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Thursday 22nd July 2021

Headteacher Update

Staffing

Mrs King

After 22 years of loyal and dedicated service to Lord Deramore's, **Mrs Jane King** will retire on Friday. Words cannot describe how much of an impact Jane has had on countless children and families during this time. She has been a hardworking, deeply committed and talented practitioner who is going to be missed by all of us. We wish Jane much joy and happiness during her retirement – she certainly deserves it!



Mrs Maddock

Some exciting news! **Mrs Becky Maddock** – our Year 1 Teaching Assistant – is expecting a baby in the autumn term. She will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this term. **Miss Kim Arthur** will be covering her maternity leave next year.



Miss Harrison

Some more joyous news! **Miss Lydia Harrison** will be getting married on Saturday 31st July. She will return to school in September as **Mrs Hiles**. On behalf of everybody, we wish her and her future husband, Jonny, lots of happiness together.

Mr Richards

At the end of this term, **Mr Mark Richards** will be relinquishing his phase leadership responsibilities. After several years of unwavering support to the school's Senior Leadership team, Mark deserves a massive "thank you" from my colleagues and I for all he has done to steer the school over the years. We will be welcoming Mrs Julia Jones onto the SLT from September.

Covid – School from September

Our school risk assessments are being reviewed this week, in line with the government's changes to the national and Department for Education guidance. When we return in September, some control measures will remain but most will disappear. Here is a brief overview:

- We need to keep good hygiene measures in place (handwashing, regular cleaning of surfaces etc.)
- We need to keep extra ventilation in place
- There are no bubbles as such, and we will not automatically close a class in the event of a positive case although we will notify all parents and staff immediately
- The responsibility for identifying close contacts in a school setting will lie with NHS Test & Trace (and not the school, as previously)
- Under-18 'close contacts' will usually be allowed to remain in school but will be advised to book a PCR test
- There will be no requirement for staff to wear face coverings around school or for parents to wear them at drop-off and pick-up
- Lunch and break arrangements will return to normal
- After-school extracurricular clubs will resume

The most important control measure will continue to be:

If somebody develops symptoms of Covid-19, they should remain off school and book a PCR test.

Whilst some of you may be nervous about the relaxing of measures, we are naturally obliged to follow the Department for Education's direction about school operations and work in line with any national restrictions in place. We will continue to work openly and transparently with all families to keep Lord Deramore's as safe as it can be. A detailed risk assessment will be available to share with you in September.

Phase 3 Summer Production

You will have received a link to our Phase 3 video production today. "*Wow! What a year!*" is a musical comedy all about how Covid-19 has affected our lives. Despite class closures, plenty of absences, 'secure bubbles', and a lack of a real life audience, the children and staff have put together a brilliant production which I am sure you will all enjoy. A special thank you needs to go to Mr Sharpe for the hours spent filming and editing the performance. Please remember though that the link and video must remain private and should not be uploaded onto the Internet or shared with anybody outside of your family.

Thank you!

Words cannot describe how touched we all were with the collective e-card sent to us yesterday. Your warm words of support and thanks were greatly appreciated by all of us. Your very generous gift is being shared amongst all of the staff – from the teachers and office team through to the cleaners and kitchen colleagues. Thank you also to those who have sent in cards and gifts. They are completely unnecessary but are warmly received by all of us.



Yesterday, I sat with the Senior Leadership Team to plan the calendar for next academic year. We have pencilled in all of the usual events - harvest festival celebrations, nativity performances, pantomime theatre visits, discos, music concerts, sharing assemblies, sports days....we truly cannot wait to get back to normality and experience a 'normal' school year. Let's keep our fingers crossed that everything keeps to plan!

This year has been difficult for everybody. Children have had their learning and normal school experiences disrupted. Parents and carers have had to cope with the trials and tribulations of home schooling (whilst working themselves!). School staff have had to work every day, adapt to different ways of teaching and cope with a never-ending (and often last minute) barrage of government direction.

As we end this 'unique' academic year, let us all join together as the amazing Lord Deramore's family to celebrate that we have survived and – in my opinion – thrived in the face of adversity. Enjoy a well-deserved summer break and I cannot wait to welcome you all back in September for a normal (fun-filled, productive and memorable) academic year.

Thank you for your continued support.
Best wishes,

James Rourke
Headteacher