



5th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of the Spring term! We hope that you had a wonderful break over the Christmas holidays. Thank you for all the cards, presents and good wishes that were sent into school prior to breaking up in December – they were all very much appreciated.

We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Charters has returned from her maternity leave. A big thank you to Mrs McNichol for teaching Year 5 full-time and to Miss Smith for covering phase leadership.

Mrs McNichol will now be teaching Year 5 Monday, Tuesday and alternating Wednesdays with Mrs Charters on alternating Wednesdays, Thursday and Friday.

Start of School

Our classroom doors open at 8:40am and children should be in class by 8:45am which is the official start time of the school day. This is when the register will be taken by the teacher and key skills in English and Maths will begin.

We do appreciate that at times circumstances may mean your child arrives after the classroom doors or gates have been closed. In these instances, please take your child to the office where they will be signed in.

Lunchtimes and Snacks

The menus for this term can be found at: <https://lordderamores.com/information-for-parentscarers/lunches>

As a healthy eating school, sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed in packed lunches and containers must not be glass for health and safety reasons. We are also a nut-free school due to severe allergies. Please note this includes Nutella, peanut butter and bars that contain nuts.

Children in Phase 3 can bring a snack for break times. This can be fruit, vegetables or foods such as crackers and cheese. Please remind your child that they must not share their snack food due to dietary requirements and allergies. If your child would like milk at break times, this can be ordered through ParentPay.

Children in Phase 3 should also bring a named water bottle daily. These should only be used for water.

The Curriculum

Our topic in Phase 3 this term is World War II. Further information is available on our [Curriculum](#) pages.

We are planning to visit York Army Museum and York Cemetery – dates below (more details to follow).

History	When was WWII? Which countries were involved? How did it start and end? What was the effect on people during WWII? A look at food, recipes and rationing. How did people keep their spirits up? Wartime music, games and dance Armistice Day Role of Women in WWII The Poppy Propaganda Codes and secret messages
Geography	Where in the world was WWII? Locating countries involved in the war. Using maps - compass points, grid references and OS maps.
Computing	3D modelling – using computer aided designs to create a net which can be printed and make a 3D shape. Quizzing – learning how to make online/computer based quizzes.
PE	Fitness – circuits and activities which increase agility and raise the heart rate. Hockey – dribbling, hitting, tackling, simple games. Gym – moving across, along and around equipment, developing and improving balancing skills, rotation jumps, types of roll, inverted movements, types of balances. Special events: Jitterbug dance and WW2 games, Year 4/5 University of York taster session.
PSHE	Dreams and Goals – personal dreams and goals, overcoming disappointment, developing resilience, celebrating success, jobs and careers. Healthy Me – healthy relationships, peer pressure, bullying, alcohol, smoking, body image, healthy choices.
Music	Y4 will continue to learn the violin and begin to use an open string, 1st and 2nd fingers. Y5 will learn more notes on the ukulele, including 2-finger chords, tremolo, and fingerpicking. Y6 will explore both body and instrumental percussion.
French	Children will continue to use songs, games and activities to learn French words, phrases and sentences. Y4 will learn about colours, the epiphany, pencil case items, parts of the face, and Easter traditions. Y5 will learn about describing appearances, and body parts. Y6 will learn about food, currency, recipes, and food preferences.
Art	We will be exploring the life and works of Picasso, particularly 'The Guernica' which we will replicate as classes. We will explore and practise techniques with charcoal, pastel and collage and combine these to create WWII-inspired art.
RE	Y4 will be learning about the importance of festivals. They will learn about festivals celebrated in different religions e.g. Easter and Eid and make comparisons between them. Y5 will be exploring the importance of places of worship to different faiths. They will explore why people attend places of worship and how they can help people of faith.

