



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you all most sincerely for your support and patience during this time. As you know, last week the government shared their plans for a proposed full re-opening of schools, rather than there just being provision for Key Workers and Vulnerable children. Before we could provide you with additional information about our plans, there were many things we needed to explore and work through before sharing this with you.

As I'm sure many of you will be aware, the government's plan was for Year 6 (alongside YR and Y1) to be the first year group that should return to school, followed hopefully by a full reopening for the 'last month of term' should situations improve. A separate letter has already been sent to Year 6 parents to inform them of our plans on how and when we will welcome them back.

All that is left for me to do now is inform the rest of our school community on our plans for them. After much consideration, we must inform you that ***if current guidance around safety and social distancing remains in place***, we will **NOT** be opening to other year groups (Years 3, 4 and 5) before the end of this term. This is a decision that has been arrived at after much soul searching and a lot of hard work, but I am certain it is the correct one. The safety of our pupils and staff is of paramount importance to me and it is this that has driven my decision. Having completed comprehensive risk assessments around how to make the school safe for the pupils who have been prioritised by the government, there will simply not be enough staff or rooms available to open the school more widely.

I have received so many positive messages and thanks in appreciation of our staff's efforts to date and I can ensure you this hard work will carry on. All staff will continue their full time jobs by being in school supporting pupils in smaller, safer groups, or remotely by continuing to set Home Learning work and supporting your children on 'Google Classroom'. This will continue right up to the summer holidays.

We will continue to provide 'childcare' for our key worker and vulnerable children where this is needed, and we fully expect these numbers to increase as the term progresses and the country returns to normality.

We cannot wait until we are able to have all our fantastic children back in school, but it is the safety of your children, your families and the staff must come first.

As always, please feel free to communicate with school whenever you feel you need to.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards,



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