



Lord Deramore's
Primary School



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Friday 24th April 2020

Headteacher Update – April 2020

Staffing Updates

During these strange and melancholy times, I thought I would start my monthly Headteacher Update with some wonderful news. **Mr Sharpe** and his partner, Ruth, are celebrating the safe arrival of their new little boy (name to be confirmed). On behalf of everybody at Lord Deramore's, I would like to send them our collective best wishes and a big "welcome" to the new addition to our school family.



Mrs Pye has given an indication that she plans to retire from teaching either at the end of the summer term or (depending on when normality returns to schools) in December. Mrs Pye has taught for an impressive **35** years and will be a sad loss to the teaching profession. News about staffing deployment for 2020/21 will follow later this term but we plan to make as few changes to deployment as possible.

Our new site manager and caretaker, **Mr Matthew Mason**, has now joined the team. We hope you will get to meet him on a morning when things return to normal.

We plan to recruit two new members of staff before the start of next academic year. One is a teaching assistant to join our special needs support team, working alongside children with Education Healthcare Plans (working pattern: Monday-Friday, 8.40am to 1.00pm). The other post is a job-share office admin post (2 or 3 days per week) as **Miss Nicholson** will be working part-time from November 2020.



Next week, we are sadly saying goodbye to our amazing School Business Manager (SBM), **Sam Willsden**. Sam has been with us for a couple of years now and has done a sterling job, particularly in relation to health and safety, premises and the support provided to the Kids Kabin Committee. She will be starting in her new role as Professional Assistant to the Senior Leadership Team at Archbishop Holgate's School. Thank you for all you have done, Sam! Our new SBM will be **Arran Brown** who is an experienced manager joining the City of York Council from a large primary school in Leeds. Welcome to the team, Arran!

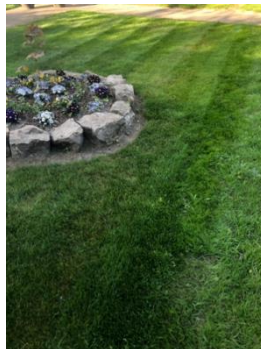
Thank You!

We are currently providing emergency childcare for a very small number of children each day (it averages about eight children in attendance on any given day). These children have key worker parents/carers who are in critical jobs directly relating to the national fight against Covid-19. Staff who are clinically able to be in school are providing this daily childcare on a rota basis. During the Easter holidays, three members of Kids Kabin staff kindly provided this childcare too. Thank you to absolutely every member of staff – working both within school and at home – for the work they continue to do. Whether that is carrying out doorstep visits to vulnerable families, preparing curriculum newsletters, making classroom resources or providing emergency childcare – we are very grateful to you all.



School Grounds

Miss Smith has been working very closely with a small number of school staff and pupils to spruce up our school grounds. The work she has done with Year 6 has paid dividends and school is looking beautiful this spring time. Here are just a few photographs so we can all appreciate the fruits of their hard work.



National picture

Just like us, I am sure you would all like to know when schools will re-open for everybody and some semblance to normality returns. Unfortunately, we do not know when this will happen. The Secretary of State for Education led last Sunday's press briefing and he stated that the government's five tests to prove the virus is in decline must be met before schools can re-open. These include:

1. The NHS is able to cope with the number of cases
2. There is a 'sustained and consistent' fall in the daily death rate
3. Rates of infection decrease to 'manageable levels'
4. Supply of tests and PPE can meet future demand
5. There is confidence that any adjustments would not risk a second peak or surge

For the time being, therefore, we must hope and pray that swift progress is made against the nation's fight against Covid-19. Please be reassured however that plans are in place for us to implement the government's reopening of schools as soon as they tell us.

Admissions

This year, we had over sixty first preferences for places into our 2020 Early Years cohort. This must be a record and certainly places us as a firm favourite amongst prospective York families. Thirty children have been allocated a place (many of whom have older siblings within school already). Mrs Carr has already sorted out information

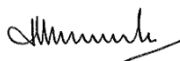
booklets which you should receive shortly and we have plans to ensure that some transition arrangements can take place during these strange times.

Secondary schools have been in contact with us regarding our Year 6 children's transitions. Virtual meetings are already taking place between our staff and Year 7/pastoral/SEND staff at local secondary schools. We will let you know more information about secondary transition plans whenever we hear more.

We all find ourselves in a very strange situation and wholeheartedly recognise that home schooling will be placing huge demands on your families – physically, emotionally and mentally. Please be kind to yourselves and recognise that all children throughout the country are in the same boat. Children will easily catch up academically when schools reopen, so please do not worry if you feel that OFSTED would put you into 'special measures' if they visited your household. The weekly curriculum newsletter activities are all optional and you can do as much or as little as you would like (or can). If you ever would like any additional support, advice or would just like to get in touch, please do email your child's class teacher(s) – they love hearing from you all!

Keep well, stay safe and remain positive – this too will pass.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Rourke', with a horizontal line underneath.

James Rourke
Headteacher