

Early Years Newsletter

— Spring Term 2024 —



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 long first term but they are such an amazing group of children and are really settling into their class and school now.

We will be continuing to work on our school expectations:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe

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.

Topic

Our topic this term is **Our Heroes** which we will be exploring through stories, activities and games. Children will be learning about people in our community, what they do to help us, as well as looking at superheroes and how they compare. Details of trips happening this term will be sent out when dates have been finalised.

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 be starting to tell our own Meina 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 first 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 start to learn about numbers from 6 to 10, exploring how they are made and practising counting lots of different things to 10. 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.

We will also be having weekly music sessions with the amazing Mrs Martin starting the second week of term.

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 highlight values surrounding 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 Friday.

The children also choose a book for sharing from our class library and this is a book that they will likely need to have 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.

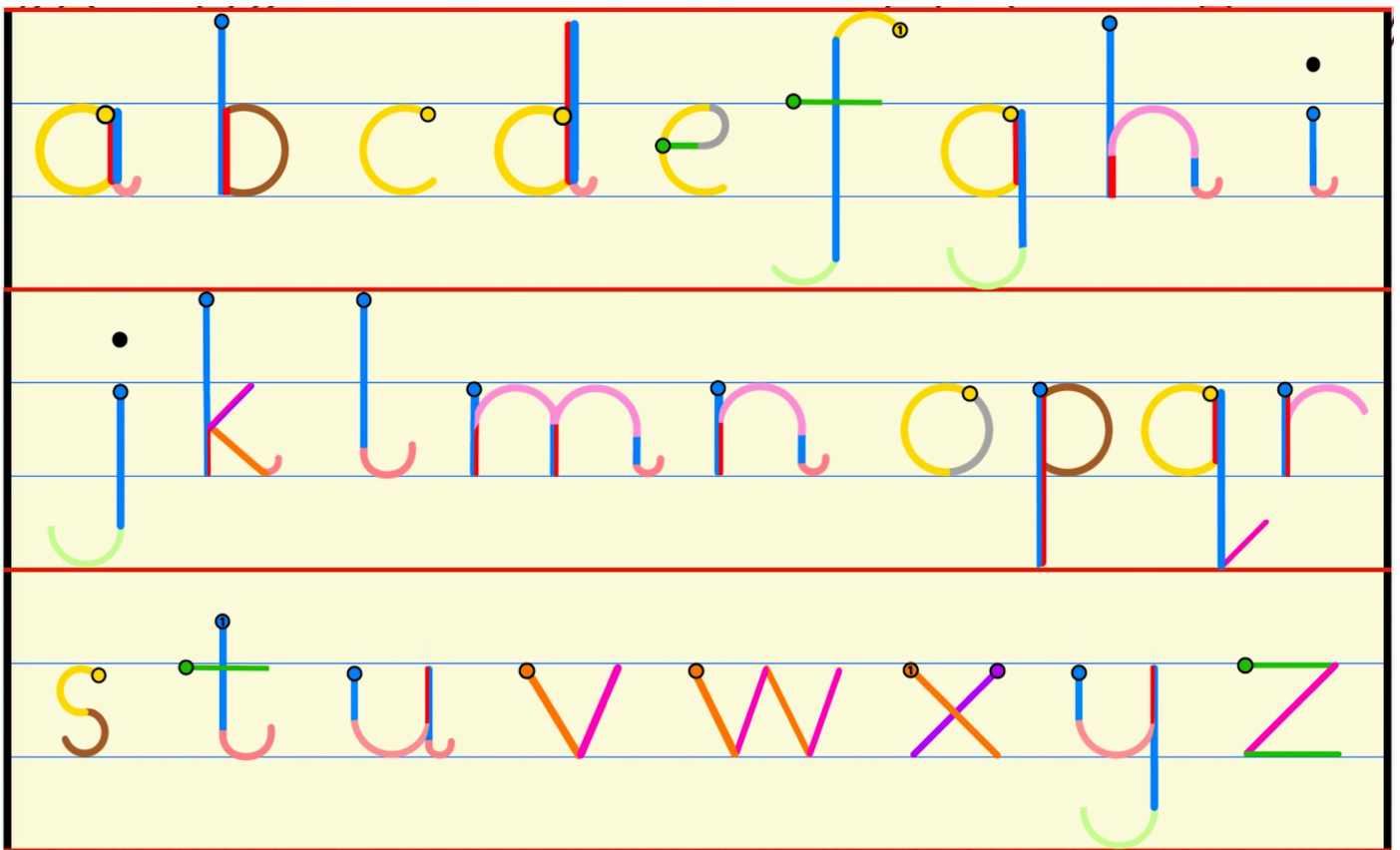
Pen-Jitsu (Handwriting)

The children have established all their Pen-Jitsu routines, including spelling and are have been taught all of the lower-case letter formation. Please check the Google Drive for the information on these.

This term they will be learning to form capital letters and numbers.

Letter formation is one of the Early Learning Goals which the children are assessed against at the end of the year. It is important that they are forming most letters correctly.

