



12.01.2024

## Whole School Newsletter—Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I am sure the Christmas break may feel like a long time ago, but we hope you all had an enjoyable break and are ready for a busy Spring term ahead.

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for all your support over the past term. It has been wonderful to see the 'Friends of Dereham Juniors' make a return to school this academic year and I'd like to extend a **HUGE** thanks to our Committee Members, who are working tirelessly to raise additional funds for our children, and also to those who have helped at events and supported events in any way. As you know, school budgets are exceptionally tight and the funds raised will ALL go directly back to support the children in our school. It means a lot to us and we are really grateful to all those who have helped in any way.

Diary dates for the term have been sent out and can also be found on our website under 'News, Events and Letters' then 'Events Calendar'. Please do look at this regularly as it is kept up to date with anything happening at the school. On our website there is a wealth of information, including information about what the children are learning. Do have a look to find out more.

Year group newsletters will continue to be sent out fortnightly electronically with a link to our website, so again, use these to find out more about what is happening in school for your child(ren). These are uploaded to the website so can be viewed at any time.

This week, we have seen the return of our Year 5 Bikeability sessions, where pupils from across Year 5 learn how to ride their bikes safely. Please remember, if your children do ride their bikes to school, they should wear a helmet. In the event of an accident, a helmet really can make a huge difference to the extent of injury sustained.

### School Uniform—Thank you

Many thanks to all of the families who continue to donate uniform to us, so we can pass this on to those who may be struggling to buy new uniform for their children. Please do keep bringing in any items your child has grown out of, as this makes a huge difference to some of our families. We will accept trainers, school shoes, coats, jumpers/cardigans, trousers, dresses, skirts and t shirts.

***If you are struggling and need support, please speak to a member of staff who will happily have a look to see if we have an item we can pass on.***

However, please do name items (permanent pen in a label is great)—we have a very large, lost property container with lots of lovely un named items of school uniform in. This includes some lovely coats, which sadly don't have names in so can't be returned. The lost property is kept in the hall, so children can search if they are missing items.

### Attendance

We know the importance of children attending school regularly and on time and as such have high expectations of pupil attendance. Our whole school target is 97% and although this is aspirational, it really is achievable. Our gates **close** at 8.50am as this is when registers are taken. If you see us closing the gate when you drive in, this is not to be difficult, but if the children come in through the gate late, they don't make it in to class, so staff mark them as absent, and as they haven't been in via the office, the office don't know they are here and teachers think they have come in via the office. It's probably easiest if you aim for your child to be through the gate by about 8.45am. Your child will not be marked late if they enter the gate before the bell.



### Governors 2023-2024

This school year, we have seen some changes to Governance at our school, with our previous Chair of Governors, Mr Mallett, finishing his 4 year term of office. Grant King, who has recently been re-elected as a Parent Governor at the school, has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors, with Gemma Starling our Vice Chair. Gemma also remains as our Safeguarding Governor.

We do still have a parent governor vacancy at the school as in our recent election, we only appointed one parent governor and have 2 positions available. Do let us know if you are interested and we can arrange for you to chat with school or our Chair of Governors about the role. We currently meet once every half term (usually on a Tuesday between 9.30 and 11.30am). There is training and Induction available to support those new to the role.

### Childcare Support

#### Please see below about support available for childcare for working parents

From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.

To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.

There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

### Staffing Updates

This term we welcome back Ms Sangani to school following her maternity leave. Ms Sangani has returned part time, working 3 days a week and works alongside Mrs Waymouth in Shakespeare Class. Mrs Waymouth and Ms Sangani will be sharing the role of Year 6 leader, meaning there is full coverage over the week.

At the end of January, we will be saying goodbye to Ms Guymer who has worked at the school for around 5 years. Ms Guymer is leaving us to take up a full time position at Norfolk County Council. As such, this does mean we have a vacancy for a new HLTA at our school, which is advertised on both the DNEAT, Educator Solutions and Indeed website, so please do share with anyone you know who may be interested.

<https://www.dneat.org/vacancy/higher-level-teaching-assistant-cover-supervisor-dereham-cofe-junior-academy/>

### Contact Numbers... keeping the office up to date

Please can you ensure you let the office know if **ANY** of your contact details change, including telephone numbers of you and/or any listed emergency contacts. Please also let us know of any changes to address. Should we need to contact you in an emergency, we need to have the correct contact details. You can drop the changes in to the office, send a message using our messaging systems or email the office on [office@derehamjunior.dneat.org](mailto:office@derehamjunior.dneat.org).