



Welcome Back!

6th September 2021—Newsletter 1

- Dear Parents and Carers,
- We are excited to be welcoming you back to the start of the new school year and hope you all enjoyed the summer break. A very warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families; we hope you all settle in quickly to school life and that your child/ren enjoy their time here at Dereham Junior Academy.
- If you do have any questions or queries, please do contact the school office who will pass these on to the staff and they will get back to you. You can contact the office via our Iris Reach (MyEd) messaging app; via email using office@derehamjunior.dneat.org or via telephone 01362 693876. Please only pop in if it is really needed, as it helps to avoid long queues at the office at the start and end of the day.
- All letters/newsletters are also uploaded to our website, so this is a good place to check for information.
- We also have an active Facebook page where lots of information is shared. If you search for Dereham Junior Academy, you should be able to find us.

Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

National Restrictions Breckland's alert level

COVID rate around school



Covid Restrictions and Guidance

We are mindful that cases are high locally and continue to follow Government guidance and procedures to keep our children and staff as safe as possible. It is essential that you **DO NOT SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE DISPLAYING COVID SYMPTOMS**. You should book a PCR test and your child **SHOULD NOT** return until you have received a negative result. If your child tests positive for Covid, please inform the school immediately. We will send further guidance regarding Covid symptoms and testing in a separate information sheet.

We will continue with our soft start in the morning where gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.55am. Should your child need to arrive before this time, they will need to be booked into our before school club, which is open from 8am each day. Please do not bring children onto site before this time as it means there are large numbers of children and parents gathering which puts others at risk. We are not currently asking parents to wear masks on site outside, but should we feel social distancing is not being maintained or if cases rise, we may reintroduce this.

Children will continue to be apart inside the building, and things such as whole school or year assemblies, will not take place. Outside, our Y3 children will mix as a year group, as will Y4. They will not be allowed to mix with other year groups for the coming few weeks. Whilst this is partly to do with keeping children apart, we are well aware that these children have not mixed more widely than their own class since being in our school. Y5/6 will share the same space outside. Should cases rise, we may separate these two year groups.

We will continue to sanitise children's hands in the morning and maintain the increased hand hygiene measures in place. Further details of measures taken can be found in our Parent Handbook, which will be sent to you via email and can be found on the school website. Ventilation also remains important and doors and windows will be open to allow for increased ventilation in classes and around the school.

We are moving back to having lunch in the hall, but children will be sitting with their own year group and hot lunches will be served to them, avoiding the need for children to move around the hall. Each year group will have an allocated sitting and tables will be cleaned prior to another year group coming in.



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Parking and Cars around the school

As many of you will know, it can get **very busy** in and around the school particularly at the end of the day. As such, can we please ask that where possible, you do not drive into school, park a little further away and walk to meet your child.

If you do need to drive on to site, you will need to stay single file in order to leave the roundabout clear for when children have been collected. You should not park and get out of your car as this causes significant issues with the movement of traffic. Please also avoid arriving before your child is being dismissed. Y3 leave at 3.15pm, Year 4 at 3.18pm, Year 5 at 3.19pm and Year 6 at 3.20pm.

When Year 4 are swimming on a Thursday, cars will not be able to get on site until the bus has dropped off the children as there is not enough space for cars and the bus.

We had a system last year which worked really effectively—we do not want to have to close our gates to cars as we realise the impact this would have around the estate, so please support us with this matter.

Staffing

We would like to offer our congratulations to three members of staff who got married over the summer break, Miss Guy Ragan, Mr Turner and Ms Sangani. Only Miss Guy Ragan has a change of name and is now Mrs Groves, so there are not too many new names to remember!

We are also passing on our congratulations to Ms Gardiner and Mrs Woodall, who are both pregnant. We are continuing to keep up to date with Covid guidance for expecting staff and it is likely that both staff will need to work from home for the final stage of their pregnancy. We will keep you updated as arrangements are made.

Contact Details

If your contact details change at all, it is vital that you let the office know whether it is a change of address, telephone number or an additional contact. You can do this by emailing the office — office@derehamjunior.dneat.org or through our Iris Reach (MyEd) messaging app.

For safeguarding reasons, it is essential that all pupils have at least two emergency contacts. If we find that we don't have 2 contacts for your child, we will make contact with you and ask you to provide this information.

School Uniform and General Appearance

We expect all children to be dressed in the appropriate school uniform throughout the school year. Our sweatshirts and cardigans, as well as school/book bags can all be purchased directly from Birds of Dereham.

We are currently asking children to wear their PE kit on days where they have PE. This is not only to avoid children having to change in school, but also means that the length of their lesson is increased due to not having to allow for getting changed. However, we expect children to wear the agreed PE kit. Year 4 will be swimming this year and information has already been sent home about this. (See website)