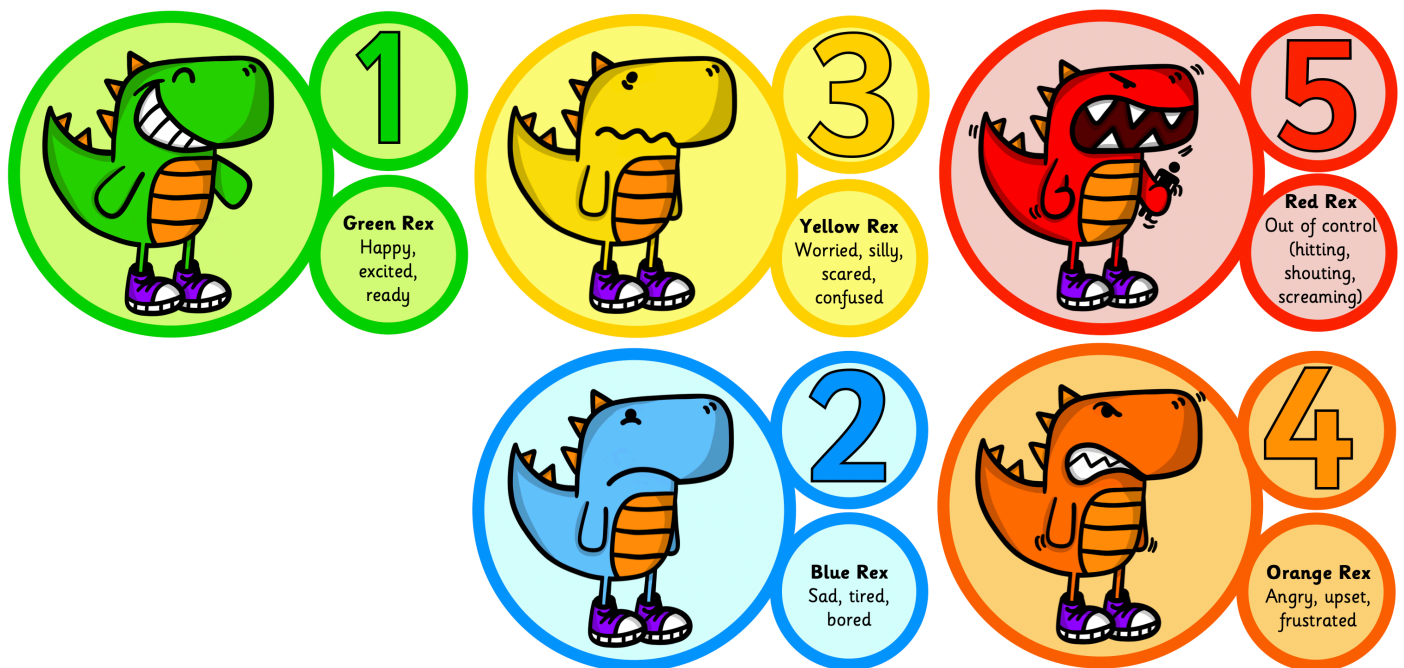
Here are the lower-case letter formations:



Regulation-Rex (Self-Regulation)

Last term we were introduced to the character Regulation Rex. This is based on the Zones of Regulation and helps children to identify how they are feeling and then build strategies to bring themselves back to 'Green' (Ready To Learn and Listen). Being able to control impulses and self-regulate is an essential Early Learning Goal.

Our top tip for helping children regulate is to use the phrase, “Let’s get your Rex back to Green so we can talk about what’s made you Blue/Yellow/Orange/Red. Shall we go to your Calm Spot, or do some Rainbow Breaths.” Giving children the time to calm down with co-regulation first is essential before assessing the situation that caused the spike in emotion.



Religious Education (RE)

This term in RE we will be learning about Special Places (including a church and a mosque), as well as sharing our special places. In the second half term we will be learning about Special Stories.

JIGSAW (PSHE)

This term in Jigsaw the children will be exploring ‘Dreams and Goals’ and ‘Healthy Me’.

The Write Knight (Creative Writing)

In our Write Knight sessions, the children get the opportunity to develop their creative writing ideas and independence. Writing a text is modelled to the children, then we have a go as a class, and then the children get the opportunity to write their own version independently. This term the children will have the opportunity to write their own versions of the traditional tales, ‘The Three Little Pigs’ and ‘The Three Billy Goats Gruff’.

Dex’s Dojo (Fine Motor Skills)

During our Dex’s Dojo sessions, we spend time developing our hand dexterity and fine motor skills with various activities. The children have a different activity each week and this term they will be themed around winter.

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 such keep an eye on your emails for the Google Form.

In the meantime, please continue to 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. We look through all of their Tapestry uploads at the end of the day during our Reflection Time.

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:

Tuesday Morning Forest School: Please send children in their forest school kit with their named school shoes in a bag. 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 it's 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 **8.45am prompt**. A member of staff will be at the door to welcome children.
- Your child will need to bring their **book bag every Friday** (but they can bring them in every day if you prefer).
- 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** bucket outside of the classroom door, please look through there if your child is missing anything or check the reading boxes in the cloakroom as these are often a hot spot for lost things.

Important Dates

Friday 9th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 19th February	Return to school
Wednesday 21st February	Parents invited in for school maths workshop
Monday 26th February	Phase 1 trip to The Depp
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)
Tuesday 12th March	International Diversity Celebration Event
Tuesday 19th March	Early Years end of topic celebration (families welcome for 2:45pm)
Thursday 21st March	Easter Egg decorating competition
Friday 22nd March	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

Mr Sharpe and Mrs Thompson
— The Early Years Team —

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter
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