



Lord Deramore's
Primary School



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18th December 2020

Headteacher Update – December 2020

Staffing updates

Mrs Amy Holden is unfortunately leaving us as a temporary teacher in Year 2. Mrs Holden was originally appointed to cover Miss McCormack's maternity leave and kindly agreed to stay on in Year 2 until the end of this term whilst we waited for our new Year 3 teacher to start in January. Colleagues gave Mrs Holden a socially-distanced 'farewell' in the hall on Tuesday which involved a lovely homemade cake by Miss Nicholson. Thank you, Mrs Holden, for all of your work at Lord Deramore's. You will be missed!

After Christmas, **Miss Lydia Harrison** will start in her position as full-time Year 3 Class Teacher. Over the past half term, Year 3 have started to get to know Miss Harrison. She cannot wait to start at Lord Deramore's and is really looking forward to meeting parents and carers over her first few weeks in post.



I would like to thank **Mrs Suzie McKenna** for working full-time over the past term. As you will know, Mrs McKenna usually works three days per week but kindly agreed to work full-time to support Year 3 during their transition from Year 2. Mrs McKenna will be reverting back to her Year 2 part-time role from January, working alongside Miss McCormack and Mrs Graham.

Mrs Alison Gulliver continues to take some time away from school. She sends her love and best wishes to everybody in our school community and plans to return when she feels better. Thank you to Mrs Jones for continuing to work full-time in Year 1 during Alison's absence.



We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Julika Matravers** who is joining our Inclusion team on a temporary basis. Mrs Matravers' children have all attended Lord Deramore's and she has been a regular volunteer at our school over the years. Julika will be working in Year 6 until the end of the academic year.

As part of our Covid 'catch up' plans, we have increased staffing capacity this academic year so that pupils get as much support as possible after the turbulence they experienced in the summer term. Alongside the appointment of Miss Havercroft in Year 5, we are also increasing Mrs Hitchon's hours and will be funding a lot of additional teacher hours for further boosters and interventions which will start in earnest in the New Year.

Class organisation (from January)

Early Years – Mrs Carr

Y1 – Mrs Jones (currently full time) and Mrs Gulliver (currently absent)

Y2 – Mrs McKenna (Mon-Wed) and Mrs McCormack (Thurs-Fri)

Y3 – Miss Harrison

Y4 – Mr Sharpe

Y5 – Mr Richards

Y6 – Miss Smith

Contact Tracing Arrangements – Christmas Holidays

If a child or staff member **tests positive** for Covid-19 up to and including **24th December**, please telephone or text me on our school's 'Covid Hotline' number **07385 893249** which will be regularly checked by myself. This will enable me to notify anybody deemed a 'close contact' after we have finished for Christmas.

Any confirmed cases after this date can be notified via our school email (lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk).

This past term has been very difficult for schools and families up and down the country. We have been wrestling with an ever-prevalent virus, continuous (and often last minute) government guidelines and several incidences of positive cases resulting in class closures and remote learning.

My colleagues and I – wonderfully supported by our dedicated Governing Body – have worked tirelessly to ensure that our children's school experience has been as normal as possible during this surreal time. I am incredibly indebted to them, to you and to our children for providing steadfast resilience in what has been such a challenging period.

2020 will be a year many are ready to put behind them and I sincerely hope that greater normality will return in the weeks and months ahead. For now, however, please enjoy a well-deserved rest this Christmas, stay safe and I look forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 5th January** – for a 2021 of fun, fulfilment, happy memories and not a face mask in sight!

With very best wishes,



James Rourke
Headteacher

Please remember that **school reopens on Tuesday 5th January for children** as we have a staff training day on the Monday.