



Headteacher Update – April 2018



Congratulations, Mrs Jach!

It gives me great pleasure to share the news that Mrs Jach has given birth to the lovely Henry who was born on 7th March weighing 8lbs, 8oz. Both Henry and mum are doing well. On behalf of everybody here at Lord Deramore's, may we offer Mr and Mrs Jach many congratulations!

Year 3

Mrs McNichol has settled in very well at Lord Deramore's and was pleased to meet many of you at last term's parent consultation meetings. Unfortunately, Miss McCormack has been absent for a couple of weeks due to the sad passing of her mother. Thank you to Mrs McNichol and Mrs King for ensuring consistency for Year 3 during this period. I am sure you will all join me in sending our deepest sympathy and warmest wishes to Miss McCormack during this sad time for her and her family. She is hoping to return very shortly.



Mr Sharpe

Following Miss Dickenson's permanent appointment at Dunnington Primary School, the governors unanimously agreed that a permanent contract should be offered to Mr Sharpe who was on a fixed-term, one-year contract. Thankfully (and not unsurprisingly), he accepted the position and is now a fully-fledged, permanent member of the Lord Deramore's staff team.

Miss Smith

I am pleased to inform you all that Miss Smith has been appointed as a lead moderator for the City of York Council. She was one of only a handful of teachers to pass the national tests and recruitment interviews. This means that Miss Smith will be leading on the moderation of Year 2 teachers' assessments of children's attainment throughout the city during this term. The number of sessions out from her own teaching commitment here at Lord Deramore's will be limited.



School Attendance

Our whole-school attendance so far this year is **96.73%**. As a school, we are aiming for 97% this academic year.

May I take this opportunity to gently remind families about the legal requirement for children to be in school during term time. Family holidays must not be taken during term time and have to be recorded as unauthorised. I am legally only allowed to authorise absences that are classed as 'exceptional', and am obliged to monitor and report any child's attendance to the local council if it falls below 90%.

Please remember that school begins promptly at **8.50a.m.** The playground gate will close at 9a.m. and any arrivals after this time will be marked as late and will have to enter via the school office.

Road Safety

Thank you for your ongoing support regarding road safety near the school. Two new pedestrian entrances, both located on School Lane, will soon be available once the landscaping is complete. This, alongside prioritised road modifications by City of York Council this financial year, will greatly help the situation. For now, please remember the following:

- Do not cycle on the pavement outside our only pedestrian entrance
- Ensure the entrance is free from obstruction
- Supervise children very closely around the area
- Cars must not park illegally – e.g. on the corner of School Lane or double-yellow lines. You must use the church car park or designated parking spots on Field Lane if commuting by car.



Mrs Mohammed's line manager at the City of York School Crossing Patrol Department is regularly reviewing and supporting her work – particularly until road and traffic calming modifications have been completed.

Building Update

As you can see, there has been great progress made in the landscaping of our external grounds. There is an update meeting with Kier Construction and the Department for Education later next week but we are hoping that the expected final handover remains planned for mid-May. Thank you, as always, for your patience and understanding.



Enterprise and Careers Week

Last month, our wonderful Mrs Pye organised an Enterprise and Careers week in which a range of activities took place in order to support our children's understanding of money, enterprise and the world of work. Several people – including parents – generously gave up their time to come into school to talk about their careers, ranging from professional playwrights and company directors to railway engineers and professional rugby players. The week also involved each class taking part in our very own *Apprentice* competition, in which they were tasked with making as much profit as possible from an initial £10. We've certainly got some future Deborah Meadens and Alan Sugars in our midst!



World Book Day

Despite the inclement weather, staff and pupils at Lord Deramore's managed to celebrate World Book Day in style, with a range of activities and workshops all designed to promote a love for reading. This year's winner of *Book Factor* was the reigning champion Mrs Gulliver whose *Macavity the Cat* character left a distraught Mr Toad (me!) in second place.

Chinese New Year

Thank you to Yuxuan's (Y3) mum who organised an exceptional day of activities and presentations to help us learn about – and celebrate – Chinese New Year. It was lovely to welcome friends from our local Chinese community, who showcased their music, art, food and culture with the children.



Parent Governor Elections

Congratulations and welcome to our new and returning parent governors – Doaa Shoahaieb and Ebony Wonnacott. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who volunteered for the role and took part in the election process.

Because of the 'excitement' of our OFSTED visitor and the extremely short length of the spring term, I seem to have inadvertently broken my promise of keeping you regularly in the loop with Headteacher Updates. For that, I apologise -- normal service has resumed!

Whilst writing this update, I decided to peruse the school's Twitter and Facebook accounts to remind myself about the events of the spring term. It is truly impressive! Lord Deramore's never fails to amaze me by its vibrant, varied and jam-packed curriculum and the effort and dedication which staff, parents and volunteers put into making our children's primary school experience one to remember.

On Monday, we receive the final list of children who has been allocated a place in our Early Years class for next year. Although we do not know their names, we do know that we are incredibly over-subscribed. This is a clear testament to the high-standing reputation of our school, its children and the whole community.

Have a lovely weekend together.
Very best wishes,

James Rourke
Headteacher