	Y6 will explore examples of religious creativity (buildings and art). They will explore why people value sacred buildings and art and examine the opinion that charitable giving is more important to some people.
DT	We will be using nets to create vehicles which could have been used in World War II. We will use computer design to help explore how to create a vehicle net.
Science	<p>Year 4 will be studying states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how they behave and change.</p> <p>Year 5's topic is properties and changes of materials, looking at changes, both reversible and irreversible, as well as separating materials through filtering and sieving.</p> <p>Year 6 will be learning about evolution and adaptation, including genes and inheritance as well as investigating how and why things change.</p>
English	<p>Our class book, based on WWII, will be Arctic Star by Tom Palmer.</p> <p>Y4 will also enjoy reading Can I build another me? by Shinsuke Yoshitake.</p> <p>Y5 will read The Iron Man by Ted Hughes.</p> <p>Year 6 will read The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow.</p> <p>Our guided reading sessions will involve studying and responding to our class books as well as reading other, short pieces of writing, including non-fiction, story and poetry.</p> <p>Our writing will include work on narrative (story) with a focus on direct speech, complex sentences and correct punctuation. We will also explore poetry and recounts with a focus on the use of language appropriate to the genre.</p> <p>Our work on spelling, grammar and punctuation will continue, looking at various spelling patterns and rules and the extended use of grammar and punctuation linked to our English work.</p>
Maths	<p>We will continue to follow the Power Maths scheme with topics as follows:</p> <p>Y4 – multiplication and division, including multiplying three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers; length and perimeter; fractions, including ordering and equivalence; and decimals.</p> <p>Y5 - multiplication and division, including dividing four-digit numbers by one-digit numbers; fractions, including multiplying; decimals and percentages; perimeter and area; graphs and tables.</p> <p>Y6 - ratio and proportion; algebra, including missing number equations; decimals; percentages; area; perimeter; and volume.</p>

Forest and PE Days

Please see below the days each class will be attending forest school and having PE lessons this term. Whilst teachers will endeavour to keep this consistent, it is essential for the children to have their fully-named kit in school everyday. They can be stored in lockers. Kit lists for Forest school and PE are available on the [school website](#).

	Forest	PE
Year 4	Wednesday	Thursday and Friday
Year 5	Tuesday	Monday and Wednesday
Year 6	Friday	Thursday and Friday

For health and safety, children must be able to remove any earrings before PE lessons. If their ears have only recently been pierced, and the earrings cannot be removed, please send your child with medical tape.

Reading and homework

The purpose of homework is to encourage independent learning and to practise skills taught in school. We recognise that families and children are busy both after school and the weekends and so we endeavour to keep homework to a minimum.

Research shows that the most effective homework at primary age are activities that practise key skills such as reading and times tables recall. Details of the homework is as follows:

Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10-15 minutes daily- Any reading material- Some time reading aloud to an adult- Discussions about what they have read- Signing of reading record
Maths - times tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 30 minutes a week- TTRockstars- Other online platforms (Tommy's Trek; Hit the Button)- End of unit recap activity sheets throughout the term
Homework menu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Open-ended activities based on school learning- Designed to be practical and promote creativity- Any work can be shared each week if desired- Optional and children can pursue their own interests- Shared via ParentPay and on our classroom page

Library

Your child will have the chance to visit the school library most weeks.. They are welcome to take books to enjoy at home and return when completed. (These can be changed more regularly and children do not need to wait for their library slot.)

Y5 Visit to Robinhood's Bay

The Year 5 class will be visiting Robinhood's Bay from 19-20th March. More details will be sent home shortly as well as information about a meeting where you can learn more about the visit.

Dates for the Diary

Below are some important dates for the term:

Tuesday 6 th January	Return to school
Monday 2 nd February	Parent consultations 3.15-7.00
Thursday 5 th February	Parent consultations 3.15-5.30
Friday 13 th February	School closes for half term
Monday 23 rd February	School reopens after half term
Monday 23 rd February	Phase 3 cemetery tour
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Monday 9 th March	Y5 and Y6 visit to York Army Museum (AM) Y4 visit to York Army Museum (PM)
Thursday 19 th and Friday 20 th March	Y5 residential visit to Robinhood's Bay
Tuesday 24 th March	Phase 3 WWII celebration for parents at 2.45pm
Friday 27 th March	School closes for Easter



We are looking forward to the term ahead and we hope you and the children feel the same. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office or send an email to your child's class teacher.

Mr Richards: mrichards@lordderamores.com
Mrs McNichol: kmcnichol@lordderamores.com
Mrs Charters: bcharters@lordderamores.com
Miss Smith: hsmith@lordderamores.com

Best wishes,
The Phase 3 Team