



Early Years Newsletter

— Spring Term 2022 —



Welcome back to school for the Spring Term. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year holiday. Thank you to everyone for their kind messages, Christmas cards and gifts, and for everything you do to make sure your children are prepared for their time in Early Years. It has been a hectic first term but they are such an amazing group of children!

Topic

Our topic this term is **Superheroes** which we will be exploring through stories and games. We will be having a superhero day. Children will do superhero activities and can dress as their favourite superhero, either real life (eg doctor, firefighter) or imaginary.

Learning

This term we will continue to follow the children's interests and we will be teaching and extending their learning through their play.

We will continue to tell our helicopter stories and act them out on the same day. The children enjoy the opportunity to tell their stories and are super excited to start their next batch.

In our phonics this half term, we will be moving on to our Phase 3 sounds which involves more digraphs ("two letters, one sound" – e.g. ai, ee, or, ng) and being introduced to our first trigraphs ("three letters, one sound" - e.g. igh). We will also continue to practise blending (putting sounds together – c-a-t = cat, and segmenting – splitting words up into their sounds – dog = d-o-g). Please continue to support your child by helping them to 'tune in' to sounds by playing games such as I spy, listening to and making up rhymes and orally blending and segmenting.

In maths we will continue to learn about numbers, exploring how they are made and practising counting lots of different things. We particularly enjoy watching 'Numberblocks' on CBeebies and singing number songs such as '5 Little Speckled Frogs' which reinforces our mathematical understanding.

Alongside this we will also have weekly PSHE (Personal, Social, & Health Education) sessions through our Jigsaw scheme, we will be learning about other religions within our RE sessions, we will have daily handwriting exercises and practise in our Pen-Jitsu and Dough Disco sessions.

Reading

Our aim is to foster a love of books where children read for enjoyment and information and we will continue to share stories at school through our Book Cooks sessions. Each week the Book Cooks choose a theme and then choose four books for the children to enjoy that underpin this theme. The Book Cooks will be introducing and reintroducing them to lots of stories and books at the end of each day - a part of the day, they all adore.

The children are having regular reading sessions now. During these sessions we reread the same book, reading the sounds and words at the front of the book first, and then decoding the book by sound talking the sounds and then blending them together to read words. We then focus on comprehending the text and also trying to read with expression or for meaning (prosody). They will then bring this book home with them to read to you as often as possible before bringing them back the following Monday.

Please use their planners to write any comments on how they have got on with it. You will likely still find them sound talking out loud before they blend the word but we encourage them to have a go at sound talking in their head and then saying the word. You may even find that they can read the word from memory. We send this book home so that the children can show off their increasing confidence and skill, so do celebrate their achievements.

The children also choose a book for sharing from our class library and this is a book that they will likely need read to them for pure enjoyment. Please take the time to make this part of your routine as the next few years are such an integral stage for them when developing their first steps in a lifelong love of reading.

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 or you can upload it to Tapestry.

Observations and Tapestry

We have just finished our first round of observations. We will begin the second round after half term. You will be sent a letter telling you that your child will be observed the week before they are to be observed. There will also be another opportunity to come into school to meet staff and discuss progress.

In the meantime, please continue to look at Tapestry to see what the children are doing in school. Please also add photographs and comments of things your child can do at home as we are able to use this evidence when we assess the children at the end of the year.

Independence

It's great to see the children becoming more independent. In the mornings, please encourage them to be independent with the jobs they have to do on arrival. This helps massively with the children's confidence when they have to get ready themselves at the end of the day and they are more likely to remember what they need to take home.

Routines

Our regular weekly activities will be as follows:

Thursday Morning Forest School: Please send children in their forest school kit with their named school shoes. Please make sure this bag is big enough to fit their forest school kit in too. As the colder weather looks to be continuing, please ensure your child has extra layers, thick clothing, socks (spare socks are good incase its wet too), hats and gloves. We aim to go out whatever the weather so it is vital that the children are warm.

Friday Afternoon PE: Please ensure PE kit is in school at all times. If you found any items of PE kit that do not belong to your child over the Christmas break, please send it back to school so we can reunite it with its owner!

Milk

Just a reminder that 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).

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 to bring their **book bag every day**.
- Children are provided with access to fruit/vegetables and water during the day so there is **no need to send snacks or water bottles** 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 let one of the early years team know in the morning - and please ask the adult collecting to introduce themselves when they collect as we are unlikely to recognise them.
- Please let us know if you wish to add adults to the list of who can collect your 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.

- There is a **lost property** blue box outside of the classroom door, please look through there if your child is missing anything.

Important Dates

Wednesday 19th January	Superheroes Day and Teddy Bears' Hospital
Friday 18th February	Non-uniform Day & break up for Half Term
Monday 28th February	Return to school
Thursday 3rd March character)	World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book
Thursday 31st March 3-6pm follow)	International Celebration event (more details to
Thursday 7th April	Easter Egg competition
Friday 8th April	Break up for Easter holidays

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 —

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter
<https://www.facebook.com/lordderamoresprimaryschool/>
[@lordderamores](https://twitter.com/lordderamores) www.lordderamores.com