



## Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrote in yesterday's lengthy letter, there will be more on the way as we continue to finalise plans for September. This letter is to update you on a few things that have come to light as we work through our risk assessment, making sure that everything is as safe and ready as possible for when your children return in September.

***Please note that plans may change along the way.*** We have started with a long window for children arriving at school, and a later end time for some, but this will not be a permanent change for the year. It is likely to return to similar times as soon as it is safe to do so. We would love to provide certainty and clear times scales, but until the children return we will be unable to see what works well and what needs further tweaking.

### **Bus to school**

For those of you who have used the bus for your children, you will be aware that this was not a 'school bus' (one provided by Norfolk School Transport) but a route that the existing bus company decided to run to provide a service around Dereham to our school. During this academic year, the company changed hands and the new company decided to honour this route and continue.

We have been trying to make contact with the bus company, but have been informed by Norfolk Travel and Transport that this is not a legitimate bus route as children within our catchment area live less than 3 miles from the school and transport is only provided where distance is over 3 miles. As such, currently it seems unlikely there will be a service to and from school for our children. We know this will cause some parents concern, but it is out of our control. We will continue to look in to whether a company can/will run this, but to date we have had no success. As we have more news, we will share this with you.

### **Start date**

To ensure that our **new Year 3 children** will have the best opportunity to familiarise themselves with a new school and new procedures, we are going to have a slightly staggered start date to the new school year in September. This will be as follows:

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September - **ONLY** Year 3 return
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September - Years 4, 5 and 6 will return (meaning all year groups are in school).

### **Parents and carers using other settings before and after school**

In keeping as safe as possible, it is incredibly important that we all continue to limit the amount of people we come into contact with. Government, Public Health England and Local Authority guidance have all made suggestions for school settings regarding this and we need to pass this on to you:



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- 'Parents and carers limit the number of settings their child attends, ideally ensuring they only attend one setting consistently' – In this instance, the school is the consistent setting. Try and avoid using others if you can
- 'Parents and carers are encouraged to attend clubs that are local to them and to walk or cycle to the club or activity' – If your child attends clubs that aren't local, they are being exposed to a wider group of people
- 'Where parents use childcare providers or out of school activities for their children, they seek assurance that the providers are carefully considering their own protective measures, and only use those providers that can demonstrate this' – If you use any setting other than school, make sure you check that they have everything in place that will help keep your children safe.

**We will accept children to school who have attended a before or after school club as long as you provide us with DETAILS of where your child(ren) attends and on what days. You should seek reassurance that they are fully compliant with safety measures, however, we will also be seeking further clarification from them. PLEASE INFORM US (using the MyEd Parent App or by emailing [office@derehamjunior.dneat.org](mailto:office@derehamjunior.dneat.org)) OF THE FOLLOWING BEFORE THE START OF TERM, SO WE CAN CONTACT PROVIDERS AND SETTINGS DIRECTLY:**

- **Your child's name**
- **The setting they attend (whether that is before or after school and on what days)**
- **A contact number and/or email for that setting**

Once again, many thanks for your continued support and the thanks you keep sending us. As ever, please contact us if you want anything in this letter clarifying or if you have any question about your child returning in September.

Kind regards,

Mrs K. Scott