

# Phase One Newsletter

## Autumn 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome to all our new families and welcome back to those who were with us last year. We hope you all had a lovely summer and were able to enjoy some time with your families and friends. We are excited about getting to know our new classes; making sure that everyone is happy and settled is our top priority. To all our new families, please do ask if you have any questions. Most classes have parent/carers WhatsApp groups, so do speak to other parents if you'd like to be added to one of these (please note that these WhatsApp groups are managed by parents/carers and are not the responsibility of the school).

The Phase 1 leaders are Miss McCormack and Mrs Carr. Please do email us if you have any questions. All contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

### **Start and End of School**

The classroom doors open at 8.40am and all children should be in school by 8.45am which is the official start of school. If children arrive after this time, they will be marked as late on the register. We understand that sometimes circumstances mean your child may arrive after the gates have been closed – in this situation, please take your child to the office. Please enter the school grounds through any of the pedestrian accesses and then bring your child to the classroom door inside the blue fence. At the end of the day, you collect your child from the same door. If your child is going to after school club (Kids Kabin), they will be collected from the classroom door by a member of Kids Kabin.

If a different adult than usual will be collecting your child, please make the class teacher aware (including what name your child will use for the adult).

If you need to speak to the teacher, please do so at the end of the school day or come to the outside classroom door with your child in the morning.

### **Lunchtimes**

Lunch menus for this term can be found on the website

<https://lordderamores.com/information-for-parentscarers/lunches>

School dinners are free for all children in Phase 1.

Alternatively, your child may want to bring a packed lunch. There should be no sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or glass containers please. Your child will need a drink in their packed lunch (water or juice only please). We are a **nut-free school**

so please ensure there are no nuts in any of the food you provide. Lunch boxes should be placed on the year group trolley, at the front of school, at the start of the day and collected from the trolleys at home time.

### **Snacks and Milk**

Children in Phase 1 receive a free piece of fruit each day. These are made available in the classroom at all times that children are accessing the play provision. Children may help themselves to a fruit snack at any time during play provision. We ask that parents do not send any other snacks.

All children under 5 are also entitled to free milk each day. This is delivered directly to school and made available to the children to drink when they want it. Once a child reaches 5, milk can be purchased through the [School Milk scheme](https://coolmilk.com/). Children should be registered just before they turn 5. (<https://coolmilk.com/>)

There is no need to send a water bottle to school. In Phase 1 we have water and cups available for the children to have a drink at any time.

### **Focus Children, Observations and Parent meetings**

Across Phase 1, we have a system of focus children each week. Starting in the week beginning 15th September for Year 1 and will be later in the half term for Early Years (this will be in the weekly note the week before), the Early Years and Year One staff will focus on 3 children each week. In the following week, parents/carers will have an opportunity to speak to the class teacher 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 for 10 minutes. Every child will have a focus week and parent-teacher meeting once in the autumn term and once in the spring or early summer term. These meetings are in place of the school parent-teacher appointments for children in Years 2-6.

### **The Curriculum**

Details of our curriculum and the topics we are covering can be found on our school website: <https://lordderamores.com/our-curriculum/curriculum> – we are following Year A.

In Phase 1, children will spend most of the day following their own interests in play in our continuous provision. They will be able to explore areas such as 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. There will also be some short taught sessions at the start and end of the morning and afternoon when the children will be taught different areas of the curriculum.

<b>Reading</b>	<p>Our main aim is to foster a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information. We will share books and poems / nursery rhymes with the children every day.</p> <p>After the first few weeks, the children will bring home a library book to share and enjoy weekly. Please return this book the following week so your children can get a new one.</p> <p><b>Early Years:</b> Wednesday  <b>Year 1:</b> Wednesday</p> <p>Both classes will learn to read and spell through our daily phonics lessons using our phonics scheme Little Wandle.</p> <p>Children in Year 1 will continue with Little Wandle reading groups. We ask for reading books to be brought <b>into school daily</b>. New books will be sent home on a Friday - these will be books they have read 3 times in school so they will be able to read them fairly fluently. The idea of sharing these books at home is to celebrate your child's reading and to build up their confidence and fluency.</p> <p>These reading groups will start later in the Year for Early Years and we will tell you more in our Phonics Meeting for parents.</p>
<b>Writing</b>	<p>We focus on developing the large and small motor skills children need for handwriting through our provision as well as in taught sessions - Pen Jitsu in Early Years and Squiggle in Year 1. Letter formation will be taught in handwriting lessons follow the school's own handwriting policy.</p> <p>For both classes, we make sure there are opportunities to write across the areas of provision.</p> <p>Early Years: We will be building up our hand dexterity and strength this term and then learning to form lower-case letters correctly.</p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> In writing lessons we will be focussing on writing a sentence with finger spaces and punctuation.</p>
<b>Maths</b>	<p>Both classrooms have a maths provision area for the children to explore and develop the maths we have been learning in maths lessons.</p> <p>We use the Power Maths scheme across school. We will use lots of practical activities, real objects and games to help children embed mathematical concepts.</p> <p><b>Early Years:</b> Working with numbers to 5, simple 2D and spatial awareness.</p>

