



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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Covid Updates and Guidance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many of you will undoubtedly have questions in your mind about the proposed potential changes from Monday 19th July 2021 and in light of the school's guidance which was released yesterday too.

I am writing to let you know that regardless of the changes made outside of school, we will, for those last 3 days, ***continue with the measures we currently have in place.***

We know that already outside of school, people are able to mix more widely, and the chances are that from 19th July social distancing and the majority of measures currently in place may be removed. However, close contact isolation is not due to stop until part way through August.

We will have to identify close contacts right up until Friday 23rd July, as this is 48hrs after the children's final day in school. If we allow increased mixing for those final 3 days this puts more staff and children at risk of needing to self-isolate and identifying close contacts would be exceptionally challenging. This could also impact significantly on families who have planned to go away at the start of the summer holidays.

We have already amended our transition, to include an extra day, in order to make sure that staff and children will only have one set of contacts in those final few days, whilst allowing transition in person to take place.

We want all our staff and children to be able to enjoy the start of their holidays and do not want to take additional risks so close to the end of term. We also know of a numbers of settings locally who have had cases recently and needed to close bubbles. Alongside that, cases are rising. Having been in contact with a number of local Headteachers too, it seems they will also be continuing with measures as well, right up to the end of term.

However, on a positive note it looks that with the exception of increased hand hygiene and ventilation that no other measures will be in place for the start of the Autumn term.

I hope you understand our decision and will stick with us, just for a couple more weeks. Hopefully all will continue on the right path over the summer we will have new guidance from the Department of Education in place for schools for September and will keep you updated as we have more news.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting the measures in school, it has been very much appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kelly Scott
Headteacher