



Early Years Newsletter

— Summer Term —




Welcome back to school for the Summer Term. We hope you all enjoyed the Easter break. We have a busy last term planned for the children in Early Years and as the term moves on we will be looking forward to starting Year 1 in September - how time flies!


Over the next few weeks we will be reminding the children of our school and class expectations. 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)

 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. Please **drop them quickly and still remember to not enter the cloakroom**, this is for school staff and children only.

 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.



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.

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 days turn warmer, children may prefer to wear something lighter (the thicker waterproof clothing is not necessary) but we do want their uniform to stay protected and clean so **feel free to send them in old clothing** and to have their uniform in their forest bag to change into after. Just make sure that their **arms and legs are covered**.



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. **Please remember that footwear should be plain black shoes or plain black trainers.**

Reading Books

Please try to read every night with them and get them to read their reading books or blending words to you at least 3 times a week.

Book bags must be sent into school every Thursday. Regular forgetting of books has a **major impact** on children **across the whole school** as all children access the books and we have limited supplies. It is essential that **if you have forgotten them that you return them by the end of the day or the next day.**

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 two weeks before your child's 5th 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. 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

We will be finishing our last Shining Star observations. If your child has not been a focus child for a second time, you will be contacted at some point this half term about their week.

Topic

Our topic this term is **Our World**. We will be looking at the wider world and all the animals and places you can find there. Please feel free to add any adventures your child has been on across the world to Tapestry for us to share in class.



Phonics

We follow the phonics scheme from **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds**. We will be spending this term learning to read increasingly longer words during our Phase 3 and Phase 4 part of the program. 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 summer term we spend time exploring the **numbers to 10 in more detail**. 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**. As we have now learned all of the formations for the lower-case letters and numbers, we will be recapping and perfecting our formations.



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 **'Relationships'** where we will explore how we can be better friends and kind to our classmates and the wider community. The second half term will cover the jigsaw piece **'Changing Me'** where we look at changes as we grow up and also looking ahead to moving into Year 1.



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.



Writing

We will be continuing our **Drawing Club** this term with children writing with inspirations from stories, traditional tales and even some TV shows. They will also get their chance to tell their own stories through **Helicopter Stories**. On top of this we write everyday in our **Write Knight** sessions which develops their spelling skills through increasingly longer phrases and sentences.

? Think Its

Each week we have a particular focus normally linked to the Book Cooks theme that week or our topic. 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 to 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.

! 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.
- **Book Bags** in school every **Thursday** with **all books returned**. Please send them in Friday if books are forgotten.
- 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 Friday 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.
- Any messages to be asked at the end of day must be given after all the children have gone home. **Please do not come to the door at pick up until the classroom is empty** as this can cause issues with handovers.

Important Dates

Thursday 24th April 3:30-5:30pm	International Celebration
Monday 5th May	School closed for Early May Bank Holiday
Friday 16th May	Class photos
Monday 19th May	Outdoor Learning Week
Friday 23rd May	School closes for half term
Monday 2nd June	School reopens
Friday 13th June 3:30-5:30pm	FOLD Summer Fair
Friday 20th June	Fun Sports Morning (families invited)
Monday 30th June 2:15pm	Phase 1 Races (families invited)
Wednesday 2nd July	Phase 1 trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Wednesday 9th July 8:50-10:30am	End of Topic Celebration in the forest (families invited)
Friday 11th July	Reports out to families
Wednesday 16th July	Transition Day 1
Thursday 17th July	Transition Day 2
Friday 18th July	School closes for summer holidays

As always, 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 the Early Years Team

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[@lordderamores](https://twitter.com/lordderamores) www.lordderamores.com