



1st December 2020
Autumn Term—Newsletter 4

Dear all, We hope you are keeping safe and well in these strange times. The term is flying by and it seems hard to believe we are already in December—how that has happened, I have no idea. As the term has progressed, I have been fortunate to safely visit more classes around the school and am so proud of the children's approach to learning this term, especially after the long break for some and the new systems and procedures in school. Despite all of that, the children are engaged and keen to learn and this is evident from their eagerness in the classroom to the work they produce in their books. I am sure this will continue as the year progresses.

Risk Assessment and Updates

We continue to undertake a weekly review of our Risk Assessment to ensure we are compliant with all measures required and to make the school as safe as possible for the children and staff within it. Any updates or changes are made and information shared with staff and children. Last week the Parent Handbook was re issued to you all and you can find an up to date copy of this on our website.

Although the lockdown is coming to an end, we still need to continue to be vigilant in school to minimise risks to all as we move into Tier 2. As such, the reception will continue to operate with a 1 person restriction and visits in person will continue to be minimised. Staff will be more than happy to communicate with parents, but this will need to be via the telephone or video meeting where appropriate. Visitor restrictions apply more widely and we only accept other visitors in school where they are unable to undertake their work remotely. For example, most of our speech and language therapy is now completed virtually.

Reminders

CHANGE OF SHOES NEEDED—Due to the size of the playground, we have to continue to use the field at break and lunchtimes. Due to the wetter weather, the field is becoming quite wet and muddy (as I am sure you will have seen from shoes/clothes) and this is being seen across the school. It is a challenge to keep the school clean! Therefore, **it is essential that children have a spare pair of shoes to wear outside. These can be an old pair of trainers/shoes/boots/welly boots.**

Clothing - Although doors are not open all day, the classrooms are much cooler than they would usually be as we need to keep the rooms well ventilated. Although we still expect children to come to school in their school uniform or PE kit on days where they have PE kit, we would advise that you consider adding an extra layer to their clothing on days which are particularly cold.

Christmas cards—We don't want to spoil Christmas for the children, but due to the size of the school and the work that would have to go in to quarantining cards, we are asking that cards are only sent to children within the same class as your child. That way these can easily be stored for 72 hours before handing them out. We would usually enlist some Year 6 helpers for this role, but of course this isn't possible in current times. **For your information, Friday 11th December is Christmas Jumper Day and children will be making decorations in their class in the afternoon too!**

Christmas Lunches—Please remember to book your child's Christmas Lunch (9th Dec Year 3 and 5 and 10th Dec Year 4 and 6). Thanks to the 'Friends' who have provided the crackers to add to the festivities. As usual, lunches will be eaten in classrooms.

Masks/Face Coverings—The majority of parents and carers are wearing face coverings when on the school premises and we thank you for your support in helping to keep other safe. If you collect your child/ren from the back gate at the end of the day, we strongly advise you wear a mask/face covering then too, as there are lots of adults from different households gathered together.



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Reminders continued ...

Outside childcare provision—Many of you have already informed us if your child attends an out of school childcare setting at the beginning or end the day. However, we know there are some we haven't been informed of. If you could contact the office (via email or MyEd) just to let them know the name(s) of your child(ren) and the days they attend, this would be very much appreciated. Should there be a case in a bubble your child is in, we would need to notify the setting as soon as possible. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Concerns and staff contacts

Despite these strange times, staff are still completely committed to working with you to support all children to feel safe and happy in school. If you have any concerns or worries, please make sure you make contact with the school and arrange to speak to the class teacher in the first instance.

You can arrange to contact a member of staff using the MyEd App (our school messaging system) or by emailing the office (office@derehamjunior.dneat.org). Please note that staff are not always able to contact you back immediately due to teaching or other commitments during the school day—as such, your patience is appreciated. Someone will get back to you as soon as they are able to.

If after working with the class teacher to address a concern you are still not satisfied, please arrange to speak directly with the Year Leader (Mr King—Year 3, Miss Guy-Ragan—Year 4, Mrs Bunkle—Year 5 and Mr Wade—Year 6).

If you are still concerned, it is at this stage you can request to speak to the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher. There is also a copy of the Academy Complaints Procedure on our website.

It is essential, if worries are to be addressed promptly and effectively, that we follow this procedure.

Parents Evenings

As you know, we held parents evenings via telephone this term as these were not able to happen in person. Following your feedback, we are looking in to a 'video' format to be used for our Spring Term meetings. Times will still be set as they are now, but it would allow you to see the teacher as well as speak to them and should enable both parents (where required) to be able to access the information being shared. We are looking into a couple of options and will keep you posted.

Year 3 Admissions September 2021

We had hoped to be able to run some Open Day style visits for pupils due to join us in Year 3 in September next year. However, it looks unlikely these will be able to take place due to guidance and restrictions still in place. However, Mr King has added a section to our website, labelled Year 2 Transition 2021 where you can find out more about the school and take a tour. If you have any questions about places for next September, there is a contact box you can use in the same section of the website.