

Phase 1 Newsletter

Spring 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the holiday and that the children return to school rested and refreshed. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to an exciting term. May we take this opportunity to say thank you for the cards, gifts and Christmas wishes from parents, carers and children. It was very much appreciated.

Start and End of School

A reminder that the classroom doors open at 8.40am and all children should be in school by 8.45am which is the official start of school. 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. Please can we ask parents and carers to come inside the blue fence at hometime to make collection as safe as possible.

If your child is going to After School Club (Kids Kabin), they will be collected from the classroom by a member of Kids Kabin staff.

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. If you want your child to have school dinners, please remember that all bookings need to be made by Sunday.

If your child brings a packed lunch, there should be no sweets, chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or glass containers included. Thank you for your support with this. 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. 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. If your child in Early Years has now turned 5 but would like to continue to have milk in school, it 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

The focus children system will continue this term. We will send home a letter or email 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 twice this year. These meetings are in place of the school parent-teacher appointments for children in Years 2-6.

The Curriculum and Learning Through Play

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.

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.

Reading	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.
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	<p>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>Early Years: Wednesday Year 1: 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 Early Years will continue with Little Wandle reading groups. A new reading book and sharing book 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>Children in Year 1 will continue with Little Wandle reading groups. We ask for reading books to be brought into school daily. 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>
Writing	<p>We focus on developing the large and small motor skills children need for handwriting through our provision as well as in direct, taught sessions</p> <p>For both classes, we make sure there are opportunities to write across the areas of provision.</p> <p>Early Years: Adam Sharpe EY WRITING DETAILS HERE.</p> <p>Year 1: In writing lessons we will be focussing on oral and written sentence composition using the graphemes we have learned in phonics so far.</p>
Maths	<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>Early Years: Working with numbers to 10 including comparing numbers, addition, subtraction and number bonds, measuring length, height and weight and exploring patterns.</p>

	<p>Year 1: We will start by working with numbers to 20 including adding and subtracting before moving on to numbers to 50. We will also work on measure length, height, mass and capacity.</p>
PSHE	<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>Dreams and Goals Healthy Me</p>
Science	<p>The children will be learning about animals including humans. Children will learn about where different animals live and what they eat (carnivore, herbivore, omnivore). They will learn about the human body in simple terms and the senses. During the term, they will also be learning about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities.</p> <p>During the term, they will continue to learn about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities. Lots of this learning will be as part of our weekly Forest School sessions.</p> <p>The children will also be thinking about working scientifically.</p>
History	<p>Our topic is Heroes. We will learn about some important people from the history of York as well as historical figures from other parts of the UK including Florence Nightingale.</p>
Geography	<p>Human and Physical Geography We will identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.</p> <p>Geographical Skills and Fieldwork We will use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of the school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.</p>
Religious Education	<p>Early Years: Which places are special and why? and Which times are special and why?</p> <p>Year 1: What makes some places sacred?</p> <p>We will explore these questions through stories, creative activities and continuous provision. Year 1 will have a visitor to talk about, what it is like to visit a mosque.</p>
Computing	<p>Using programmable toys, taking photos and recording videos. E-safety. The children will have access to programmable toys as part of continuous provision.</p>

Design Technology	<p>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.</p> <p>In Year 1, we will explore free standing structures in our DT lessons.</p>
Art and Design	The children will have access to art areas in both classrooms as part of continuous provision. In our art lessons, we will focus on painting and on the artwork of Edward Saidi Tingatinga.
Music	<p>Early Years: Fast, slow, loud and quiet sounds Singing</p> <p>Year 1: We will continue to focus on keeping a steady beat and following instructions on how and when to sing/play. We will also start to focus on repeated patterns and long and short notes.</p> <p>Composer: John Williams – Theme from Superman</p>
Physical Education	<p>PE skills are developed in continuous provision and Forest School lessons as well as taught PE lessons.</p> <p>EY Gymnastics, ball skills</p> <p>Y1 Gymnastics, fitness, basketball</p>
Forest School	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
Early Years	Thursday morning	Wednesday morning
Year 1	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.

Trips and Enrichment activities

Below is an amended list of planned visits and enrichment activities for the remainder of 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.

We will send out more details about this term's trip to The Deep shortly. This term we also have planned for Early Years to do some Lunar New Year cooking and for Year 1 to learn a Lunar New Year Dance. We also have a visit from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance team (4th February) and a visit from a

University of York archeologist. We will end the term with a superhero day on Thursday 26th March - we will send more details soon.

Chinese New Year EY only	February	£2	Chinese New Year food for class
The Deep Phase 1	26 February	£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 are looking forward to an exciting spring term.

The Phase 1 Team

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook

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

Dates for Diaries

Thursday 26th February Phase 1 trip to The Deep

Friday 13th February 3.15pm School closes for half term holiday

Monday 23rd February School reopens

Thursday 5th March World Book Day (No costumes - more details soon)

Tuesday 24th March 9.00am Y1 end of topic celebration in hall

Wednesday 25th March 8:50am EY end of topic celebration in hall

Thursday 26th March Superhero Day - more details soon

Friday 27th March School finishes for Easter holiday