

Early Years Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2018

Welcome to the new school year and to the start of your child's journey at Lord Deramore's Primary School. We believe this is a very exciting time for you and your child as they 'Strive to be the best they can be.'



We have reached the end of the first week in school and the children have been absolutely fantastic. They have come into school, completed routines and enjoyed exploring their new environment. Over the coming weeks, they will get to know some more routines including lunchtimes, PE lessons and Forest Schools. If you are ever unsure about what a particular routine is or have any other question, please do not hesitate to ask us. You can catch us at the start or end of the day and we are more than happy to help.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to help the children settle into school, get used to the new routines and establish the rules we have to help them stay safe and happy. You can help at home by reminding them of the classroom rules:

- Tidy up as you go along – choose it, use it, put it away
- Use quiet voices inside
- Running is for outside

And of the general behaviour expectations:

- Listen to others
- Follow instructions straight away
- Be kind and respectful to each other

Baseline Assessment

We are enjoying getting to know the children and over the coming weeks, we will be completing a baseline assessment. This is an overview of what your child can do on entry into school, so that we can provide the opportunities they need to make progress. The baseline is carried out through observing, talking to and interacting with the children in the activities they have chosen to do. We will be using Tapestry Online Learning Journey to record the photographs and observations of the children. Over this week, we will be setting up your access to Tapestry, so that you can see what your child has been doing in school, comment on it and add your own photographs and information. You should have filled in a form with the email addresses you wish to link to your Tapestry account. If you have not, please speak to Mrs Carr. Once the accounts have been set up, you will be emailed a link to activate your access and set a password. You can then see the observations we have added and add your own. There may be something your child particularly enjoys doing at home or something they can do really well – we would love to hear about that and any information about your child that will help us to build an accurate picture of them at the start of their primary education. Please talk to us about anything that you think would be useful for us to know.

The next few weeks



In the coming weeks we will introduce some new activities to the children: PE – on **Friday afternoons** from 14th September. PE kits should now be in school, so that the children are equipped for their lesson on Friday. It should contain:

- White t-shirt
- Blue/black shorts

- Blue/black jogging trousers
- Blue/black sweatshirt or jacket
- Trainers (with Velcro fastening)
- Spare socks (particularly for girls who may have tights on)
- Spare pants (in case of accidents)

All items should be named. It would help enormously if your child can change into their PE kit and back into uniform as independently as possible. We are always happy to help a child who is struggling but, as you can imagine, helping 30 children would take a very long time.

PE kits remain in school for the whole half term as we use them for spare clothes in case of accidents. We will send them home if they need washing.

Forest School – on **Thursday afternoons** from 13th September. Your child will need to bring waterproof trousers, coat and wellies in a named plastic bag so they can change into them after lunch. They will leave school at home time in their forest clothes.



We will also introduce library sessions each Friday afternoon. Children will be able to select a picture book from the school library to bring home. Please send library books into school in your child's book bag each Friday so that they can select another book.

Next week the children will stay all day. The door will be open between **8.40am and 8.50am**. You are welcome to stay with your child until you feel they are settled at an activity. If your child is having a packed lunch, please put their lunch box on the trolley labelled EY, Y1, Y2 by the hall in the playground at the start of the day and collect it from there at home time. The menu for school dinners for the half term can be found on the school website <http://lordderamores.com/information-for-parentscarers/lunches>. At home time, the classroom door will be opened around 3.05pm. At the start of the year, it can take some time sending children out to their respective adults, so we will begin the process early to avoid the rush of the rest of the children leaving school. Please be patient with us as we learn which child belongs to which adult.

Buddies

We have allocated each child one or two buddies from the Year 6 class. These buddies will support the children in collecting and eating their lunch in the first couple of weeks. They will line up with the children, making sure they get all the things they need and they will eat dinner together. After they have finished their lunch, their buddies will take them into the playground to enjoy a run around with the rest of the school. We have found the buddy system to be very beneficial in supporting the Early Years children as they settle in to school and the Year 6 children love the responsibility.



