



School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE

Tel: 01904 553890

Email. lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk

Headteacher Update – November 2018

Staffing Updates

Mrs Jach is still on maternity leave, looking after the lovely Henry. She has provisionally indicated that she would like to return in February 2019. Miss McNichol has kindly agreed to stay on with us until then. We will update Year 3 parents and carers nearer the time.

Governor Updates

We received no nominations for the parent governor vacancy. This meant that the governing body was able to approach somebody who they felt would be beneficial within the role. **Heather Hawkins** stood for election in the summer term and narrowly missed out on being appointed so we felt that she would make the ideal candidate. Heather is mum to Maple (Y3) and Cora (Y1) and has been a highly-dedicated pre-school committee member for several years now. We look forward to working closely with her.

Here is some information about Heather:

I have lived in Heslington and Badger Hill for nearly 20 years, moving here in 1998 to study Computer Science at the University of York. I work part-time as a Software Developer in the Traffic Modelling team at an engineering firm in York, and have previously worked at the University of York. In my spare time I enjoy reading, sewing, hiking and spending time with my family.



I volunteer as the Secretary of Heslington Pre-School, and work closely with Lord Deramore's Out of School Club as we progress with the merger of these charities and fundraise for a new building. As a Parent Governor at the school, I believe my experience of using these services and working within these organisations would be beneficial as the school looks to work in partnership with them in the future. I am keen to support this fabulous school community over what I believe will be an exciting and challenging period!

If I had to describe the top three achievements in my life so far, they would be: my wonderful children; passing my PhD; and making my sister's wedding dress.

Building Updates

Governors last night approved our plans for an enclosed outdoor provision area for Phase 1. High-quality artificial grass will replace the large grass square in the middle of the playground and a new outdoor learning gazebo will be erected backing onto the playground, alongside a bench and seating area. The other half of the grass square will be part of the enclosed space leading from the Early Years external door. This means that Phase 1 staff will be able to better plan resources and activities to promote free-flow provision areas. We are hoping for this work to be completed before February half term.



Future plans this year involve an ecological area adjacent to the KS2 entrance doors and development of our playground.

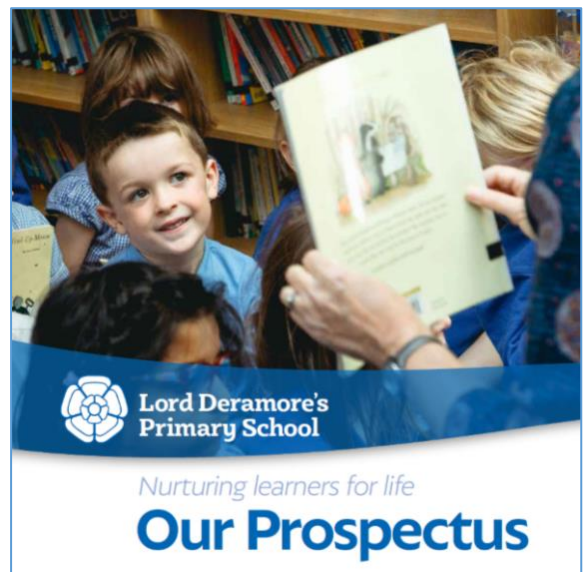
School Prospectus

As always in the autumn term, we are busy showing prospective families around our great school. In order to surmise what makes Lord Deramore's so unique and special, school staff and governors revamped our school prospectus. You can view it online here:

http://lordderamores.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Lord-Deramores_Prospectus_web.pdf

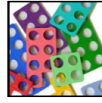
Should your child be featured in the prospectus, please do ask Miss Nicholson in the school office for a hard copy.

Please remember to recommend Lord Deramore's Primary to any of your friends, family or colleagues.



School Development Work

Last year, we worked hard to improve our assessment systems, the teaching of writing and our provision for disadvantaged learners. Following a thorough process of school evaluation (which included external visits from three primary leaders from other schools), we have identified our three focus priorities for this academic year. These are: mathematics teaching, science provision and our outdoor learning environments. Other priorities are identified for all subjects within the curriculum. These three, however, will have a higher profile this year.



Priority 1: Improve **pupil outcomes in mathematics** by developing children's reasoning, arithmetic and mental multiplication skills.



Priority 2: Ensure robust **teaching and assessment of science** across the school, improving pupil outcomes and raising the subject's profile.



Priority 3: Develop our **outdoor learning environments** so that our new school becomes a wonderful place for children to play, learn and grow.

As we approach the festive season, children throughout school are finishing off a busy and productive term before getting fully into the Christmas spirit next month. From nativities and carol concerts through to panto trips and class parties, this time of year in the school calendar really is a joyous and special one. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible joining in with the events planned – including our annual Christmas fair, kindly organised by the PTA.

Thank you for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

James Rourke
Headteacher