



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

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Key Worker Families Update Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

For some families, your child(ren) have been attending key worker spaces throughout this entire closure period and you will have seen many changes as numbers have increased and guidance has changed. At the start we were only seeing around 3-7 children daily at the most, but now, as people return to work, we currently have 39 children accessing at least one day per week alongside our provision for the children in year six. I would like to thank you for your kindness, patience and support during this time, it really has been very much appreciated.

We know that for some of you, your own circumstances have meant that you have needed the provision of childcare in order to remain at work throughout this entire time and hopefully the additional opening during Easter and May half term have supported you to be able to work as much as you have needed to.

As we head towards the last few weeks of term, I reflect on where we are now and how none of us could have predicted the changes we have seen since the end of March. What has impressed me the most is your children and how well they have adapted to new routines, expectations throughout the changes they have faced, including being grouped with different children and being taught by different staff.

As the end of the summer term approaches, I can inform you that the Department for Education have confirmed that schools will **not** need to open for the summer holidays and that parents should seek provision from their usual providers. As such, the last day of term for all children will be Tuesday 21st July.

We are still awaiting further guidance (hopefully this week) as to details for September, but know that the Government plan is for all schools to be open for all pupils from September. There are many elements we need clarity on, so we are able to ensure that we have the facilities and staffing in place to be able to support this. As soon as we have been given this guidance and worked through what this will look like in our school, we will of course let you know. We don't receive any information prior to that shared with everyone, so have no ability to plan in advance of any announcement.

We had hoped to be able to offer some transition activities face to face, but due to too many complications, we have now accepted this can not happen. However, we will be very mindful of this at the start of the new year and will ensure that we give plenty of time for the children to settle in and get to know their new classes and teachers. The work on the Google Classroom for week beginning 13th July will also be transition linked and we hope to be able to offer some zoom sessions for classes where possible. Even if your children are attending key worker spaces on those days, we will make arrangements for them to take part in these sessions whilst they are in school.

Again, many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs K Scott
Headteacher