



Early Years Newsletter

— Autumn Term 2021 —



Welcome to the new school year and to the start of your child's journey at Lord Deramore's Primary School. We believe this is a very exciting time for you and your child and we are so proud to have them here. They have all now met each other and friendships are already starting to form. Given the unusual start to the year and their fragmented time over the last year and a bit, they have shown great maturity and empathy for each other. We are blown away by how well they have adapted and how lucky we are to have such wonderful children joining our school.

We have reached the end of our transition weeks and the children have been absolutely fantastic. They have come into school, completed routines and enjoyed exploring their new environment. Over the coming weeks they will get to know some more routines including lunchtimes, PE lessons and Forest Schools. If you are ever unsure about what a particular routine is or have any other question, please do not hesitate to ask us. You can catch us at the start or end of the day and we are more than happy to help.

Over the next few weeks we will continue to help the children settle into school, get used to the new routines and establish the rules we have to help them stay happy and safe. You can help at home by reminding them of the classroom rules:

- Tidy up as you go along – choose it, use it, put it away
- Use quiet voices inside
- Running is for outside

And of the general behaviour expectations:

- Listen to others
- Follow instructions straight away
- Be kind and respectful to each other

From this week, the children will stay all day. The door will be open between **8.40am and 8.50am**. If you arrive after that time and the gate to the playground is locked, please enter school via the office. You are welcome to stay with your child until you feel they are settled at an activity. If your child is staying for a packed lunch, please put their lunch box on the trolley in the playground by the hall, at the start of the day and collect it from there at home time. The menu for school dinners can be found on the school website <http://lordderamores.com/information-for-parentscarers/lunches> At home time, the classroom door will be opened at 3.15pm.

Baseline Assessment

We are enjoying getting to know the children and over the coming weeks, we will be completing a baseline assessment. This is an overview of what your child can do on entry into school, so that we can provide the opportunities they need to make progress. The baseline is carried out through observing, talking to and interacting with the children in the activities they have chosen to do. We will be using Tapestry Online Learning Journey to record photographs and observations of the children. We have set up your access to Tapestry, so that you can see what your child has been doing in school. You can comment on these moments and you can add your own photographs and information of moments outside of school. There may be something your child particularly enjoys doing at home or something they can do really well – we would love to hear about that and any information about your child that will help us to build an accurate picture of them at the start of their primary education. Please talk to us about anything that you think would be useful for us to know - it all makes a difference and helps us build stronger relationships with your children which helps them to grow and develop.

P.E. - Friday Afternoons

Friday afternoon is Mr Sharpe's planning and preparation time so the children will be taught by the school PE consultant, Mr Holmes. He will work with Mrs Bradley and Mrs Thompson. The children will have a PE session at the beginning of the afternoon and will access provision in the classroom at the end of the afternoon. PE kits should now be in school, so that the children are equipped for their lesson on Friday.

Their PE bag should contain:

- White t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black jogging trousers
- Black sweatshirt or jacket
- Trainers (with Velcro fastening)
- Spare socks (particularly for girls who may have tights on)
- Spare pants (in case of accidents)

All items should be named. It would help enormously if your child can change into their PE kit and back into uniform as independently as possible. We are always happy to help a child who is struggling, but as you can imagine, helping 30 children would take a very long time.

PE kits remain in school for the whole half term as we use them for spare clothes in case of accidents. We will send them home if they need washing.

Forest School - Thursday Mornings

Your child will need to wear waterproof trousers, coat and wellies. Please send your child in their forest clothes as we will go out as soon as we have completed our morning routines

and visited the toilet. They will need to bring their school shoes to change into following forest schools and a named carrier bag to bring their forest clothes and wellies home in. As the weather gets colder, you may want to send your child in more layers also.

Buddies

We have allocated each child one or two buddies from the Year 6 class. These buddies will support the children in collecting and eating their lunch in the first couple of weeks. They will line up with the children, making sure they get all the things they need and they will eat dinner together. After they have finished their lunch, their buddies will take them into the playground to enjoy a run around with the rest of the school. We have found the buddy system to be very beneficial in supporting the Early Years children as they settle in to school and the Year 6 children love the responsibility.

