



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

# Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

INFORMATION FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2021

Parent Booklet

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## **Introduction**

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of the children back in September.

With us being in Step 4 of the recovery programme from COVID-19, many of the things that were implemented in school to be safe are no longer necessary. However, guidance from the government and the local authority still dictates that some procedures will need to remain until the end of September at least.

This handbook includes the most up to date guidance and gives you information about the organisation of school for when your children return.

## **Group sizes and staffing**

We are really pleased to be able to say that there will be no more 'bubbles' when the children return. However, because our year 3 and 4 children have yet to experience playing with people outside of their own class yet, they will have their own play areas where only their year group can play together at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Years 5 and 6 will have the large part of the school field to play on and can mix between year groups.

As there are no bubbles, classes can also mix together in school and staff can teach across different classes in their year group.

## **Uniform**

All children are expected to wear our smart school uniform.

On days when your child is timetabled to have PE, they should come to school in their PE kit and stay in it for the whole day. A link to our uniform expectations is here:

<http://www.derehamjunior.dneat.org/uniform-expectations/>

Please make sure you are aware of our what our uniform and PE kit consists of as it is important that all pupils are free from any worry that can be caused by not having the right kit.

## **Things allowed to be brought into school**

It is very important that the number of things that come into school from home are kept to a minimum. We don't want children to lose things or for them get damaged.

We will provide children with all the stationery they need as well as something to keep it in. When we return, children will still not be able to share these types of resources.

Below is a list of the things that your child is allowed to bring into school:

- **A bag** - Large enough to carry the things in this list
- **A coat** – If needed
- **A filled water bottle** – Water is the best brain food
- **A snack** – Only fruit or vegetables as per our policy

- **A spare pair of footwear** – This is essential as we will continue to play on the field at break times even if it gets a little wet and muddy!

### **A 'soft' start to the day**

To keep the flow of children entering school nice and calm, we operate a 'soft start' to the school day.

Our school gates open at 8:40 and close at 8:55. All children must arrive between these times as the register is taken at 8:55 and any arrivals after this time are recorded as being late.

When the children arrive, they go straight to the classroom and will begin an early morning task and have time to chat to their friends.

Children are **not allowed onsite before 8.30** as they will not be supervised. Parents will be contacted if this routinely happens.

### **Drop-off and entering school**

Your children can enter school by either the field or front main gate. There will always be members of staff supervising these entrances.

Because we like to keep the traffic (and children!) flowing, we kindly ask that you do the following:

- Walk or cycle to school if possible. **Please note**, from September, any child cycling to school **must** wear a helmet. We will not let pupils store their bicycles on the school site unless they wear one
- If parents drive their pupils to school, please keep to a single line of traffic. Do not double park in order to drop your child off as this is not safe
- Unless they need to get out of the car, parents should stay in their vehicle just in case it needs to be moved. If a parent needs to speak to a member of staff, please park respectfully
- **DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SHOWING ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19.**

### **Attendance**

We monitor pupil attendance very closely. As mentioned in 'Soft start to the day', pupils are expected to arrive between 8:40 and 8:55 and any lateness is recorded.

If a pupil is unwell, we ask that parent and carers call the school in the morning to explain their child's absence. This needs to happen every day of absence.

Any absence through caused by COVID-19 self-isolation will be recorded but will not count towards attendance figures as long as the reasons for self-isolating are applicable.

### **Classroom environment, organisation and resources**

Our classrooms will look different to how they did last year due to the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions:

- Tables can be in groups as opposed to in a line
- Movement round the classroom is allowed

- Children will have their own sets of stationery but can share other resources
- Staff will continue to clean frequent touch points throughout the day
- Classrooms will still need to be ventilated.

### **Trips and visits**

Trips and visits, including residential, are allowed from September.

In the academic year 2021-2022, we will be running overnight residential in both year 4 (Horstead – 2 nights) and year 6 (Lake District – 4 nights). Parents will be made aware of the details of these and how to pay for them early in the new academic year.

