



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

8th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well during this time. We are missing the children lots here at school and can't wait to be in a position to be able to welcome them all back. I am really hoping that it will be safe enough to welcome children back from September, but we have to wait to see if Government guidance changes to allow more pupils in classrooms before we will know whether this will be possible. We do not get information from the Government prior to it being released to the public, so we will know their plans as you find them out too.

Currently, we are in the final stages of preparing to open for our Year 6 children and are waiting for our Academy Trust to approve our final risk assessments and documentation. It has already been approved by Governors and the first two tiers within the Trust, so just the final stage to go.

We have just over half of our Year 6 children returning to us, with the first group 'Team A' coming back for their first block of 5 days on Monday 15th June and our second group 'Team B' having their first week on Monday 22nd June. This week on-week off rota will continue until 10th July and we hope to be able to have all those groups in at the same time for the final full week of term, week beginning 13th July. We have not been able to have them all back every day due to the numbers of Y6 children. In addition to this, the number of Key Worker children requiring spaces is increasing and, as I'm sure you can understand, we need to carefully manage increased numbers within the school for both the safety of staff and children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their support throughout this time. Y6 parents, for your support of the rota system, even though I know this has been a challenge for those of you balancing work too. This has been greatly appreciated and we have only taken these measures to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible. I am also thankful to our keyworker/critical worker parents who have only requested spaces for their children when they have not been able to look after them safely at home. As a working parent myself, I know how hard it is to juggle working at home with your children as well as having to be in work and organise childcare. If everyone who identified themselves as key workers had requested spaces, we would not have had the staff or the classroom spaces to accommodate them all and would have had to set strict criteria to prioritise spaces offered. It would have also reduced our ability to offer spaces to some of our vulnerable pupils who don't quite meet the government criteria.

Numbers of children attending at least one day a week from 15th are set to be up to 70 each week, which is a huge increase from the 5-10 we were seeing at the start of the lockdown. From this date, we will be running with 3 key worker/critical worker bubbles as well as 3 Y6 bubbles each day.

Currently, although staff are now teaching in school more days per week than they had to originally, we are still able to continue with Google Classroom as we have been doing, ensuring there is always a teacher 'on call'. However, please be mindful that many staff are now in school teaching around 3 days a week so if you are seeking specific contact from the class teacher, you may have to leave a message and wait a little longer than previously, before they are able to get back to you.



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From 15th June, the office will be manned for a couple of hours each day in order to respond to the increased need for staff to be onsite. However, we are still asking that parents and carers ***do not come to school to speak to the office staff directly unless this is absolutely essential.***

Please continue to use the ***My Ed messaging service, the office email and the school telephone.*** Should you need to drop any paperwork into school, please use the red postbox just inside the reception doors.

We hope you are all staying safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Scott
Headteacher