



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

Littlefields, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1BJ

Email: office@derehamjunior.dneat.org

Tel: 01362 693876

Web: www.derehamjunior.dneat.org



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well at what is a very strange time for us all.

Thank you for the many kind messages that we have received before the break and since, these really have been appreciated by staff who are all trying their absolute best to keep things running as smoothly as possible.

Communication with the School regarding learning

With the new ways of working, there will of course be teething problems and I am sure many questions. Please can we ask that these queries are sent through our messaging system, via email or google classroom itself and we will ensure these are passed on to teachers. ***Please avoid calling the office for these reasons*** (but you are fine to contact the office for other matters) as the office staff will not be able to answer your query and staff are all in the classrooms with children during the day. Someone will respond to your query, but please be patient, particularly over the next week or two.

Remote learning

Those of you who had children in school last year should be familiar with the use of Google Classroom, as this is the same platform we have used previously. Your children have also been shown how to use this in school and should have all their passwords in their red books which were sent home after the October half term.

The live lessons are new for us, as well as for most of you – so please be patient with us here! I know that some of you have struggled to access these today, but don't worry, things should get easier over the next few days as things become more familiar. If you have struggled and need support, please email or message the school – or make contact via the google classroom and someone will get back to you – please be mindful all staff are in classes, so there won't be an instant response.

Please note that we have almost loaned out all chrome books that we have in school and as such may not be able to fulfill many more requests. We were initially allocated 18 by the Government and have currently loaned out around 80.

Free School Meals for those not attending school

We are still awaiting clarification from the Government for how FSMs will be provided now schools are closed to most pupils until February half term. Vouchers will be issued for this week, but as soon as we know what the guidance is moving forward, we will let you know. Vouchers will not be issued for any days your child was in school this week.

Children attending school

I would like to thank you for ONLY requesting spaces for your child(ren) on the days where you have no other provision for them. We have much higher numbers requesting spaces at the moment, and where classes are



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full, we will need to see what other options are available. We must keep both staff and children as safe as possible.

If you require a space, you will need to complete the relevant google form

Key Worker – <https://forms.gle/KJTC4NjnLdzJ1aqA8>

Vulnerable Pupil Space <https://forms.gle/3c9G4EvzNjrwMMk28>

and someone will either contact you. If the space can be accommodated, then you will be notified with a message.

Please note ***children need to be in school uniform*** – we are open for education not childcare and as such the children are following their timetables for learning. If your child has PE on a day they are in the staff will notify you, so you can send them in their PE kits.

Gates will continue to open at 8.40am and all children finish at 3.15pm. Only the front gate is currently being used.

Lunches, including hot meals, are still being provided, so please order in the usual way.

Again, many thanks for your continued support, we are thankful to have such great families and children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Scott
Headteacher