Day trips and visits that support the curriculum will be planned well in advance and information will be forwarded to parents and carers as soon as is appropriate.

### **Play times, lunch times, play equipment and outdoor space**

Some of the biggest changes that will take place in September are around break times, lunchtimes and playing outside.

As mentioned in 'Group sizes and staffing', there will no longer be class bubbles in school. This means that children can play in wider groups and have playtimes and lunchtime at the same time.

For September at least, years 3 and 4 will have their own year-group play zones. These will be large areas on the field where the year group can play together without other year groups entering their zone. Because the size of our grounds and the fact that the new year 3s and 4s won't have experienced a playtime with large groups at our school, we thought this would be an appropriate and less overwhelming break time experience.

Lunch times will revert to one hour and meals will be served in the hall. There are plenty of members of staff to help and support the children at lunchtimes, both inside and outside.

**Please note: We will be using the field for playtimes and lunchtimes as much as possible and unless bad weather means it is too dangerous to do so. This means a change of footwear is needed.**

### **Washing and sanitising hands**

Maintaining good hand hygiene by having an increased hand washing and sanitising schedule is something we will be keeping in September. As a minimum, the children will be required to wash or sanitise on the following occasions:

- Children will continue to be sanitised as they enter school
- Children ***must wash their hands*** on the following occasions:
  1. After going to the toilet
  2. After sneezing or coughing
  3. Upon return from lunch time
- As well as upon entry to school in the morning, other times ***pupils are expected to sanitise*** are:
  1. Before entering the toilet block/area
  2. After returning from morning playtime

3. Before going out for lunch
4. Before leaving at the end of the day.

We have also been advised to ask you to ensure you children wash their hands once they get home.

### **Cleaning throughout the day**

We will also be maintaining a thorough cleaning regime by cleaning frequent 'touch points' such as tables, chairs and door handles during the day as well as there being a thorough clean at the end of the day.

### **Behaviour**

Our 'Behaviour and Relationships' policy is at the heart of everything we do in school and, adhering to this, makes Dereham Junior Academy a great place to be. Our pupils - your children - are brilliant and we do all we can to make sure they are learning in place that values Respect, Safety and Readiness as the cornerstones of great behaviour.

Our full policy is available on our website and, as with everything else, if you have any questions about behaviour, please contact us.

### **COVID-19**

As we all know, COVID-19 is something we are all going to have to live alongside for years to come and for September that means making sure that we remain safe even though restrictions have been relaxed.

We will continue to talk to the children about signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what we can do to continue to help stopping it being spread. As this booklet has outlined in some places already, we will continue to observe the following areas in order to help us safely live alongside COVID-19 for the foreseeable future:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
  1. Hand hygiene
  2. Respiratory hygiene
  3. Use of PPE
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We have been completely overwhelmed by how you have supported us in the last 18 months and cannot thank you enough for the support we know you will continue to provide as we move forward. The most important things you can do as far as this is concerned are:

- Keep your child at home if they show any signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Make sure they are tested and receive a negative result before they return to school
- Adhere to NHS Test and Trace instructions
- ...and get vaccinated!

## **Meetings and Contact**

With the lifting of restrictions that have come as a result of reaching Step 4 of the roadmap, we hope to be able to invite you into school more often so you can see your child learning. We will make you aware of any such events as soon as they are planned.

In the meantime, if you wish to meet with a member of staff for any reason, please feel free to contact school and we will arrange a meeting as soon as possible. As always, the best ways to get in contact are:

1. Use the MyEd messaging system
2. Phone the school office
3. Email the school office
4. Talk to someone at the school gate if it's possible.

## **THANK YOU!**

We truly hope that September brings a fresh new start to a 'new normal' life at Dereham Junior Academy. Again, to our existing parents, we cannot thank you enough for the support you have shown us over these very difficult times.

And to those parents who are new to us, we really look forward to building a strong and positive relationship with you over the coming years.

We cannot wait to see all your lovely children when they return. In the meantime, stay safe, take care and see you in September!

Best wishes,

All the staff at Dereham Church of England Junior Academy