

LORD DERAMORE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Year 3 and 4 Spring Newsletter 2018  
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**A very Happy New Year to all of you.**

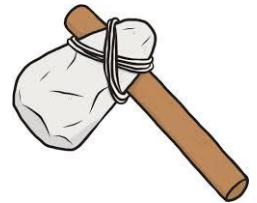
We hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday.

This term, we have planned lots of interesting and exciting activities which will consolidate and extend the progress made by the children last term. We were very pleased with the hard work of the children in Years 3 and 4 and wish to thank all of you for helping to keep the children organised with their belongings, reading regularly, learning spellings and completing homework on time. These things make such a difference to the children feeling happy and settled in school, and show we are all working together to help all our children be 'the best that they can be'.

This is an exciting time for Mrs Jach who will be starting her maternity leave at half term. We are delighted to announce that, just before Christmas, we appointed an experienced teacher called Mrs Katy McNichol to teach Year 3 alongside Miss McCormack. We look forward to welcoming her to Lord Deramore's.

### Curriculum

This term, we are going back in time to the Stone Age. We will find out where the Stone Age fits in the history of Britain and look at evidence from settlements such as Skara Brae. We will create our own 'ancient' art, including rock art and clay work. Our science work is based on Rocks and Soil and we will be finding out about the structure of different types of rock and how this affects their use. This term, Year 4 will continue to learn the violin with Mrs Diane Martin (Year 3 will start learning the violin in the summer term.) As part of PE, Year 3 and 4 will be working with the Mr Adam Prentis of York City Knights to learn rugby skills as part of the SkyTry programme.



### Homework

**Remember that all children have online access to Mathletics and Numbergym to practise maths skills at school and at home. Details for Mathletics log on are in the planners. After putting 'Numbergym' into your search engine, click on 'online access'. Username is l (lowercase L) and password is d.**

Last term, it was very noticeable that nearly all of the children brought the right things to school on the right day and handed in their homework on time. Thank you again for your support in developing the organisational skills of the children. Evidence shows that children make the most progress at school when they feel that the school and their families are working together.

Last year, as part of maths homework, we started giving out a half termly maths target instead of weekly activities. Focusing on one target has proved popular with many families and this is just a polite reminder that it is important that these skills are practised weekly if they are to be of lasting benefit to the children. Assessments in school clearly show how repeated practice of key skills helps children in all areas of maths. Please come and talk to us if you are unsure what to do.



Spelling homework will continue as before. Here is a reminder about the routine:  
Monday: Year 3 children will take home spelling activities to be returned to school ready for a test on Friday.

Tuesday: Year 4 children will take home spelling activities to be returned to school ready for a test on the following Monday.

Wednesday: In Year 3, homework books will be given out to be returned to school on the following Monday.

Thursday: In Year 4, homework books will be given out on Thursday to be returned to school on the following Tuesday.

We encourage the children to show you their homework and are happy for parents/carers to help, as you feel appropriate.

## Reading

So many studies show that reading daily to young children, starting in infancy, can help with language acquisition and literacy skills. This is because reading to children stimulates the part of the brain that allows them to understand the meaning of language and helps to build key language and literacy skills. As well as that, stories are a way of seeing things from the point of view of others and encourage discussion of why a character might have acted in the way they did, helping to improve empathy and social skills.



Children on book boxes continue to need support reading fluently for meaning. Children who are independent readers need support choosing appropriate books for their ability and developing the key skills of inference and deduction (ie. reading between the lines).

All children have a Planner and we would be grateful if you could note when your child has read at home, either with you or independently.

This term, Year 3 will visit the library on Thursday and Year 4 on **Wednesday**. The children may also visit the library independently one lunchtime per week.

## Lost Property

Every term we have an enormous amount of unnamed lost property. This is sorted through regularly and clothes which are named are handed back to their owners. Please check that **ALL** of your child's clothes / shoes / PE kit / bags etc are named. Trainers and wellies need to be in a **named** plastic bag.



## Forest Schools

Year 3 plan to be in the forest on Friday afternoons until half term. We aim to be outside whatever the weather so please can children bring warm clothes including a hat, as well as warm and waterproof boots. Year 4 will continue Forest Schools after half term.

## PE – please note change of days

Year 3 PE is on Mondays and Thursdays.

Year 4 PE is on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

PE may be indoors or outdoors and we expect children to have their full kit as detailed in the planner. We recommend that PE kit is brought to school on a Monday and then left in school all week, so it cannot be forgotten.

## Assemblies

Year 3 class assembly is on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**.

Year 4 class assembly is on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

We hope you will be able to join us at 2:45pm.

## Cooking

This term, Year 3 will be cooking as well as Year 4. Please can we ask all Year 3 children to bring a £2 contribution for ingredients? (Year 4 have already paid this.) The theme is 'melting' and we look forward to the delicious smell of biscuits floating down the corridor.

## Other Important Dates

2.2.18 Year 4 Football at Archbishop Holgate's School (morning only)

9.2.18 School closes at 3:15pm for half term

19.2.18 Back to school after half term

1.3.18 World Book Day (Start planning your outfit!)

9.3.18 Y4 Orienteering at Archbishop Holgate's School (morning only)

21.3.18 and 22.3.18 Parent/Teacher meetings

23.3.18 School closes at 3:15pm for Easter holidays

9.4.18 Back to school after Easter holidays

If you wish to see us about any aspect of your child's life in school, please pop in at the end of the school day or make an appointment via the planner. Alternatively, you can email [suzie.mckenna@york.gov.uk](mailto:suzie.mckenna@york.gov.uk) or [mary.mccormack@york.gov.uk](mailto:mary.mccormack@york.gov.uk) about anything to do with Year 3 or 4.

Best wishes,

*The Year 3 / 4 Team*

*Suzie McKenna*

*Steph Jach*

*Jane King*

*Alison Gulliver*

*Mary McCormack*