



School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE

Tel: 01904 553890

Email. lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk

Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Headteacher Update – December 2019

Staffing Updates

Rosa

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of our latest addition to the Lord Deramore's family. Baby Rosa was safely delivered on 30th October and is absolutely beautiful. Miss McCormack, her partner Andrew and big brother Alexander are all delighted.



Staff Vacancy

In order to provide additional capacity for support within school, governors have approved the recruitment of an extra full-time teaching assistant to support teaching and learning. This is a permanent position, with a deadline for applications of Wednesday 8th January. Please spread the word. Full details are available on our school website:

<http://lordderamores.com/about-us/job-vacancies>



Mr Yates

Our amazing Richard Yates sadly informed me last week that he wishes to retire. Mr Yates kindly agreed to stay on in 2017 to support the school (and me!) during the transition from the old school and previous headteacher, Mrs Powley. Richard will be leaving at the end of February and I am sure you will all agree that he is going to be sorely missed by everybody. How on earth will we ever replace him!?

Mrs Mohamed

In further sad news, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Mohamed who has tendered her resignation to City of York Council as our school crossing patrol officer. Over the years, Omima has been the first smiling face to greet many of our children each morning. Thank you, Omima, for everything you have done! If you wish to contribute to Mrs Mohamed's leaving gift, please drop this into the school office by the end of this week. If you also know anybody who may be interested in replacing Omima, please tell them to call 07909 685095 for an informal chat about this important role.



International Supper Event

As a senior leadership team, we have been discussing more ways to celebrate our international diversity as a school family. We would like to arrange an international supper event in March and will be setting up a 'working party' for any members of our community who would be keen to help organise it. If you are interested, please email school via

lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk



Attendance letters

Twice a year, we are obliged to send attendance letters to the parents/carers of any children whose attendance is below 95%. Within this letter, we are keen to emphasise that school fully supports families for keeping their children off school when they are poorly. These letters form part of our statutory duty to monitor and promote good school attendance. Thank you for your understanding.

Development Priorities 2019/20

This year, we are focussing on three key areas to further develop our school. These relate to adapting teaching to support all pupils within lessons, promoting vocabulary development and ensuring that our curriculum is broad, balanced, creative and well-planned.



Priority 1: Effective classroom provision is in place for **low-prior-attainers** and those with **special educational needs and disabilities**



Priority 2: Pupils are exposed to a **vocabulary-rich curriculum** so that they know and understand more about the world around them and can read and speak with greater confidence and fluency



Priority 3: **Subject coordination** is strengthened further so that children in all classes receive an outstanding **curriculum offer**



Ministry of Defence

Service Families

We are delighted to have welcomed over fourteen new children this term whose families work in the armed forces. Following a successful bid for additional funding, I am pleased to announce that Lord Deramore's is receiving over £3,000 from the MOD to put in place some additional provision for our service children. Mrs Lee will be doing some initial work with them over the next few months.

Trees!

Following a condition survey on the numerous trees on our school grounds, some significant remedial works are required. These works (totalling an unexpected £15,000) will begin in the next few weeks. Children are still having 'Forest School' sessions but the official forest area is currently out of bounds until these works are completed. Please therefore do not use this area until further notice.



Early Years/School Places

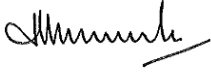
Every day over the past two months, I have shown many prospective families around our lovely school. It is always an honour and privilege to 'show off' the everyday life of Lord Deramore's and these families go away speaking very positively about our children and their wonderful behaviour and attitudes to learning. They truly are a credit to us all! The deadline for applications for Reception (Early Years) in September 2020 is on **15th January 2020**. Further information can be found at:

https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20171/school_admissions/179/starting_primary_or_infant_school_for_the_first_time

We are currently full in every single class, with waiting lists for each year group. Even though this is the case, please do continue to recommend our school to friends, colleagues, neighbours and family. With an official catchment area generally made up of the village, the University and fields, we are generally reliant on families coming from the whole of York (and beyond).

Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Christmas fair and festive performances.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Rourke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Rourke
Headteacher