



15th October 2021
Newsletter 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are almost at the end of our first half term, but what a busy half term it has been. It has been fantastic to be able to visit more of the school to see the children and already I have seen some fantastic learning behaviours across all year groups and classes. We are gradually starting to reintroduce more normal ways of working, but are taking things slowly in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. We now have year groups eating in the hall (but only sat with children from their class) and children are mixing more outside, which they have been really positive about. You will also have seen some school trips and visits are starting to take place again as we hope to continue to build on this over the coming weeks and months.

If you do have any questions or queries, please do contact the school office who will pass these on to the staff who will get back to you. You can contact the office via our Iris Reach (MyEd) messaging app, via email using office@derehamjunior.dneat.org or via telephone 01362 693876. Please only pop in if it is really needed, as it helps to avoid long queues at the start at end of the day at the office.

School Uniform

We have a number of purple cardigans and jumpers building up in lost property, mostly with no names on. We will look through these to check for names, but ***please make sure your child's name is written/sewn on the labels***, so we can return them to them to their rightful owners if they are found around the school.

Please also remember that children need to wear black school shoes to school on non PE days. Generally we have been really pleased with how smart the children look, so thank you for your support with this matter.

Parents Evening

We had initially planned to hold virtual parents evenings this term, in order to limit the number of people coming in to school (as we are still keeping visitors to a minimum) and keep everyone safe. However, from the survey we sent to parents, it was clear some of you really wanted to be able to have a face to face meeting. We have been able to set this up for each year group, however, we are limiting the people attending to **2 people. This means that either 2 adults can attend, or 1 adult and 1 child** (this includes children who attend this school) If you are not able to manage this, please speak to the office as we will need to arrange a virtual meeting for you.

There will be no books out to look through at this parents meeting, as this would not be in line with our existing risk assessments. As such you will not miss out by having your meeting virtually with a teacher. We hope you understand the need to continue to be as careful as possible.

Attendance

Obviously, we do not want pupils to attend school when they are unwell, particularly where they are displaying Covid symptoms. However, attendance at this school has always been strong here and we set our target high at 96.5%. We want all children to reach their potential and good attendance certainly supports this. We will not authorise holidays in term time (unless there are exceptional circumstances) and where possible appointments should be made outside of the school day. Please also ensure your child(ren) arrive in school on time. The gates are closed as the bell rings at 8.55am.



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust



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Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

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National Restrictions

Breckland's alert level ①

COVID rate around school ①

↓ **350** Per 100,000
Breckland ①
Decrease of 79 from 429 last week

↓ **329** Per 100,000
Dereham Central &
Toftwood and
surrounding local
areas ①
Decrease of 89 from 418 last week

Covid Restrictions and Guidance

We continue to be mindful that cases are high locally and continue to follow Government guidance and procedures to keep our children and staff as safe as possible. It is essential that you **DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE DISPLAYING COVID SYMPTOMS**—You should book a PCR test and the child **SHOULD NOT** return until you have received a negative result. If your child tests positive for Covid, please inform the school immediately.

We continue to closely monitor cases in our school and should numbers within a class or across the school hit thresholds in line with the Government guidelines, we will take appropriate actions.

Where there are cases within 1 class, we would ask that class to revert to a bubble for 10 days, seeking additional advice from the Norfolk Outbreak Management Team. This would mean they would not mix with other pupils in the school, would eat in their classroom not the hall etc. If we met the school wide threshold this would be the red part of our contingency plan (which has been shared with your previously), which would mean the whole school would revert to bubbles for the following 10 days.

If there is a case within your household, please let us know. We will ask if your child (who attends our school) can socially distance from the positive case. If this isn't possible (e.g they share a bedroom), we will ask you to keep them at home and will provide online learning for your children, authorising this absence in order to keep everyone safe.

We have had cases within our school, but have been fortunate so far that these seem to have been isolated cases, and we have not, as some other schools have, seen high numbers of cases for children who have been in close contact.

Contact Details

If your contact details change at all, it is vital that you let the office know, whether it is a change of address, telephone number or an additional contact. You can do this by emailing the office—office@derehamjunior.dneat.org or through our Iris Reach (MyEd) messaging app.

For safeguarding reasons, it is essential that all pupils have at least two emergency contacts. If we find that we don't have 2 contacts for your child, we will make contact with you and ask you to provide this information.

Friends of Dereham Junior Academy

Before Covid, we had a relatively small, but very hard working group of parents who were the driving force of our 'Friends' team. They helped to organise events at the school, raising essential additional funds which support the extras our budget does not allow for. Look out for a future notice... our 'Friends' are returning and it would be great to have some new additions to help support the work of the school.