Uniform

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform. Please make sure that all their uniform, shoes and coats are **clearly labelled** with their name.

Planners and Reading Books

Over the coming week, we will be giving each child their own planner to keep in their book bag. At this stage, the planner will be used for communicating between home and school. If you need to tell us something, it is useful to write it in the planner and then let us know there is a note in there when you arrive at school in the morning. The note may include information about who is collecting your child from school if it is someone different or information such as an appointment.

Reading books will be introduced gradually towards the end of this term (around Christmas), as children begin to learn the letters and sounds we will be teaching. Our aim is to foster a love of reading and would encourage you to continue sharing your favourite books at home. Your child may have mentioned our class 'Book Cooks'. These are two little puppets that offer the class new books to read and these centre around a certain theme. We have spent this week looking at books following the theme 'Starting School'.

We will also introduce library sessions each week. Children will be able to select a picture book from the school library to bring home. We will let you know when we are starting these sessions. Please send library books into school in your child's book bag on library day each week so that they can select another book.

Fruit, Milk & Water

Water and cups are available at all times in the classroom and the children will be encouraged to drink whenever they need to. We also provide a full fruit bowl every day so that they can help themselves as and when they are hungry throughout the day. If your child is under 5, they will be offered a drink of milk. Once your child is 5, you will need to arrange this through the Cool Milk scheme if you wish your child to continue to have it. (Please register at www.coolmilk.com two weeks before your child's 5th birthday).

Communication

We operate a paperless system at school. The majority of letters will be sent to your email address via Parentpay – our payment and email system. However, if a letter requires a response, we will send a paper copy home. You should have now accessed your Parentpay account. Please ask if you need more help or information about this.

Each week there will also be information about what we are doing in class and what you can do at home to help. This information will also be sent via Parentpay.

Homework

In Early Years we send out a half termly homework menu. There are a number of different activities on the menu for you to do with your child. The activities are mostly practical and support the learning we are doing in the classroom. There is no need to hand anything in but if your child wishes to share something they have done, they can.

Observations

Once we have got to know the children, we will introduce focus observations. Each week we will do in-depth observations of three children. You will be informed at the beginning of the week that we observe your child. The following week, there will be an opportunity to come in for a ten-minute meeting to talk to us about your child's learning.

Topic

Our topic this term is Toys. We will be talking about our favourite toys, what toys are made from and how toys have changed compared to the ones our parents might have played with. We will be reading stories about toys.

Reminders

- School starts at **8:40am**. The cloakroom door will close at **8.50am prompt**. A member of staff will be at the door to welcome children.
- Your child will need a book bag or similar to carry their books and planner to school.
- Children will be provided with a snack of fruit or vegetable during the morning and afternoon so there is no need to send snacks to school.
- School finishes at **3:15pm** and children will be handed over to the appropriate adult by a member of staff.
- If your child is going home with someone who is not on your list of adults collecting please write it in their planner and ensure an adult knows.
- Please let us know if you wish to add adults to the list of who can collect our child.
- Our weekly newsletter will be sent out each Monday and will give information about what is happening in class.
- Quick messages can be passed on when you drop off or pick up your child, but if you have any questions or concerns, you can email the teachers or we can arrange a meeting.

Important Dates

Friday 8th October	Harvest Festival collection
Thursday 21st October	Pumpkin Competition & Halloween Disco
Friday 22nd October	Break up for half term holiday
Monday 1st November	Return to school
Tuesday 2nd November	Phonics/reading workshop
Friday 12th November	Non-uniform day for Children in Need
Wednesday 1st December	Phase 1 Nativity play
Thursday 2nd December	Phase 1 Nativity play
Friday 3rd December	FOLDS Christmas Fair
Wednesday 15th December	Visit to Theatre Royal Pantomime
Thursday 16th December	Break up for Christmas holiday

Once again, if you have any questions or comments about your child or about something we do, please come and ask or contact me via my email asharpe@lordderamores.com

Adam Sharpe, Ann Bradley & Claire Thompson
— The Early Years Team —

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