



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

2nd July 2020

General update to all parents and carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Some children have been attending school throughout this period since schools closed on 20th March. However, for the majority of our families, children have been at home for the duration and naturally will have some worries and concerns about coming back at the start of the new school year. This letter serves as a general update but does not provide you with detail on what September will look like as we continue to await detailed government guidance.

We know that the Government plans for schools to open to all pupils from September, but we still await clarity on a number of areas so we are able to ensure we have the facilities, equipment and staff needed to operate safely for all. This guidance is due soon (hopefully by the end of the week) so once we have this and have worked out what this will look like in our school, we will provide additional details for you.

I know the staff here at Dereham Junior Academy have been working hard throughout this pandemic. Not only have they been providing learning activities for the children to access at home, they have also been: teaching key worker, vulnerable and year 6 pupils; making regular contact with parents and carers to check how things are going; supporting home learning through the loan of Chromebooks/resources and the offer of printed packs; and providing personalised resources to support families and children during this time. In fact, we have loaned out over 50 Chromebooks since lockdown as well as regularly providing around 100+ learning packs each time they are issued.

I am very thankful for your support during this time. It has been fantastic to see some of the amazing things the children have been doing whilst they have been at home. The home learning videos and pictures have been wonderful to see. I realise that as time passes, many of the children are becoming less motivated to complete the work and learning activities, so we really applaud your continued efforts in keeping them going!

We would have loved nothing more than to welcome more children back before the end of term, but this just isn't going to be possible. We do, however, continue to offer spaces to the children of key workers and you should contact us directly, ideally through the messaging system, if you need a space for your child leading up to the summer break. The final day of school these pupils and indeed for all pupils will be Tuesday 21st July, as the government have announced that schools will **not** need to open during the summer break even for keyworker families.

We had originally hoped to provide the opportunity for all children to come into school and meet their new teacher, but too many barriers and a continuing desire to keep everyone safe, has led to us accepting that this cannot 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.

In the absence of a normal transition week, we still remain determined to do something that will help the children get to know their new teacher and prepare them for the next academic year. With this in mind, the work on the Google Classroom for week beginning 13th July will be solely based around transition and the usual 'lessons' will not take place. We hope to be able to offer some zoom sessions for classes where possible, but will certainly be making



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

sure that your children get to know their new class teacher as much as they can through a range of fun activities. Even if your children are attending key worker spaces on those days, we would make arrangements for them to take part in these sessions whilst they are in school.

Your child will not be required to complete any written work during this transition week, in fact all they need is a means to watch video messages such as a mobile phone. Bearing this in mind, we ask that Chromebooks/iPads are returned during this week so that we are able to clean and reset these ready for use in classes again for the start of the new term. Please bring them to school at any point during the week between 9.00am and 4.00pm and ring the bell so that someone can come and collect the device you are returning. We will then check your name off the list!

Lastly, and just for your information, we are hoping to run a 2 day 'summer school' for our new Year 3 children towards the end of the summer break. This will mean they get an opportunity to visit the school before everyone else returns. We are keeping our fingers crossed that this is something we are able to achieve and we will contact Year 2 parents directly if this is possible.

Again, many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Kelly Scott
Headteacher