



School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE

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Headteacher Update – January 2019

Staffing Update

Mrs Steph Jach is returning to Lord Deramore's on Monday 18th February (the week before half term) after her one-year maternity leave. This means that Ms McNichol's last day will be Tuesday 19th February.

I am sure you will all join me in extending a very warm welcome back to Mrs Jach, alongside thanking Ms McNichol for her excellent work over the past year. She has been such an enthusiastic, caring and hardworking teacher who will be missed by both children and staff alike.

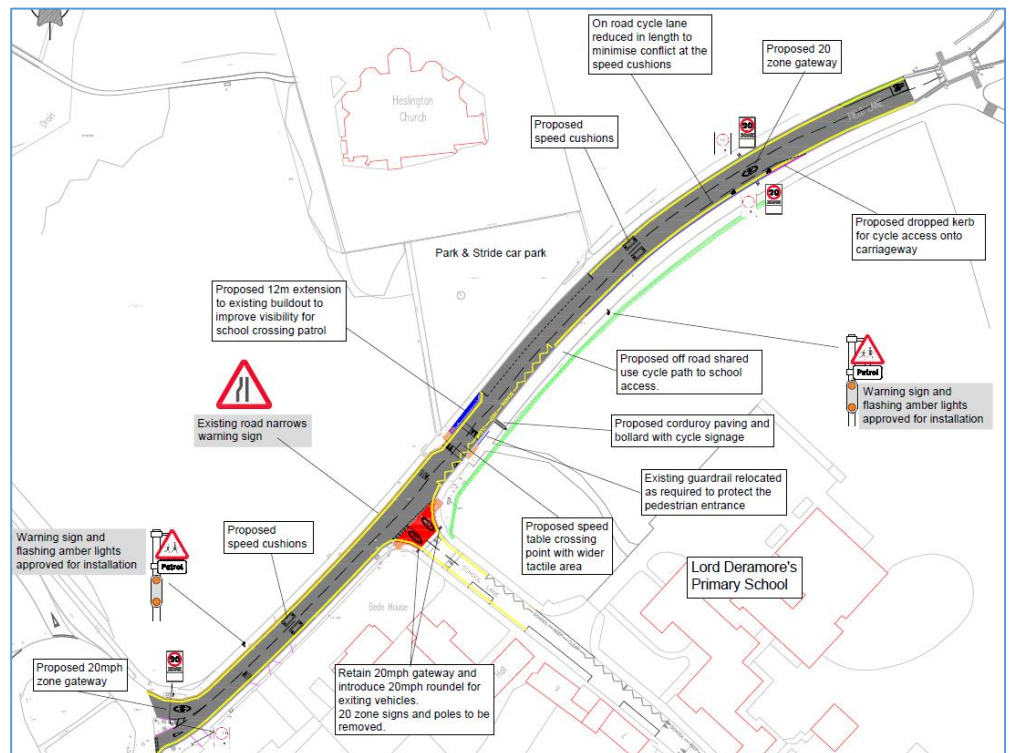
Mrs Bradley has been off school recently for a planned operation. We are very pleased to say that she is recovering marvellously and should be back with us by half term. Thank you to Mrs Newsome who is covering her work in Early Years.



Road safety

You will all be pleased to hear that City of York Council have now drawn up plans for improving the safety of Field Lane, following our concerns raised last year.

The plans (shown here) include making the road a 20 MPH zone, alongside installing a variety of traffic calming measures – including speed cushions, signage and flashing lights.



I will ask Miss Nicholson to forward you the official consultation letter for your reference. Please do email any comments to ben.potter@york.gov.uk before **Friday 8th February**.

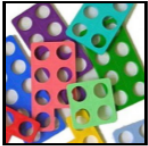


Parking

Last week, I spotted some traffic enforcement officers patrolling the area during school drop-off and pick-up times. Please do ensure that you drive and park safely at all times.

School Improvement Priorities – 2018/19

Over the past term, staff and governors have reflected on our school's strengths and areas for further development so that we can live out our vision of '**striving to be the best we can be**'. We have three core areas that we are working very closely on 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.

Scooter Park

Many of our children come to school on a scooter. Because of this, we would like to purchase and install a new scooter park so that these children can safely store them during the school day. Unfortunately, government grants for initiatives such as these have ceased. In order to help us get one installed at Lord Deramore's, please contribute to our online project fund if you are able to:



<https://rocket.fund/projects/11963/>

As the famous supermarket says, *Every Little Helps*

Portacabin update

Improvement works will be taking place on the portacabin roof over the next few weeks. Scaffolding is being erected on Friday 25th January and access to the staff car park will be limited so some staff will be parking in the school drive. Once the work has been completed, Kids Kabin and Heslington pre-school will be able to move back into their accommodation. Many thanks to City of York Council for supporting this work and to Heslington Church for housing our local pre-school.

Other Building Updates

Our new Phase 1 enclosed outdoor area will be constructed (hopefully!) during February half term. The outdoor classroom will take a little longer.

The new sensory room should also be completed by then and we will be arranging for Mrs Powley (my predecessor, who asked for her leaving gift to be donations towards the room) to officially open it.

School Attendance

As a school, we are obliged to flag up children's attendance if it drops below 95% and have a statutory duty to formally monitor children with less than 90%. Naturally, we understand that children do need to take time off school when they are poorly but we must actively encourage parents to do all they can to keep their children's attendance as high as possible. This includes not organising family, study or work holidays during term time. Our current attendance figure this academic year stands at **96.3%** which is around the national average.

+98%	Outstanding Attendance
95%	Good Attendance
90%	Improvement required
Below 90%	Persistent Absentee



FAMILY BINGO NIGHT – This Friday

Please do ensure that you get your tickets for the PTA bingo night this Friday at 6pm. Don't leave it too late as they always sell out!

Tickets can be purchased on the playground at drop-off and collection time. You can also buy them by emailing Miss Nicholson via lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk



FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/lordderamoresprimaryschool>

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/lordderamores>



Please do visit our Facebook and Twitter pages regularly to gain an insight into all of the school's exciting work, projects, visits and visitors.

Wishing the entire school community a successful and happy 2019!

With very best wishes,

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

James Rourke
Headteacher