



7th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the start of the spring term. May we take this opportunity to wish you a 'Happy New Year'. We hope that you had a wonderful time over the Christmas holidays. Thank you for all the cards, presents and good wishes that were sent in to school prior to breaking up in December – they were all very much appreciated.

We are pleased to welcome Katy McNichol to the Phase 3 team. Miss McNichol will be teaching Year 5 on a Monday and Tuesday for the rest of the year to release Mrs Carr to fulfil her management and SENDCo role. The class and Miss McNichol are very excited about the coming term.

Start of School

A reminder that classroom doors open at 8.40 and all children should be in class by 8.45 which is the official start time. If children arrive after this time, they will be marked as late on the register. Please ensure your child is on time each morning. Key skills in maths, handwriting and spelling are taught at the start of the day so it is important that all children are in class and ready to learn by 8.45 each morning. We understand that sometimes circumstances mean that your child may arrive after the gates have been closed – in this situation, please take your child to the office.

Lunchtimes

The menus for this term can be found on the website [Meals and Snacks – Lord Deramore's Primary School \(lordderamores.com\)](http://lordderamores.com)

Please ensure the packed lunches are well-balanced and healthy. There should be no sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks and all packaging and boxes should be plastic – no glass please. We are a **nut-free** school so please ensure there are no nuts or hidden nut products in any of the food you provide.

The Curriculum

Our topic in Phase 3 this term is Anglo Saxons and Scots. We are planning to visit Murton Park – dates below (more details to follow).

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| History | When was the Anglo Saxon period? Where did the Anglo Saxons come from? What was the main religion in Anglo Saxon times? How did Anglo Saxon times impact/change Britain? |
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| | Name two famous Anglo-Saxons What was the main occupation of the Anglo-Saxons? |
| Geography | How many counties are in the UK? Can you name some of the counties in the UK? Which cities are named after Anglo- Saxon settlements? Can you locate them on a map/atlas? What are the features of these places? How has that changed from Anglo Saxon times? |
| Computing | Binary - learning about the language computers use to store data Coding - procedures, loops and nested loops. |
| PE | Health related fitness (circuits and activities which increase agility and raise the heart rate). Hockey – dribbling, hitting, tackling, simple games Gym – moving across, along and around equipment, developing and improving balancing skills. |
| PSHE | Dreams and Goals – personal dreams and goals, overcoming disappointment, developing resilience, celebrating success Healthy Me – healthy relationships, peer pressure, bullying, alcohol, smoking. |
| Music | Y4 will continue to learn the violin and begin to read simple music. Y5 will learn more notes on the ukulele and learn to recognise different pitches. Y6 will explore both body and instrumental percussion. |
| French | Children will continue to use songs, games and activities to learn French words, phrases and sentences linked to: Y4 colours, classroom commands, what's in my pencil case and parts of the face; Y5 food, drink and music; Y6 cafe conversations and recipes |
| Art | We will be developing drawing skills and techniques, focussing on creating texture and facial expressions before creating an imaginary drawing of a character from our class book 'Beowulf'. |
| RE | Y4 will be learning about the importance of festivals. They will learn about festivals celebrated in different religions e.g. Easter and Eid and make comparisons between them. Y5 will be exploring the importance of places of worship to different faiths. They will explore why people go to places of worship and how they can help people of faith. Y6 will explore examples of religious creativity (buildings and art). They will explore why people value sacred buildings and art and examine the opinion that charitable giving is more important to some people. |
| DT | We will be exploring the use of fabric and learning different sewing stitches to join fabric together and create a final piece of work. |
| Science | Year 4 will be studying states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how they behave and change. They will also be studying how sounds are made, measured and changed. Year 5's topic is materials, looking at changes, both reversible and irreversible as well as separating materials through filtering and sieving. Year 6 will be learning about evolution and adaption, including genes and inheritance as well as investigating how and why things change. |

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| English | <p>Our class book will be 'Beowulf' by Michael Mopurgo. Our guided reading sessions will involve studying and responding to our class books as well as reading other, short pieces of writing, including non-fiction, story and poetry.</p> <p>Our writing will include work on legends (story) and poetry. We will also write in other curriculum areas.</p> |
| Maths | <p>We will continue to follow the Power Maths Scheme with topics as follows:</p> <p>Y4 – multiplication and division involving two and three digit numbers, length and perimeter, fractions larger than 1, adding and subtracting fractions, decimals – tenths and hundredths,</p> <p>Y5 – adding and subtracting fractions, multiplication and division of 3 and 4 digit numbers, decimals and percentages, perimeter and area and using tables and graphs</p> <p>Y6 – ratio and proportion, algebra, decimals up to 1000 and multiplying and dividing decimals, percentages, area, perimeter and volume.</p> |

Forest and PE days



| Year Group | PE days | Forest Day |
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| Year 4 | Tuesday and Thursday | Friday |
| Year 5 | Tuesday and Thursday | Monday |
| Year 6 | Tuesday and Thursday | Friday |



Please ensure FULL PE kit (named) is in school at all times. We will send it home at half term or earlier if it needs washing.

Please provide clothing and footwear suitable for the forest (wellies or walking boots, waterproof trousers and coat, hat and gloves when it is cold). Forest kit will be sent home each week if it has been wet during the session. Please note that Forest sessions will not be every week but you will be informed when they are happening.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to encourage independent learning and to practise skills taught in school. We recognise that families and children are busy both after school and the weekends so we endeavour to keep homework to a minimum. The activities we ask children to do are open ended and so those who wish to take their home learning further are free to do so.

Research shows that the most effective homework at primary age children are activities that practise key skills such as reading and times tables recall.

Details of the homework is as follows:

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| Reading | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-15 mins daily • Any reading material • Some time reading aloud to an adult • Chat about what they have read • Tick the reading record • Children to record their reading in the reading record |
| Maths - Times tables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 minutes a week • TTRockstars or other online platforms (Tommy's Trek - Times Tables - Mathsframe, Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds (topmarks.co.uk), Times tables games - Timestables.co.uk) The alternative games do not have the timed element of TTRockstars and are more game based. • End of unit recap activity sheet throughout the term. |
| Menu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly activity ideas. • Designed to be practical and promote discussion. • Any work can be shared or described each Friday. |

Y5 Visit to Robinhood's Bay

The Year 5 class will be visiting Robinhood's Bay from 21st-22nd March. More details will be sent home shortly as well as information about a meeting where you can learn more about the visit.

Dates for the Diary

Below are some important dates for the term:

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| Wednesday 10 th January | Return to school |
| Monday 5 th February | Parent Consultations 3.30-7.00 |
| Thursday 8 th February | Parent consultations 3.30-5.30 |
| Friday 9 th February | School closes for half term |
| Monday 19 th February | School reopens after half term |
| Wednesday 21 st February | Maths Parent Workshops (more details to follow) |
| Monday 4 th March Wednesday 6 th March Thursday 7 th March | Visits to Murton Park (1 class per day) - more details to follow |
| Thursday 7 th March | World Book Day |
| Thursday 21 st and Friday 22 nd March | Y5 residential visit to Robinhood's Bay |
| Friday 22 nd March | School closes for Easter |



We are looking forward to an exciting term. If you have any questions, please speak to or email your class teacher.

Rachel Carr, Katy McNichol, Mark Richards, Helen Smith,
Emma Havercroft, Annette Lee

Phase 3 Team