# Year One Newsletter Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoyed the holiday and that the children return to school rested and refreshed. This year the spring term is very short and we have lots to fit in, so we will be working hard!

#### <u>Learning through play</u>

Children will continue to spend most of the day following their own interests in play. They will be able to explore areas such as sand, construction, small world and workshop in the classroom, with bigger and more physical play encouraged outside. Through play, children learn vital skills such as sharing, negotiation, perseverance and resilience. Whole class teaching time will increase slightly over the term as we introduce the children to more challenging curriculum content.

#### Focus Children, Observations and Parent meetings

The focus children system will continue this term, starting in the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> January. Year One staff will be focussing on 3 children each week. In the following week, parents/carers will have an opportunity to speak to Mrs Jones to discuss how their child is getting on at school. We will send home a letter letting you know that it is your child's focus week and offering you times to meet. Every child will have a focus week and parent-teacher meeting once more in Year One, either this term or at the beginning of the summer term. These meetings are instead of the school parent-teacher appointments arranged for children in Years 2-6 in February.



## <u>English</u>

Our aim is to foster a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information. We will visit the school library once a week on Wednesdays when children will be able to choose a book to share with you. This will be a book for you to read to them and enjoy together; they may be able to read some words, but will generally not be able to manage this book on their own. They will also bring home a reading book once a week; this is a book they will have practised at school three times in a group with an adult. They should be able to read it fairly independently. The aim is for you to celebrate their achievements, with the occasional prompt should they need it. Children will have a plastic wallet to keep their reading book safe and a reading diary where you can record books they have read at home. Reading books will generally be changed on Thursdays or Fridays, so please make sure they are in school on those days.

## <u>Maths</u>

The children will be following the National Curriculum for maths. We will use lots of practical activities, real objects and games to help children embed mathematical concepts. Talking about maths and explaining what you know, why and how, is a vital part of maths learning and something that it is very easy to help with at home. Lists of sums are definitely not necessary! There will be suggestions in the weekly note and the homework menu.

#### <u>Topic</u>

Our topic this term is Heroes. We will be talking about real life heroes such as those who help others through their work in the emergency or health services. We will talk about statues that we see around York and why they are there. We will celebrate the topic by dressing up as heroes, both real and fictional.

#### **Religious Education**

Year One's key question this term is: 'What makes some places sacred?' We will explore this question through stories and creative activities, as well as a visit from a parent who will talk about what it is like to visit a mosque.

#### Physical Education

Year 1 will have PE twice on **Fridays.** They should come to school dressed in their PE kit and will remain in their kit all day. As the ground is likely to be wet for much of this term, children should come to school in their normal school shoes and bring trainers to change into for PE. Trainers can be left in their lockers. PE kit is:

- white t-shirt
- dark shorts or jogging bottoms
- dark sweatshirt
- socks

• trainers

Long hair needs to be tied back.

Stud earrings should be removed or taped up. Please provide micropore tape for this.

It is useful for children to have a set of spare clothes in their locker, though we do have spares at school as well.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to have **all** their clothes and shoes clearly **named**. This makes them so much more confident and independent and means you get them back if they are misplaced.

# <u>Forest School</u>

Year 1 forest school sessions are on **Wednesday afternoons**. The children will need clothes appropriate for the weather:

- wellington boots/snow boots
- waterproof trousers
- warm, waterproof coat with hood
- warm socks
- hat/sunhat/gloves/scarf

Wellies may be kept in the plastic storage box outside the classroom. Remember to name everything so that mislaid items can be returned to the right person.



#### <u>Things to remember:</u>

- 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 a book bag or similar to carry their books and planner to school.
- 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.
- We have water jugs and cups freely available to children all day and will be encouraging them to use them as often as they wish. Water bottles are not needed until your child goes into Year Two.
- 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 write it in their planner and ensure a member of staff knows.
- Please let us know if you wish to add adults to the list of who can collect our 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 Mrs Jones or we can arrange a meeting.

We really look forward to a busy and exciting spring term.

Julia Jones

Kim Arthur

Ann Bradley

Lisa de Sousa

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Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter <u>https://www.facebook.com/lordderamoresprimaryschool/</u>

@lordderamores

www.lordderamores.com

Dates for Diaries (more details to follow)

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 3.15pm School finishes for half term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 8.40am School reopens after half term holiday

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February Phase 1 trip to The Deep

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2.45pm Year 1 end of topic celebration (families welcome)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March International Event

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March Easter Egg decorating competition

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 3.15pm School finishes for Easter holiday