



# Early Years Newsletter

## — Autumn Term —



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 **RESPECTFUL** to each other and things in and around 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 (empty hands, not talking over others, focus on speaker)
- Super Sitting (on our spot, empty hands, crossed legs, quiet mouths)
- Top Tidiers (tidy as we go, helping others, putting things back correctly)

 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. Please **do not enter the cloakroom**, this is for school staff and children only. **Top Tips for starting the day:** Let them know who is collecting them, reassure them we are here to look after them, keep goodbyes predictable and fast (long goodbyes can increase anxiety and make separating difficult).

 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)).

Children will also go through our WellComm assessments. These assessments help us to form an understanding of your child's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. It is relatively informal and quick. More information can be found here: <https://www.raiseyork.co.uk/workforce/wellcomm>



## **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 in the afternoon 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 at the end of half term for washing.

### **Forest School - Wednesday 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! We have spare wellies and waterproofs if you happen to forget. Please send any bags sent home back in.

### **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**. If your child has an accident and is sent home with **school spare clothes please send them back when washed**. We have limited supplies and can dwindle rapidly if they aren't returned.

### **Reading Books**

Reading books will be introduced gradually after the half term break once children begin to learn the letters and sounds we will be teaching. They will be bringing 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. I will keep you updated on your child's progress in phonics and reading and may send extra practice home to make sure they keep up if they should find any areas tricky.

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 'Our Special 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 in the first 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 as you may want to talk about it at home. 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. \*Please keep in mind that these run all the way up until the Christmas break\* You can add any of your own observations to **Tapestry** once you have set up your account. We look at these uploads every day and it is such a fantastic opportunity for them to share what they have been up to outside of school. This is one of the children's favourite times of the day.

## **Topic**

Our topic this term is **Our Special School**. 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 our interests and our school within the topic too.

## **Phonics**

We follow the phonics scheme from **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds**. We start off with short lessons of around 5-10 minutes to begin with and as the children build up their knowledge and understanding we gradually lengthen the sessions with more content and practice. For more information on Little Wandle, please visit: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

## **Maths**

We follow the maths scheme structure from **Power Maths**. Sessions follow a little story or hook that draws the children into their learning. Across the Autumn term we spend time exploring the numbers to 5. We embed this deeply and the children learn lots of routines and approaches that they are normally unfamiliar with. Discussion and partner talk and sharing is a big part of the lessons, so this takes time to properly embed. The sessions follow a set structure over the week based around one primary objective. We use lots of hands on materials with children developing independent skills along the way. We also bring these resources into their play time for them to explore further if they wish to.

## **Handwriting**

We follow the handwriting scheme **Pen-Jitsu**. This is based on research that helps builds children's whole body awareness of writing starting with big motions (gross motor) and developing that down to fine motor handwriting on white boards. The scheme is made up of 10 moves that fit into every letter in the alphabet. This term we will be learning to **correctly form all the lower case letters** of the alphabet.

## **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

We follow the PSHE scheme **Jigsaw**. Each module is approximately 6 weeks and covers an umbrella focus which is broken down into small steps each week. Our first puzzle piece is **'Being Me In My World'** where we will explore what it means to belong and describe and explore our feelings and emotions. The second half term will cover the jigsaw piece **'Celebrating Difference'** where we have the opportunity to look at each other's lives and families and celebrate our diverse culture.

## **Religious Education (RE)**

We teach the RE syllabus using our **Children of Faith** characters. Children are exposed to lots of different cultures and beliefs along the way and we learn of the similarities and differences between them. This is a lovely way to teach acceptance of others and it's always

so wonderful to see the children grow in confidence as they talk about their own beliefs and experiences.

## ? Think Its

Each week we have a particular focus normally linked to the Book Cooks theme that week. During our Think Its time we look at these themes in more detail. This could be admiring art or music linked to it, exploring the science behind it or even the geography or history linked to it. These are short sessions at the end of the day that involve lots of discussion.

## Poem of the Week

Over the term we will be listening and learning poems from the **Poetry Basket** and other poems and poetry anthologies. We tend to have one poem a week that we learn with actions and expression to go alongside them.

## Music

We follow **Sing Up**'s early years music curriculum. This is a fantastic resource that brings so much music and knowledge to the children to form the foundations of our whole school music curriculum. Some weeks even involve playing instruments, some involve learning about musicians and composers or listening and appreciating their music. We also sing every day as we get ready for lunch.

## ! 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 or things they create during play home.
- Children have access to fruit or vegetables 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 me and I will respond as soon as I can.

## **Important Dates**

<b>Wednesday 2nd October</b>	Phonics & Early Reading Workshop (parents invited)
<b>Thursday 10th October</b>	Harvest Festival collection
<b>Thursday 24th October</b>	Pumpkin Competition & FoLD Halloween Disco
<b>Friday 25th October</b>	Break up for half term holiday
<b>Monday 4th November</b>	Return to school
<b>Friday 15th November</b>	Children in Need Non-Uniform Day
<b>Wednesday 4th December</b>	Phase 1 Nativity play (2:15pm)
<b>Thursday 5th December</b>	Phase 1 Nativity play (9:15am)
<b>Friday 6th December</b>	FOLD Christmas Fair
<b>Monday 16th December</b>	Phase 1 Christmas Party
<b>Tuesday 17th December</b>	Visit to Theatre Royal Pantomime
<b>Wednesday 18th December</b>	School Christmas Dinner (children only)
<b>Thursday 19th December</b>	Carols in church (children only)
<b>Thursday 19th December</b>	Break up for Christmas holiday
<b>Tuesday 7th 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  
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