



# Early Years Newsletter

## — Autumn Term 2023 —



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. We are blown away by how well they have adapted and how lucky we are to have such wonderful children joining our school.

Over the coming weeks we will be spending time learning our classroom routines. 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 or via email and we are more than happy to help.

Over the next few weeks we will be helping 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 expectations for being 'Super Stars':

- We're **SAFE** in and around our classroom.
- We're **KIND** to each other and our school.
- We're **READY** to learn as best as we can.

Your child may also mention some of the other standards we have in class that we work on every day:

- Super Listeners
- Super Sitting
- Top Tidiers



From this week, the children will stay all day. The door will be open between **8.40am and 8:45am**. If you arrive after that time and the gate to the playground is locked, please enter school via the office. Your child may need more nurturing to settle in these first few weeks. We always encourage children to bring in their own things and hang them on their peg.



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.



## **Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)**

The RBA will be a short task-based assessment. The children will use practical resources to complete these tasks and results are recorded using the DfE's online platform. It will not be used to label or track individual pupils. We are required to carry out the assessment within the first 6 weeks of pupils starting school. No numerical score will be shared and the data will only be used at the end of year 6 to form the school-level progress measure.

Alongside this we will also be completing our own baseline assessment of the children covering all areas that will lead into our end of year assessment of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (find it here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974907/EYFS\\_framework\\_-\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf)).



## **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 (or another member of Total Sports if he is away). The children will have a PE session at the beginning of the morning and will access provision in the classroom at the end of the session. **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 including bags, shoes and anything you don't want to lose 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 a class of 30 children would take a very long time.

PE kits remain in school for the whole half term. We will send them home if they need washing.



## **Forest School - Tuesday Mornings**

Your child will need to wear waterproof trousers, coat and wellies. Please send your child with their **forest clothes over their school uniform** 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 in a **large named bag** to bring their forest clothes and wellies home at the end of the day. As the weather gets colder, you may want to send your child in more layers also - scarves, gloves, hats are essential!



## **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 they will always have their buddy as a key person throughout the year during other events.



## **Uniform**

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



## **Reading Books**

Reading books will be introduced gradually towards the end of this term (after half term), as children begin to learn the letters and sounds we will be teaching. They will be bringnigin home two books, their levelled reading book which they should be reading independently and a sharing book which you can enjoy together but that isn't at an appropriate reading level for them so will need to be read to them. 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, Mango and Pickles**. These are two little puppets that offer the class new books to read centring around a certain theme each week. Check the weekly update for the books we will be reading and the theme they are centred on. We spent our first week looking at books following the theme 'Starting School'.



## **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. **Please do not send in water bottles**. 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](http://www.coolmilk.com) two weeks before your child's 5<sup>th</sup> 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 (a letter was sent home last week). 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 Phase 1 (Early Years and Year 1) we send out a 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 via Tapestry.

## **Observations**

Once we have got to know the children, we will introduce focus observations. Each week we will do in-depth observations of a number of 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 short meeting for us to chat about your child's learning. You can add any of your own observations to **Tapestry** once you have set up your account.

## **Topic**

Our topic this term is **Who Am I?** We will be getting to know each other and talking lots about ourselves, our interests and our favourite people and things to do. This is a fantastic introduction to school and the children will also get to explore things such as **Toys**, and the school within the topic too.

## **Reminders**

- School starts at **8:40am**. The cloakroom door will close at **8.45am 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 to school and any notes home.
- 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.
- Water is provided so please **do not send in water bottles**.

- 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 ensure a member of staff knows at the start of the day.
- Please let us know if you wish to add adults to the list of who can collect your child.
- Our weekly update will be sent out each Monday and will give information about what is happening in class that week.
- 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**

<b>Wednesday 4th September</b>	Phonics & Early Reading Meeting
<b>Friday 13th October</b>	Harvest Festival collection
<b>Thursday 26th October</b>	Pumpkin Competition & FOLD Halloween Disco
<b>Friday 27th October</b>	Break up for half term holiday
<b>Monday 6th November</b>	Return to school
<b>Friday 17th November</b>	Children in Need Non Uniform Day
<b>Friday 1st December</b>	FOLD Christmas Fair
<b>Wednesday 6th December</b>	Phase 1 Nativity play (2pm)
<b>Thursday 7th December</b>	Phase 1 Nativity play (9:15am)
<b>Tuesday 19th December</b>	Visit to Theatre Royal Pantomime
<b>Wednesday 20th December</b>	Christmas Dinner
<b>Friday 22nd December</b>	Break up for Christmas holiday
<b>Wednesday 10th January</b>	Return to school

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](mailto:asharpe@lordderamores.com)

### **Mr Sharpe and the Early Years Team**

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