



## Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you have managed to enjoy the Christmas break despite the strange times we find ourselves in.

I am sure that with the latest announcement and continued increased press coverage, many of you are deeply concerned at what the coming weeks will bring. You may also be very worried about sending your children back to school.

However, as a school, we have to follow guidance laid out by the government and **currently** the expectation is that all children and staff, with the exception of those who have been told *they themselves are clinically extremely vulnerable* and need to shield (not those living with someone who is CEV) should return.

We know how quickly things can change at the moment and **should Primary Schools be told to close**, we know we would be expected to provide spaces for children whose parents/carers are keyworkers, alongside vulnerable children who have an allocated social worker and those children with an EHCP. If this does happen, we will continue to provide the same learning online as for those in school and will ask you to only use spaces if you have no other option to ensure we can provide effective online learning for those at home as well. This in itself poses more challenges, due to staffing levels and how to group children who will be in school (considering existing bubble arrangements) but we will of course set this up as quickly as possible. We do not have access to changes and updates prior to the general announcements, which makes planning, particularly at this late stage, a real challenge.

We will continue to ensure that we maintain the strict measures we have in place to support children and staff and will continually review the situation to keep all as safe as we possibly can. We are currently fully reviewing our risk assessment to support this.

It is essential that children only come to school if they are well. Anyone with Covid symptoms, **MUST** get tested and the whole household **MUST** self-isolate until the test result is obtained. Please do **NOT** send children to school whilst you await test results for someone in the home. With the new strain and symptoms less clear, please be cautious if your child is feeling unwell and do not send them to school, having them tested if this is required. Also, if you do need a Covid test, please use a drive in centre where at all possible as there can be an extended delay with results from postal tests, which can mean bubble closures would be delayed, increasing risks for children and staff.

It is likely there will be bubble closures over the coming weeks and these will operate in the same way as they have done to date. Whole classes, plus staff will need to self isolate and learning for all children, including key worker/vulnerable children will be provided remotely as per the guidance previously shared.



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We will continue to keep you updated with any changes and look forward to welcoming your children back to school. Please note that any absences for the start of term should now be reported in the usual way, using the MyEd messaging system where possible.

Please note due to staffing issues, (and as per the message sent on 31<sup>st</sup> December to parents/carers of those in Malala Class - Mr Allott's Class Y6) MALALA Class Y6 will not return until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as we have been unable to secure cover for the class.

Many thanks for your continued support at this time

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Scott  
Headteacher