



Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

5th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school tomorrow. We begin 2022 in the middle of a huge wave of positive Covid 19 cases and we are well aware this rise has the potential to impact how we operate on a day to day basis. We will be continuing to work hard to reduce the risk of transmission in our school and classes will remain well ventilated with continued increased hand hygiene and cleaning regimes. Contact inside and outside between children will continue to be restricted as per the Autumn term.

Adults in the school will wear face coverings when outside of their own classrooms or offices, and some may choose to wear these in class too. For High School pupils, children are being asked to wear face coverings in classes as well as in communal spaces. ***This is not the case for Primary age children***, although we know some of our pupils prefer to wear a face covering in school, which is fine. In person visitors to the school will remain restricted and we ask any parents needing to speak to the office to email, MyEd or call where possible. Where you need to speak to the ladies in person, please ensure you wear a face covering unless you are exempt.

If your child is not able to return to school due to having Covid 19, please ensure you report this to the office. Online learning will be in place from Day 1 and there is an expectation this work is completed unless your child is not well enough to do this.

Guidance around self isolation changed towards the end of December, and should parents wish to undertake lateral flow tests (these are not provided by the school) from Day 6 onwards, children may return sooner than the 10 days **if they have 2 negative lateral flow test results in a row**. This could mean your child may be able to return on Day 7,8, 9 or 10 depending on whether you choose to test them and whether they have 2 negative results in a row. We will need proof of the negative results to ensure children are not returning to school too soon.

We will continue with current arrangements in school, in that children will not mix widely inside, with Year 3 mixing outside, Year 4 mixing outside and Year 5 and Year 6 sharing the larger field space. Cloakrooms will remain in use, but staff will stagger usage to ensure there are not large groups of children mixing together inside. We will, at this stage, continue to eat in the hall, but this will be well ventilated and children will only sit with other children from their class, as per the Autumn term arrangements.

We know that many of our families are choosing to test regularly at home and we fully support this in helping us to identify positive cases. If you are testing regularly, please do report any positive cases to us as soon as possible. Obviously a PCR test is needed as a follow up, but we would ask to know following a positive lateral flow test result.



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We continue to be thankful for the support you have given us in the Autumn term and are very proud of how well our children have got used to the new ways of working within the school. I am sure, if we continue to work together, we can ensure a successful spring term too.

We will of course, keep you updated with any changes if they are needed.

Kind regards

Mrs Kelly Scott

Headteacher