



Early Years Newsletter

— Summer Term 2022 —



Welcome back to school for the Summer Term. We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and enjoyed lots of the glorious sunshine. As we move into our last term together, I wanted to say a massive thank you for all your continued support. The children are really settled now and we are seeing lots of friendships cementing themselves in the classroom.

As the weather gets warmer, please think about what sun protection your child needs. Sun cream should be applied before school. Children will need a sun hat as the weather improves.

We really want to cement good habits in school, so please make extra effort to get your child into the classroom by **8:50** at the latest.

Topic

Our topic this term is **Journeys** which we will be exploring through stories and games. We will be kicking it off with a visit to The Deep. As part of this topic, I'd love to get pictures of family holidays, places the children have been and any journeys the children take to see family as I'm planning on having a big display with a world map for children to see how we are all connected across the globe, particularly in the UK.

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 Phase 4 in the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme which involves more continued practise of 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 reading as often as you can. By reading and discussing their weekly reading books every day, you are solidifying their understanding of the sounds, words and content of the books. As well as this, help them to continue '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 be delving deeper into our work on numbers by immersing ourselves in everything related to numbers to 10, with number bonds, counting, and spotting numerical patterns. We count beyond 20 most days and this is a great skill to continue to develop at home too.

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 Dojos which cover gross motor skills, fine motor skills and writing practice.

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. Most weeks 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 continuing with their regular reading sessions. 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, you can upload it to Tapestry.

Observations and Tapestry

We will be finishing our second and final round of observations. If your child has not yet been a focus child this 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.

At the end of this term in July you will receive an end of year report of your child's development over the year. This will include an update on their progress across the early learning goals which is a statutory assessment we have to complete. Your child is assessed against 7 different areas and they either have met or have not met the objectives listed. I will be bringing up any areas of concern in our parent meetings.

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. Alongside this, they should now be able to dress and undress themselves completely independently for PE and Forest School - this includes looking after their things and putting them away properly. Practice this at home if you find they are still struggling with it. If your child is one that often misplaces jumpers or cardigans or any of their own clothing, it must become a part of their daily routine to be more responsible for these things and by packing their own clothes and check listing what they need is a great way to build that responsibility.

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. The weather will be warmer over this term but we are of course still going out if it rains, please ensure your child has extra layers for any chilly days, waterproof clothing, and spare socks incase it rains. We aim to go out whatever the weather so it is vital that the children keep warm and dry.

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 opens 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 27th April	Phase 1 trip to The Deep
Monday 2nd May	School closed for Early May Bank Holiday
Thursday 26th May	Diamond Jubilee celebrations in school (more details to follow) School closes for May Half Term holiday
Friday 27th May	School closed for Training Day
Monday 6th June	School re-opens
Thursday 9th June	Drama workshop (details to follow)
Friday 10th June	Whole school sports fun morning

27th June to 1st July	Outdoor Week (more details to follow)
Thursday 14th July	Big Talk Education in school (parents meeting at 8.55 am)
Wednesday 20th July and Thursday 21st July	Transition to Year 1
Friday 22nd July	School closes for Summer holiday

As always, 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 at asharpe@lordderamores.com

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

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