, staff and children's opinions. Feedback during this questionnaire indicated that there was still a split between parents regarding the type of homework on offer. Some, for example, preferred the more formal activities of reading, maths and spelling whilst others appreciated the more creative and open-ended tasks available through the homework menus. There was also differing opinions regarding the length of homework and whether or not homework should feature within the primary school.</p> <p>Homework will always be a contentious issue within schools and not one policy will please everybody. We will therefore regularly review homework policies every few years to help us find the 'middle ground' as much as possible. Should, however, you have specific concerns about homework, please do speak to your child's class teacher.</p>
Timing of parental events	<p>One parent flagged up that many of the parental workshops / assemblies / meetings with teachers take place in a morning and hamper working parents' ability to attend.</p> <p>We will endeavour to keep this in mind in the future, attempting to hold events at differing times of the day to suit the wide range of working patterns our parents have.</p>
Cultural inclusion	One parent made an excellent recommendation about including a question on cultural inclusion and community cohesion within our parental questionnaires. This is something we are passionate about at Lord Deramore's and we will be working with the PTA over the next year to arrange further events and activities that celebrate our rich cultural tapestry.
Celebrating learning and achievements outside of school	We too realise how important it is to celebrate achievements and learning which take place outside of school. For that reason, we invite any children to bring in certificates / achievements on a Thursday assembly so that they are shared with the whole school alongside our <i>Shining Star</i> awards.



FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/lordderamoresprimaryschool>

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/lordderamores>



Please do remember to visit our Facebook and Twitter pages regularly to gain an insight into all of our work in providing the very best education for your children.

Now that we are firmly into the new academic year, it is wonderful to see lots of great learning taking place throughout school. We have had many new children and families joining us over the past few weeks and I sincerely hope that you are all settling in to our very friendly, diverse and happy community.

As always, thank you for your continued support.
Wishing you all a lovely weekend together,

James Rourke
Headteacher