



26th May 2021

**Summer Term—Newsletter 5**

In many ways, this has been a really long and certainly different school year, however, I am finding it hard to believe that we are about to break for the May half term and return back for the last half term of the year! Like me, I think the weather has struggled to realise what term or month we are supposed to be in too and I sincerely hope we see a little more sunshine over the break and in our final two months of the school year. Although it has been a challenging year for many, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and for your sterling efforts during the lockdown in the Spring Term.

**Roadmap out of Lockdown**

As restrictions start to ease, we have naturally had more questions from children and parents/carers asking when children will be able to 'get back to normal' and spend more time with their friends in school.

Sadly, it isn't quite that simple for schools. Despite the government roadmap, we have to follow the guidance provided by the Department for Education and until this guidance says schools can start to change their procedures, we have to stick to running as we are.

The guidance is clear that children should not be mixing between bubbles in school, that staff groupings need to remain consistent, that children still need to face forwards in class and general hygiene and safety measures in place should remain. It also states that bubbles should be as small as possible, hence why we are continuing with our class bubbles.

We review our risk assessment weekly, checking the up to date guidance. If guidance changes and we are able to start to make small changes, please rest assured we will keep you posted. However, the safety of staff and pupils has to be at the forefront of all we do and we must continue to follow guidance provided.

**Transition—Positive Steps forward!**

Last year, schools were not able to have any face to face transition. Despite this, we were hugely proud of how well our new Year 3 children settled in and heard great things about our Year 6s who had left us for High School. This year there is face to face transition planned for all.

Included are details of Year 2 and Year 6 transition. For all other year groups, children will have a 2 day transition to their new class and year group on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July.

**Year 2** Mr King and I (along with Mrs Carter too) have, between us, given parents and children an opportunity to catch up with us outside of the school buildings to say hello and answer any questions our new families may have. Mr King has also posted lots of information on our website for children to look at, and there is a questions page which will allow you to send any questions directly to us.

We will also be sending letters home, via the Infant Schools, to offer slots for an after school guided tour (in small groups of 6 with only 3 children and 3 adults per group).

Following the success of our Year 3 Summer School last year, we are hosting this again for our new Year 3 children on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September. This gives our year three children the chance to really explore the school and get to know staff before the rest of the school return. You can sign up for this online.

Finally, we will be having 2 face to face transition days, where Year 2 children will spend the final 2 days of term (Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July) with us, meeting their new teachers and classmates, whilst our Year 6 pupils undertake their transition at their high schools.



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**Transition Continued ...**

**Year 6 Transition** Both our feeder High Schools are making arrangements with staff to find out more about the children and arrange to come and visit them to answer questions they may have. For those children with additional needs or in need of some extra transition, individual arrangements will be made directly with parents and carers. If you have any worries about the transition for your child, please contact us or the school directly to discuss these concerns. We all want the children to have a successful transition into High School.

For those children moving on to **Northgate High School**, they will have 3 face to face Transition Days from Monday 19th July through to Wednesday 21st July, meaning their final day at our school will be Friday 16th July. For those moving to **Neatherd High School** they will have 2 transition days on Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July meaning their final day with us will be Monday 19th July.

**Reporting COVID Cases during half term**

If your child (who attends this school) has a confirmed case of COVID **up to and including Sunday 30th May**, please make sure you report this directly to us, as we will need to notify the relevant pupils as well as the Norfolk Outbreak Management Team at the Local Authority. Please report this using the school 'MyEd' messaging app or email the Headteacher directly on [head@derehamjunior.dneat.org](mailto:head@derehamjunior.dneat.org)

**Uniform**

We have been tightening up again on children wearing the correct uniform for school and I would like to thank you for your support with this matter. We are considering whether we continue to let children wear their PE kit to school on a PE day, but if this is agreed then we have to ensure that all pupils have the appropriate kits. The overwhelming majority of children wear the correct kit everyday. If your child does not have a plain black or navy hoodie or sweatshirt on a PE day, they should wear their school jumper or cardigan instead.

**Keeping up to date**

We like to share our good news stories with you via our website but also through Facebook and Instagram. Do look us up to follow all the amazing things happening in school and to keep up to date with information being shared. If you look up 'Dereham Church of England Junior Academy' on Facebook and/or Instagram

**Dereham Otters**

Dereham Otters are actively recruiting new swimmers to the club. If your child can already swim one length of a 25m pool and would like the opportunity to develop their existing skills in an environment that actively encourages and promotes confidence, good sportsmanship, team spirit, health and wellbeing then we would like to hear from you! For further details please contact Miles Ogden on- [miles.ogden@derehamotters.org.uk](mailto:miles.ogden@derehamotters.org.uk) to arrange a trial at our home pool at the Dereham Leisure Centre.