Uniform

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform. Please make sure that all their uniform, shoes and coats are **clearly labelled** with their name.

Planners and Reading Books

Over the coming week, we will be giving each child their own planner to keep in their book bag. At this stage, the planner will be used for communicating between home and school. If you need to tell us something, it is useful to write it in the planner and then let us know there is a note in there when you arrive at school in the morning. The note may include information about who is collecting your child from school if it is someone different or information such as an appointment.



On Wednesday 26th September, there will be a meeting about phonics (learning letters and their sounds) explaining what it is and how we teach it. There will be an opportunity to share some phonics activities with your child. Following this, there will be a further meeting about how we teach reading in Early Years. At this meeting, we will explain the process of teaching reading, the reading books we use and some tips on how to help your child at home. Reading books will be introduced gradually over the half term, as children begin to learn the letters and sounds we will be teaching.

It is useful to get into a routine with reading, so can we suggest that until your child has a structured reading book, that you spend time each day sharing a story together. Once your child brings home a reading book, they can begin to share that with you too. When your child is ready, we will look at a book together in school before your child brings the book home. It is always useful to look at the book several times before it is changed for another book. Please continue to share other books with your child alongside the school reading books.

The planner is used for recording how the children get on with their school reading book. Please write the **title of the book** and a **comment** about how your child enjoyed the book each time you read together. We will write in the planner when we read with your child in school.

There will be a bookmark attached to the planner with some hints about how you can help your child. Please use the bookmarks to mark the current week in the planner. If you have any questions about how we teach reading or about your child's progress, please come and see us.

Please make sure book bags, planners and reading books come to school every day. The books we use are organised in a systematic way to help support the teaching of reading, we need to have a complete set when the next group of children are ready for the books.

Other things to remember



There is no need to send your child with a water bottle. Water and cups are available at all times and the children will be encouraged to drink whenever they need to. We will also provide a fruit snack in the morning and in the afternoon. If your child is under 5, they will be offered a drink of milk. Once your child is 5, you will need to arrange this through the Cool Milk scheme if you wish your child to continue to have it. (Please register at www.coolmilk.com a week before your child's 5th birthday).

Communication

We operate a paperless system at school. The majority letters will be sent to your email address via Parentpay – our payment and email system. However, if a letter requires a response, we will send a paper copy home. A letter will be sent home with details of how to activate your Parentpay account – please activate this as a priority to support the office as sending paper copies increases workload. Please ask if you need more help or information about this.

Each week there will also be information about what we are doing in class and what you can do at home to help. This information will also be sent via Parentpay.

Homework

Throughout school we send out a half termly homework menu. There are a number of different activities on the menu for you to do with your child. The activities are mostly practical and support the learning we are doing in the classroom. There is no need to hand anything in but if your child wishes to share something they have done, they can. We would also expect children to read their reading book with an adult several times a week.



Learning Journeys

In early years we observe and interact with the children in their chosen activities. We record some of these activities in their 'Online Learning Journeys' (Tapestry). Thank you to those who have returned their forms so that we can provide you with a login for the system. This login will allow you to see the observations, photographs and videos we record. It also allows you to comment on these observations and add your own observations. Over the year we will build a learning journey together for your child.

Observations

Once we have got to know your children, we will introduce focus observations. Each week we will do in-depth observations of three children. You will be informed at the beginning of the week that we observe your child. The following week, there will be an opportunity to come in for a ten-minute meeting to talk to us about your child's learning. Over the year, each child will have three focus observation weeks.

Once again, if you have any questions or comments about your child or about something we do, please come and ask.

Rachel Carr and Ann Bradley

Early Years Team

Important Dates:

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| 21 st September | Photographer in school to take individual photographs |
| 26 th September | Reading and phonics meeting 9.00 -10.00, school hall |
| 12 th October | Harvest festival (details of what items to donate will be sent home nearer the time) |
| 25 th October PTA | Disco and Pumpkin Competition (details to follow) School finishes for half term |
| 26 th October | Teacher training day |
| 5 th November | Children return to school for the second half of the Autumn term |

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