



Lord Deramore's  
Primary School



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## RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear parents and carers,

The local authority has asked me to communicate the following statements to all parents and carers so that you are kept fully aware of city-wide decision and discussions relating to school provision across York.

### COVID CATCH UP PLAN

The government announced a £1billion catch up plan to address the disruption to children's education during the Covid-19 pandemic on 19 June:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

It has been widely reported that this will provide schools with up to £90 for each pupil to fund catch up activities and additional money to deliver one to one tuition for Disadvantaged pupils. The government has not yet published the guidance for schools on delivering this plan, or the amount of money which each school will receive. Parents/carers should not expect that £90 will be allocated to their child, or that they will definitely receive one to one tuition using this funding or through the National Tutoring Programme, which was also included in last week's announcement. The additional funding is to be spent across the next school year (September 2020 to July 2021) and we will develop our plans to use it when the government guidance has been published.

It has also been widely reported that schools could use catch up funding to run Summer Schools. In the absence of detailed information, this would be very difficult to manage and there is little evidence of pupils catching up as a result of Summer Schools. In York, schools will only run Summer Holiday activities which are already established and run every year. ***At Lord Deramore's, we do not normally provide a summer club. However, we will pass on information about local summer provision – including the one run by Total Sports at Archbishop Holgates' School.***

### PUPIL TRANSITIONS AT THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR

We know that parents/carers are rightly concerned about the impact on their children's progress because they have missed so much time in school. The Covid-19 pandemic means that no pupils have received the teaching and learning opportunities they would have done under normal conditions. Because all pupils have been affected, schools in York agree that they should all start school or move to their next year group in September 2020 as usual. We will be working throughout next year to ensure that key areas of learning which have been missed are covered and that all pupils are given every chance to catch up.

## PLACES IN SCHOOL FOR THE REST OF THIS TERM (PRIMARY)

The government announced on 24 June that there would be a significant relaxation of lockdown arrangements from 4 July, including a reduction in social distancing from 2m in some circumstances. The new guidance makes it clear that the government's plan is for all students to return to school in September and that further guidance will be published on this:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing-after-4-july>

It has, however, already made clear statements about the expectations on schools for the rest of this term – “*There is no expectation on primary schools to welcome back additional children where they do not have capacity to do so*”:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Because we now have to work to a maximum class size of fifteen we need at least twice as many classrooms and teachers as we did before the pandemic. This means that we will not be able to set up additional classes and offer more places to pupils this term. The government has not yet published guidance for schools for opening next term. As soon as it does, we will be working to develop a plan for running the school in September which is safe for pupils, staff and families. We will keep you fully informed at every stage.

## PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Transitions visits for pupils and parents would, under normal conditions, taken place starting this week. These are not happening this year due to government guidance:

*In year 6 it is unlikely that many of the end of term traditions will be able to take place, for example, whole year or class assemblies with parents, school journeys and trips. Schools should provide opportunities for children to discuss this as it may be a source of anxiety or sadness. Though visits to secondary schools for induction will not take place this year, some secondary schools may have capacity to undertake remote induction briefings or other types of sessions for pupils, for example, to meet form tutors, heads of year, or other key staff, or have a tour of the school virtually. You should discuss the options with your secondary schools.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

The city's secondary schools have agreed that small numbers of vulnerable pupils, mostly those with higher levels of special educational needs and covered by Education, Health and Care Plans, will be invited in for individual meetings / tours.

Secondary school pastoral leaders and special needs coordinators have been closely liaising with us and other primary schools to ensure that detailed information to support children's transitions and onward progress is transferred between schools and passed on to teachers.

They are also providing information and support directly to pupils joining their schools in September. Approaches include:

- Online meetings between new pupils and their form tutors
- Phone calls to parents
- Work packs
- Competitions and activities

Secondary schools are also posting information and resources on their websites.

As you can see from the guidance quoted above, there are limits on what we can do this year to recognise and celebrate the time our Year 6 pupils have spent with us as they leave to join secondary schools in September. We cannot invite groups of people, such as parents/carers into the school or onto the school site because this would conflict with the current rules on public gatherings. Similarly, anything we do with pupils must minimise contacts and comply with social distancing. ***At Lord Deramore's we have arranged for our current Y6 cohort to be split in half and receive one day of face-to-face transition activities/support before the end of term on either Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July or Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July. We will also ensure that all of our Y6 children are invited back to Lord Deramore's – even for just one day – once normality returns. A celebratory party will also be arranged.***

## PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER

Through the York Schools and Academies Board the council, Multi-Academy Trusts and schools have agreed some key principles around planning for September:

1. We are committed to full opening of all schools in September in line with recent government announcements and to making schools and schooling as normal as possible.
2. When the DfE guidance is published (it is expected today or later this week), we will work together to develop logistical approaches which may include some variations from schools' standard operating models depending on context.
3. Whenever necessary we will work together to ensure that there is access to education for any pupils who are not able to attend school at any stage. This may arise, for example, due to transport issues or the temporary full or part closure of a school.

As always, I will continue to keep you updated about plans and developments. I appreciate your continued understanding and patience during this very difficult time.

With very best wishes,



James Rourke  
Headteacher