



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

20th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of what has been yet another very different year, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. We really are proud of each and every child at this school and despite all the challenges faced, we are in awe of how well they have managed this year.

As we look forward to the coming year ahead, it is an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and celebrate all that has been achieved. Our children (and indeed many families) have mastered the Google Classroom for remote learning and attendance in Zoom lessons during our most recent lockdown was certainly to be commended. Getting used to changes in school routines; only being allowed to mix with limited numbers of children; eating lunch in classes and one way systems around the school were all challenges they faced, but they understood the reasons and have been fantastic in keeping themselves and staff safe in school.

My thanks also go to the staff here, who have worked tirelessly throughout this time. In the most recent lockdown, all staff that were able to be in school were here every day, not only teaching their 'key worker and vulnerable' children, but also delivering English and Maths lessons to the rest of the class and ensuring appropriate work was uploaded, shared and marked to support the progress of all their class. Additional work was set, packs were created and check in phone calls made where needed. All to make sure that we supported the children as well as we could.

It was wonderful to see the children return to school in March and to be able to hold events such as Sports Day (or 'days' due to poor weather!) and Year 6 leavers events, even if this had to be without families attending. Being able to complete 3 days of face to face transition has also been well received; things we were unable to achieve at all last year.

Attached to this letter is some key information about the year ahead for you to 'put on the fridge' ready for the start of term. We are hopeful that school will look a little more like it did prior to COVID in the Autumn term, but are aware that things can change quickly and we have to plan for all sorts of eventualities. Should there be any changes to the attached arrangements, we will of course let you know.

Once again, thank you for all your support this year. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to seeing you at the start of the new term on Monday 6th September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kelly Scott
Headteacher



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Key Dates and Information 2021-2022

TERM DATES 2021-2022:

AUTUMN

1st Half Term: Monday 06.09.2021 to Friday 22.10.2021

2nd Half Term: Monday 01.11.2021 to Friday 17.12.2021

SPRING:

1st Half Term: Thursday 06.01.2022 to Friday 11.02.2022 (Please note, this differs from the Norfolk Calendar as we will not be open on Wednesday 05.01.2022 as this is our additional Inset day).

2nd Half Term: Monday 21.02.2022 to Friday 01.04.2022

SUMMER:

1st Half Term: Wednesday 20.04.22 to Friday 27.05.22 (School also closed Monday 02.05.22)

2nd Half Term: Monday 06.06.22 to Friday 22.07.22

START AND END TIMES OF THE DAY:

In September, we will still need to maintain effective hand hygiene, so will continue to ask the pupils if they are feeling well and sanitise their hands on arrival. Children will continue to walk straight round to their classrooms. We HAVE to close gates promptly in order to ensure children are round to their classes by the time the register is completed – failure to do this could see children marked as absent when they are here. Learning starts promptly at 9am. As such, if the 8:55 bell has gone, your child will have to go in via the main office. Our times for the beginning and end of day are as follows:

MORNING: Gates Open: 8:40am Gates Close: 8:55am

END OF DAY: YEAR 3: 3:15pm YEAR 4: 3:18pm YEAR 5: 3:19pm YEAR 6: 3:20pm

This allows for a steady flow of pupils, which is much safer and, indeed, nicer than everyone leaving at the same time. Staff will continue to walk children round to the front gate. For those children who leave via the back gate, there will be an adult from the staff team there, but this may not be an adult from your child's year group. We do take a radio out to communicate should children get muddled and accidentally go to the wrong gate!

If you do need to drive on to site, please do NOT arrive prior to the time your child is due to leave, as this hinders the flow of traffic. If your younger child needs to wait for an older pupil, they will wait with the member of staff at the gate. If you have to collect children from Kings Park and have to walk, we are aware you may be a couple of minutes later. This doesn't cause a problem as, again, your child will wait with an adult. We would suggest you use the front gate, so they wait with their teacher.



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BREAKS AND LUNCHTIMES:

Current guidance is that bubbles will cease to exist and children will be able to mix freely outside at breaks and lunchtimes. However, our Year 3 and Year 4 children (new Y3/Y4) will never have mixed with their whole year group in this school and this may well be quite a daunting time for them. As such, for at least the first month, Year 3 and Year 4 will have their own year-group play zones with, including use of the trim trail, and will only be allowed to mix with those from their own year group. We will of course keep this under review.

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will have access to the field area behind Year 6 classes and will be able to mix with each other. They will not be allowed to visit the Year 3 or Year 4 area whilst their year group play zones are in place.

UNIFORM:

We do expect all children to be dressed smartly in our school uniform each day. Our uniform comprises of:

- Purple school jumper or cardigans
- White polo shirt, blouse or shirt (logo optional)
- Black or grey trousers (full length), pinafore dress, skirts or tailored shorts
- Lilac 'gingham' summer school dresses (white socks allowed with these)
- **Completely** black, flat-soled, sensible shoes or boots
- Black or dark grey socks or tights (not white).

No: Open-toed shoes or sandals; Leggings (tights or socks should be used with skirts); different coloured soles or logos on footwear.

PE KIT:

We are going to continue to allow children to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE as this has proved to be a real success in helping lengthen PE sessions. However, we do expect ALL children to be in appropriate kit. Our PE kit expectations are as follows:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts or
- Plain black leggings (girls)
- Trainers
- Black or navy tracksuit for colder months (school jumper and polo shirt can be worn instead of a tracksuit top and white t-shirt, if pupils do not have the latter).

No: Football kits; clothing with images, writing or large brand logos on (**small** brand logos are allowed).



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BIKES AND SCOOTERS:

Children can come to school on bikes or scooters and these can be left in either one of the bike racks (please note the second bike rack is behind locked gates). However, **children MUST NOT bring bikes to school UNLESS they are wearing helmets**, as this is not safe, particularly with the amount of traffic in and around the school at the beginning and end of the day. If your child does not have a helmet, they must not bring their bike to school.

YEAR 3 SUMMER SCHOOL:

Despite being able to hold our three transition days this year, we will still be running our 2-day summer school on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September. This is open to all Year 3 children. If you have not signed up already, please contact the school office, or complete the information required via the website contact. You can find this information on our homepage under 'Year 2 Summer School 2021'.