



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Helen McCarney

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

Wednesday 6th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children all had a lovely summer break. Now back to school and we are once again into the full swing of things!

I am very pleased to be with Dereham Junior Academy as Interim Headteacher. I have already got to know all staff and have been meeting the children since they returned. The start of term is always very exciting: full of new challenges and new opportunities and I am sure that your children have already come home buzzing with news and stories! I hope to meet parents around school as although I am also headteacher in Bowthorpe, Norwich, I will still be in Dereham for parts of most days in the week. I have been a headteacher for nearly 14 years but still feel excited on coming back to school after the summer break and look forward to working with the school!

You will have noticed a few changes already to the learning environment – 5 classrooms have been decorated and carpeted, the two main corridors leading to year 3 and to year 6 have also been decorated and carpeted and there has been some improvement to the front of the school with fresh plants and shrubs and new fencing around the kitchen and waste collection area.

We have appointed some new staff too: Mrs Woodall and Miss Gray will be teaching in year 3 and year 4 respectively, Miss Dobbie will be a Teaching Assistant in Lower School and Miss Harper will be supporting pupils' wellbeing and safeguarding across the school.

The staff had 2 days of training before the children returned to school. On these days some staff carried out training on the teaching of phonics led by a ReadWrite Inc trainer which will start in years 3 and 4 for some children, staff completed safeguarding training led by Miss Harper and senior staff took part in leadership training lead by a lead Ofsted inspector. Staff also worked hard on getting the school and classrooms ready for the children's return.

I am really pleased to say that the SATs results in July were much improved from the previous year. I know that the year 6 children worked extremely hard with the support and good teaching from staff and want to praise the hard work of all involved. At Dereham Junior Academy we know that we have some improvements to make across the school to ensure that standards for all children are raised and sustained. My job is to make sure that happens and I will remain very focused on that goal. I ask for your support too for your children's education. Please help us by promoting the need to work hard, be ready for school and lessons and come prepared with reading done, spellings and times tables learned.

Thank you for your support for the school and your children's learning.

Kindest regards

Mrs Helen McCarney



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