



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

25th February 2021

Return to School Information

Effective 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really excited to be welcoming all pupils back to school very soon and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. We are very proud of our pupils and families not only for all their hard work throughout these times, but for coping with the challenges many of you will have faced. We are equally proud of our staff who have adapted quickly and effectively to new ways of working, often with very short notice, working hard to ensure that the children's learning and education can continue.

Understandably, there are likely to be some anxieties about the return to school and we want to reassure you that we will continue to take effective measures to support all staff and children to be safe in our school.

Our risk assessment and safety measures are very similar to those in the Autumn term.

Key points to note are:

- Children will remain in class bubbles for the time being and will not mix with children from outside of this bubble – we will look to build and extend these over time when the data supports this.
- Break and lunchtimes will continue to happen as they did in the Autumn term with staggered break and lunchtimes to allow each class to have their own play zone whilst outside. Lunch will continue to be eaten in class.
- Gates (both) will continue to be open from 8.40am until 8.55am and children will go straight to their classes via their fire doors as they did in the Autumn term. They will wash their hands when they enter the class and should bring in minimal things with them – e.g coat, water bottle, lunchbox.
- On days where children have PE, they will come to school wearing their PE kit.
- Children will be asked if they have any COVID symptoms at the school gate and an adult will sanitise their hands
- Increased hygiene and cleaning measures will continue as they did in the Autumn term.
- Staff will wear masks or face coverings when outside of their own classrooms/offices both in and around the school
- The end of the school day will mirror that of the Autumn Term. Year 3 – 3.10pm, Year 4 – 3.14pm, Year 5 – 3.15pm, Year 6- 3.16pm
- ALL parents and carers MUST wear a face covering (unless exempt) when **dropping off and collecting children if standing within the school grounds and when close to the back gate.**
- Before School Club will continue to run and will be serving food again from 8th March – please book spaces in advance online.



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- Children MUST NOT attend school if they have any COVID symptoms, OR if someone in their household has symptoms. It is ESSENTIAL that if someone in the household has symptoms that the whole household isolates whilst they await a test result. If this is negative, the child may return to school.
- Please do remind children they should not be mixing on the way to or from school, particularly with those from other bubbles as this increases the chances of more children having to self-isolate should we have a positive case in the school.

To support the effective return to school, do talk to your child(ren) about how they are feeling and try to be positive about the return as this will help to reassure them. Explain that the way the school will run will be as it was in the Autumn term and that they won't notice a significant difference. We have put the most up to date Parent and Pupil handbooks on our website to remind you all of our procedures to help with this.

Until the 8th March, staff will continue to support the children through the online lessons and will provide time and space for children to share and discuss worries. If you have any specific worries, please contact the school, via the MyEd messaging app and someone from the class will make contact with you.

Please note, the Government are clear that all children should be returning to school and we will not be providing online or home learning for children whose families choose not to send them back to school.

As was the case in the Autumn term, if there is a positive case of COVID in the school, the class bubble would be closed and as long as the staff member is well enough, we would move to remote teaching for the children.

On that note, there will be a separate letter, we need ALL Chromebooks that were loaned to you by the school to be returned **on** Monday 8th March. We loaned out almost all of the 100 Chromebooks we had in school and with all children returning, we will need these returned to support children in school with accessing the curriculum. If you have been loaned a Chromebook, please look out for information about when and how to return the devices.

We will send a MyEd message with links to the Parent and Pupil Handbook for you to remind yourselves and your child(ren) of the routines and systems in place.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back to school very soon.

Best wishes,

Mrs Kelly Scott
Headteacher