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22nd October 2020

Headteacher Update – October 2020

Staffing updates

We have appointed several new staff over the past few weeks and months. I thought I would update you all on these 'new arrivals' and am pleased to provide you with an introductory blurb from each of them.

Mrs Lauren Charlton Mathews – Office Administrator

Hello everyone! I am Mrs Lauren Charlton-Mathews and I have been working in the Office with Miss Nicholson since the start of term. After the half term break I will be "going solo" in the office on Thursdays and Fridays, and working with the team on a Monday.

I have felt really welcomed here at Lord Deramore's Primary School by staff, pupils and parents. I love the feel of the school and the statement on the Hall display really speaks to me: "Many Nations, One School". What a fabulous ethos!



In my time outside of school, I enjoy a range of interests including singing, reading, gaming (both PC and tabletop), crochet, sewing, and painting. I am very keen to learn new skills or languages. I find working in the garden very refreshing and what better than to indulge my passion for food than to do so with produce from my garden.

I look forward to getting to know everyone as the year progresses and I'm very grateful to you all for your kindness and patience.

Mrs Eleanor Jones – School Business Manager



Hello. My name is Eleanor Jones, and I am starting as the new School Business Manager after the half-term break, working 3 days/week. I have been working at York Steiner School for the last 5 years, and before that I taught Biology at York College.

I am excited to be joining Lord Deramore's School. First impressions are of a very friendly and happy community of parents, children and staff.

Outside of work, I play fiddle for a ceilidh band and a local Morris side, and I am always making things (knitting, sewing, baking spinning, origami), or working our

allotment, or walking our scruffy lurcher. My children are 15 and 16, and they are in Years 11 and 12.

Working in the back of the school office, I won't get to meet many of you that regularly, but I will try to get out and about once we are less restricted by Covid, so you can put a name to a face.

Miss Lydia Harrison – Year 3 Class Teacher (from January 2021)

In addition to our new office staff, I am pleased to finally let you know of our new Year 3 class teacher who will be joining us in January. Miss Harrison was appointed from an incredibly large field of 66 applicants. She is currently the Year 3/4 phase leader at St. Botolph's Primary in Knottingley near Leeds and has five years teaching experience, with a specialism in PE and sport. She will be teaching our Year 3 class full-time from January, coordinating PE across our school and also joining Mrs McCormack and Mrs Carr in leading English.

Hi everyone!

I have been teaching across Key Stage two for 5 years now and am very excited about starting my next chapter here at Lord Deramore's. I am passionate and enthusiastic about learning and love to instill curiosity and a love of learning with children I work with. Lord Deramore's is a very special place, even more so because I graduated here in Heslington at the University of York in 2013 before completing my teacher training. I am looking forward to becoming part of the community within Lord Deramore's and to get to know parents, staff and children well!



Other staffing updates

When Miss Harrison starts with us, our class structure from January 2021 will be as follows:

Early Years – Mrs Carr
Y1 – Mrs Gulliver and Mrs Jones
Y2 – Mrs McCormack and Mrs McKenna
Y3 – Miss Harrison
Y4 – Mr Sharpe
Y5 – Mr Richards
Y6 – Miss Smith

Our lovely Mrs Gulliver is currently off sick from school. She is making a steady recovery and we send her lots of best wishes and love from our entire school family. Mrs Jones has kindly been covering Year 1 on a full-time basis and this will most likely continue until Mrs Gulliver's return.

School Dinners

I am pleased to inform you that our school caterers will be re-starting on-site food preparation and minimal hot options from after half term. Menu details will be sent out to you shortly.

Covid-19

With the exception of our recent Early Years class closure, we have managed to survive a rather turbulent and difficult half term without many unforeseen issues. The children have been absolutely amazing and it has been an absolute joy to see them all

back enjoying everyday school life. We are still working within the control measures outlined by the government and will be using half term to revisit and review our school's risk assessment plans. Updated government guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

One of the main changes has been a requirement for all occupied areas/classrooms to have continuous ventilation. With the winter months approaching, it is therefore important that children wear warm clothing whilst attending school.

I continue to be very grateful to all of our families for keeping their distance on the school grounds, following government social distancing rules and keeping any symptomatic children off school.

School Development Priorities 2020/21

Our school development priorities are as follows: Wellbeing, a stimulating curriculum, and additional 'catch up' academic support. These are at the heart of our work for 2020/21.



Priority 1: Provide a safe and happy learning environment for all, being reactive to the ongoing needs of pupils and staff during the **Covid-19 pandemic**.



Priority 2: Continue to embed a **broad, rich and stimulating school curriculum**, with a particular focus on subject coordination skills in foundation subjects.



Priority 3: Strengthen children's **reading and vocabulary skills**, focussing especially on our lower-ability readers, disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.

As we end this half term, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all of my wonderful colleagues at Lord Deramore's. From the cleaners and caretaker through to the regular volunteers, office staff and teaching assistants. Their hard work, dedication, resilience and tenacity during this difficult time continues to impress me day in, day out. Thank you.

Wishing you all a well-deserved rest this half term. We look forward to seeing everybody back on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Rourke'.

James Rourke
Headteacher

Please remember that **school is closed for children tomorrow**. Our new half term will begin on Monday 2nd November.