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Phase 2 Autumn Term

Newsletter

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WELCOME BACK! We are so happy to welcome you all back to school. We cannot wait to catch up with everyone. A special mention to our Year 3 children who have made the move from KS1 to KS2 and a very warm welcome to all our new families joining us at Lord Deramore's and in Phase 2.

We know that some families may be feeling nervous about the return to school after the disruption caused by Covid. Please be reassured that we have worked hard with your child/ren's previous teachers to ensure we tailor our planning to this unique situation.

Mrs McKenna and Miss McCormack are the Phase 2 leaders. Please do get in touch with us via email should you have any questions or concerns.

Welcome Meetings

Welcome Meetings will take place on Zoom during the second week of term. Please don't worry if you can't attend your class meeting as we will email the presentation to all parents. Following that, if there is anything you want to ask, do not hesitate to email us.

Year 2: Thursday September 16th at 2pm

Year 3: Tuesday September 14th 2pm

Communication

Parent / teacher meetings will take place after school on the 12th and 14th of October. We will send more information out nearer the time.

If you wish to talk to us about your child before then, feel free to phone or email to make an appointment or write a note in your child's planner.

Reading

We will be introducing a number of changes in Phase 1 and Phase 2 this year in terms of how we teach phonics and early reading. Please look out for a more detailed letter in the next few days. We will also run a workshop on early reading after half-term when we hope to have all our new systems in place.

In Phase 2, we will work with the children to develop a love of reading and will read with and to the children as often as possible. In the autumn term in Year

2, we will have a focus on revising and developing the phonics skills. Most children will be following the reading scheme as well as choosing their own library books.

During their time in Year 3, some children might be ready to leave the security of the structured reading scheme. This is a crucial time when children may need support to choose appropriate books, which interest and excite them.

It is sometimes assumed, that, once a child can read fluently, they no longer benefit from reading with an adult. However, research shows that children who continue to read with an adult are more likely to have better comprehension skills and be readers as adults. You are your child's best role model and can have a great influence on their reading ability and understanding. Therefore, we would encourage sharing a book, and talking about the content, with your child for a short time as often as you can.

Reasons to read a book:

1. Reading a book helps to develop imagination and empathy.
2. Reading improves vocabulary, sentence structure and language skills.
3. Reading slows down the heartrate and reduces feelings of stress.
4. Reading a book increases knowledge of the world and the people in it.
5. Reading can be done quietly by yourself or is a lovely way to spend time with someone else.
6. Children who read regularly tend to achieve better in school.
7. Reading improves your memory.
8. Reading is a cheap and portable lifelong hobby.

After you have heard your child read, please record the title and tick the appropriate box in the planner. Reading books will not be sent home in the first week.



Library Days

Your child will bring a library book home to share each week. Your child may not be able to read this book independently. It would be great if you could share it with them. You can make a note in your child's planner to let us know you have shared this book too if you want.

Year 2: Please can library books be returned on a Friday.

Year 3: Please can library books be returned on a Monday.

As this term goes on, we plan to introduce a system where the children can

change their library book on other days of the week too. Look out for more information in the weekly note.

Homework

Each half term, the children will bring home a homework menu. They should pick one activity from this each week and should spend around half an hour completing it. There will not always be something physical to hand in so please sign and date the homework menu so we know which activity they have completed. Homework books should be returned to school each week even when no work has been recorded in it.

Year 2 and Year 3:

Homework books will be given out on Friday and should be returned to school on the following Wednesday.

Spelling folders/books will be given out on a Monday and should be returned on a Friday.

Curriculum

This term, our phase topic is Romans. We will be learning about why the Romans invaded, representations of Boudicca and how Roman and Celtic lifestyles contrasted and why the Roman Empire came to an end. More detailed information will be available on the school website shortly.

Forest School

Year 2 – Monday pm

Year 3 – Friday pm

PE

Year 2 PE will be every Tuesday. The day of the other session will vary.

Year 3 PE is on Tuesday and Friday.



Please can the children bring their full kit as detailed on the website and in the planner. We recommend that PE kit is brought to school on a Monday and then left in school until Friday, so it cannot be forgotten. Earrings must be removed for PE. If your child cannot remove their own earrings, please ensure they do not wear them on PE days. If their ears have only recently been pierced, and the earrings cannot be removed, please send your child with medical tape to cover them.

Food and Drink!

Please can all water bottles be clearly named. We encourage the children to bring a snack for morning break. Please can this be fruit or veg only. We will provide a similar snack for afternoon break in Year 2.

Start and End of the School Day

Year 2: Please can all children enter and leave school via the classroom door.

Year 3: Just a reminder to the Year 3 parents that, at the end of the day, the children will come round the side of the building at the back of the hall (mostly) independently. They are regularly reminded to find an adult from school if they cannot see their parent.

Year 2 Assessments

During the second half term, we will carry out the statutory Phonics Screening Check which the children would usually have taken at the end of Year 1. This assessment is very similar to the activities the children will be used to from our daily phonics lessons.

Just a reminder that Year 2 statutory assessments (SATs) take place during May. Please do not book any family holidays during this month. We will provide more information about these assessments at the Welcome Meeting.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us should you have any questions, queries or concerns. You can contact us via a note in your child's planner, a call to the school office or by sending us an email:

Miss McCormack: mmccormack@lordderamores.com

Mrs McKenna: smckenna@lordderamores.com

Mr Richards: mrichards@lordderamores.com

Best wishes,

Mary McCormack

Suzie McKenna

Mark Richards

Sarah Pierotti

Debbie Graham

Important Dates

Harvest Festival – Friday 8th October (for children only)

Individual / family photos – Thursday 21st October

Pumpkin Competition day and Halloween disco – Thursday 21st October

Half Term holiday starts – end of school Friday 22nd October

Return to school – Monday 1st November

Reading workshops – Tuesday 2nd November

Children in Need – Non Uniform day – Friday 12th November

PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 3rd December

Phase 2 Christmas Show – Wednesday 8th December @ 2:00

Thursday 9th December @ 9:15

Christmas Dinner Day and Theatre Royal Panto – Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Parties and Christmas Jumpers- Tuesday 14th December

Christmas holidays start – end of school Thursday 16th December