	<b>Year 1:</b> Working with numbers to 10 including adding and subtracting, 2D and 3D shapes.
<b>PSHE</b>	<p>We use a scheme called Jigsaw across the whole school to teach our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic )education. This term we will focus on:</p> <p><b>Being Me in My World:</b> 'Who am I and how do I fit?'</p> <p><b>Celebrating Difference:</b> Respect for similarity and difference</p>
<b>Science</b>	The children will be learning about materials. During the term, they will also be learning about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities. Lots of this learning will be as part of our weekly Forest School sessions.
<b>History</b>	<p>Our topic is Toys Then and Now. We will be talking about what toys are like now and then explore what toys and games were like when our parents and grandparents were young.</p> <p>Year 1 will visit Ilkley Toy Museum on 13th November. More details will be sent out nearer the time.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	We will be learning about seasonal weather patterns in the UK. We will also carry out some field work around the school grounds.
<b>Religious Education</b>	<p><b>Early Years:</b> Which people are special and why? Which places are special and why?</p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> Who is a Christian and what do they believe? This will involve a visit to Heslington Church.</p> <p>We will explore these questions through stories, creative activities and continuous provision.</p>
<b>Computing</b>	Using programmable toys, taking photos and recording videos. E-safety. The children will have access to programmable toys as part of continuous provision.
<b>Design Technology</b>	As part of continuous provision, the children will have access to a workshop area in both classrooms and, later in the term, we will introduce a woodworking area outside. In DT lessons, we will explore sliders and levers in Year 1.
<b>Art and Design</b>	The children will have access to art areas in both classrooms as part of continuous provision. In our art lessons, we will focus on drawing.
<b>Music</b>	<p><b>Early Years:</b> Untuned percussion - start and stop, keeping a steady beat and discover sounds</p> <p>Singing</p> <p><b>Year 1:</b> Keep a steady beat and follow instructions on how and when to</p>

	sing/play <b>Composer:</b> Josef Haydn – Toy Symphony
<b>Physical Education</b>	PE skills are developed in continuous provision and Forest School lessons as well as taught PE lessons. <b>EY:</b> Fundamental skills, dance <b>Year 1:</b> Fundamental skills, dance, football
<b>Forest School</b>	Each class will spend a morning every week in the forest. Some activities will be linked to our science, geography etc learning and the children will also have time to play freely in the forest.

### Forest and PE days

Year Group	Forest	PE
<b>Early Years</b>	Thursday morning	Wednesday morning
<b>Year 1</b>	Monday morning	Monday and Wednesday

Children need to come to school wearing their forest kit over their uniform on forest days and to bring their school shoes in a large bag big enough to fit all their forest kit in comfortably. We will go into the forest in all weathers, unless it is unsafe, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. They might need:

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

Year 1 wellies may be kept in the wooden storage unit outside the classroom, Remember to name everything so that mislaid items can be returned to the right person.

**PE must be kept in school.** We will send it home at the end of the half term to be washed. PE kit is:

- white t-shirt
- dark shorts and / or jogging bottoms
- dark sweatshirt
- socks
- trainers (children must change their shoes for PE)
- long hair must be tied back. Stud earrings should be removed or taped up. Please provide micropore tape for this.

PE kit can sometimes be used if children get wet or very dirty while playing, so it is useful to have spare underwear and socks in the PE bag 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. If you have any issues with forest and / or PE kit, please do come and speak to us.

### **Homework**

The most important work to do at home is for your child to read their reading book and to share lots of other stories together. On the website, there will also be a short menu of suggestions for things to do at home if you would like to use them. We'd love to hear about what children have been getting up to, so do let us know via Tapestry.

<https://lordderamores.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Phase-1-Autumn-Home-work-Menu.pdf>

### **Welcome Meeting - Year 1 only**

There will be a welcome meeting for each class in school from Year 1 upwards next week. The presentation for the meeting will be sent to all parents / carers after the meeting for those unable to attend. We will finish in time for the end of the school day. You are welcome to bring younger siblings with you.

**Year 1:** Tuesday 9th September at 2:45. Please come to the main school entrance to be let in.

### **Trips**

Below is a list of visits and enrichment activities for this year along with the *estimated* voluntary contribution we will ask for to fund the activity. Please note that families in receipt of benefits related free school meals, will not be asked to contribute to visits and enrichment activities. Please do always come and speak to us confidentially if you have any concerns about funding school trips. We will let you know the finalised details for each visit and enrichment activity as soon as possible.

<b>Trip / Enrichment</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>What am I paying for?</b>
Library EY only	November	£6	Coach to the library
Drama workshop Whole Phase and Year 1	Autumn Term	£4.50	Interactive theatre show led by external company
Ilkley Toy Museum Year 1 only	November	£12	Coach and workshop

Pantomime Whole school	December	£20	Coach, pantomime and ice cream
Chinese New Year EY only	February	£2	Chinese New Year food for class
The Deep Phase 1	April	£20	Coach and entry to The Deep
Seaside visit Whole Phase	Summer Term	£10	Coach to the seaside

### **Things to remember:**

- 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 all day. Water bottles are not needed until your child goes into Year Two.
- Weekly class newsletters will be sent out each Friday and will give information about what is happening in class. We strongly encourage parents / carers to read this every 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 your class teacher/s and we can arrange a meeting.

We really look forward to working with you and your children.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/lordderamoresprimaryschool/>

### **Dates for Diaries (more details to follow)**

**Tuesday 9th September 2.45pm** WELCOME MEETING Year 1 classroom

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October:** Harvest Festival collection

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October:** FoLD Halloween Disco

**Thursday 23rd October:** Pumpkin Competition and break up for half term

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY**

**Monday 3rd November:** Return to school

**Friday 21st November:** Non-uniform day for Children in Need

**Wednesday 3rd December 2.15pm:** Phase 1 Nativity (families welcome)

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am:** Phase 1 Nativity (families welcome)

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** FOLD Christmas Fair after school

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Phase 1 Christmas party

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** Visit to Theatre Royal Pantomime

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas dinner

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Break up for Christmas holiday