



## Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

Littlefields, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1BJ

Email: [office@derehamjunior.dneat.org](mailto:office@derehamjunior.dneat.org)

Tel: 01362 693876

Web: [www.derehamjunior.dneat.org](http://www.derehamjunior.dneat.org)



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Face to Face Meetings and Additional Covid Measures

Welcome back to you all and we hope you had an enjoyable half term break. Due to cases rising locally as well as us returning from the school break, our Academy Trust and the Local Authority have explained that we need to return to limiting face-to-face visits to the school. This will mean reverting to virtual meetings again and not having visitors in school, in person, unless there is a genuine reason a face-to-face meeting is required.

As you are aware, our day-to-day precautions include regular handwashing and extra cleaning and we are ensuring the classrooms are well ventilated (please dress children in appropriate layers). Following guidance from NCC, and in light of the rise in cases in the area, we have been asked to renew our focus in families testing. You will be aware that secondary aged pupils are provided with lateral flow test kits in order to test themselves twice a week and this is a good early indicator of students who are asymptomatic. Whilst we have not been provided with kits for our pupils, I know many of you are using the tests with your children at home. Should you wish to use these as a family, details of how to order them can be found [here](#).

In school we will ensure staff socially distance from each other within school buildings, including in shared spaces such as staff rooms, where possible. NCC guidance expects that whilst "Teaching will continue face to face as normal, all non-essential events where parents visit schools will be held virtually."

Currently, the guidance has not called for a return to class bubbles, so we will continue with our outside arrangements where year groups can mix. We will also continue to have lunches in the school hall, with sittings of a year group at a time but with children seated with others from their own class. However, we know that this could change should we see further increases in case numbers. We will keep you updated as we receive further advice.

Although we have, of course, had cases in our school over the past half term, we have not reached thresholds set by the DfE and, as such, we have been able to continue with our current practice. We track cases very closely and will let you know if we need to increase measures further. I would particularly like to thank parents and carers for their honesty and for supporting us in keeping children at home where it has been identified the child cannot maintain social distancing from the household member with Covid. Also, many thanks to those who have had to get PCR tests for children displaying Covid symptoms.

Where possible, can we ask that you call, MyEd or email the school with any messages, rather than come in to the office in person as this also supports us to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Scott Headteacher