



Lord Deramore's Primary School



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Headteacher Update – September 2018

Staffing Updates

At the end of last term, we unfortunately said goodbye to two highly regarded members of our staff team. **Jenny Scholes** has been the school's business manager for several years and played a pivotal role in the acquisition of our new school. She has started within a promoted role as 'Estates and Facilities Manager' for the South York Multi-Academy Trust, based at Fulford School. **Sue Wilson** has also left Lord Deramore's after several years as a regular volunteer and teaching assistant within our inclusion team. She has now started at St. Martin's School in Fangfoss. On behalf of our entire school community, 'thank you' for your sterling work!



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Business Manager, **Sam Willsden**, who will be with us each Wednesday. We have also secured the services of **Penny Toye** who is now a midday supervisor, helping our children to have a safe and enjoyable lunchtime. Welcome to the team!

Governor Updates

At our final governing body meeting last academic year, **David Foster** stood down as a Foundation Governor after over forty years of dedicated service to Lord Deramore's Primary School. David, who was Chair of Governors until April 2017, was instrumental in the building of our new school alongside my predecessor, Mrs Powley. I am sure you will all wish to join me in thanking David for his service and achievements. He will be dearly missed by all of us and we sincerely hope that he will still visit us from time to time.



Doaa Shohaieb, who was recently appointed as a parent governor, has unfortunately had to resign due to her family relocating down south. For that reason, we will be holding a parent governor election in the next few weeks. More details will follow shortly.

A big 'Thank you' needs to go to **Mrs Jane King** who has been a superb staff governor during her tenure. She has been replaced by **Mrs Debbie Graham**.

Building Updates

The new curtilage fencing is being installed on our playground over the next few weeks, being fully completed during the October half term. This fencing will then fully secure the school site and demarcate the boundary between school and the new residential properties in the old building.

Annual 'Gentle Reminders'

School attendance

Please remember that I cannot authorise any family holidays during term time. I can only formally 'authorise' an absence if it is for *exceptional* reasons. Examples of this can be found on our absence request forms, which are available on the school website or via the school office. These must be completed for any planned absence. As always, we value your support in keeping our school attendance levels as high as possible and know that you understand the legal duty we have to promote good attendance.

Punctuality

Lessons officially start at **8.50am prompt**. School gates are opened from 8.40a.m. to allow children to gradually enter school and get settled. Any children arriving after 9a.m. will need to enter via the school office and will be marked as 'Late' on the school registers. School finishes at **3.15pm** and staff and children have been reminded about the importance of departing promptly so that parents and carers are not waiting too long.

After-School Clubs

Over the past year, we have worked hard to increase the number of extra-curricular activities and clubs on offer for our children – ranging from chess and tennis to cooking and piano lessons. Please be aware, however, that school only organises the external providers and cannot be held responsible for any last minute cancellations or issues.

Road and Pedestrian Safety

You may recall that City of York Council have responded positively to our complaints and concerns regarding traffic and road safety on Field Lane. We have been advised that traffic calming work and structural modifications have been prioritised and will be completed this financial year (before March). I will update you whenever we hear anything new. For now, please ensure that you continue to supervise your children closely – especially around the very busy Field Lane entrance.

Mrs Mohammed, our school crossing patrol officer, is currently on annual leave and will be returning this forthcoming Monday. Due to the inappropriate speed of some vehicles, please be extra vigilant when crossing Field Lane.

Parking

The University of York and St Paul's Church kindly allow us to use the church car park between 8.30-9.15am and 2.45-3.30pm on school days. If you park there at any other time, you could be fined by the University. The parking bays on Field Lane allow parking for up to 2 hours.

Please remember that the school car park is for staff only. Because of the recent landscaping, we have actually lost three spaces and so we only have enough space for staff. Visitors are encouraged to use the bays on Field Lane. Could you kindly remember to not stop inside or outside the car park entrance when dropping children off at Kids' Kabin. The entrance needs to remain clear at all times.

Parking on the yellow zigzags is illegal. We had some complaints last year from local residents regarding this and the council have indicated that they will be doing unannounced checks this academic year. Please do not run the risk of being fined.

Contact Details and Consent Forms

Thank you to all of those parents and carers who have completed and returned our new consent forms. Please remember that every child must have a completed form. Miss Nicholson will be processing all of the information in the next few weeks. If you change your contact details (particularly your emergency telephone numbers), it is vital that you inform school straight away.

Lord Deramore's Community 'Meet and Greet'

On **Wednesday 26th September** from **2.30pm in the main hall**, we are inviting families and friends - old and new - to an informal 'shared table' event. This will be an opportunity to bring cakes and food (of any tradition or cuisine) for fellow parents and carers to sample whilst getting to know one another over a tea or coffee.



It is truly lovely to welcome back all of our children and families after the long summer holidays. We have welcomed thirty Early Years children and ten children in other year groups this September. With only two potential places available throughout the entire school, we are certainly a popular choice for local families (and quite rightly so!).

As we start a new academic year, I just wanted to thank you all for the excellent support and encouragement you provide both myself and the staff team. We have a very special community here at Lord Deramore's and it is a pleasure to work with you all to provide the very best start in life for our children.

We have many exciting things planned for the year ahead and I am pleased to attach our 'Dates for the Diary' which outlines the provisional dates for many of these events. Please accept this with the caveat that dates do sometimes have to be altered due to unforeseen circumstances.

With very best wishes,



James Rourke
Headteacher