



Denby Free Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Church Street, Denby Village, Derby, DE5 8PH
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3rd September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and have had a summer 'holiday' of some kind or other! It's been a busy summer for many of us in school with lots to prepare for the Autumn Term. The Department for Education have certainly been keeping us on our toes with over 150 separate pieces of guidance over August!

Therefore, I am writing to you in advance of Friday with some key updates which have happened over the Summer which affect us directly.

Our website remains the best place for up-to-date information. On it, there are many letters and risk assessments which outline our plans for a safe return and many questions can be answered there. I am in the process of writing another risk assessment that has been sent to me today. This will be shared as soon as possible.

School Closures

Despite our best efforts to keep the school open, it is sensible to put plans in place for another lockdown. The latest guidance states that "In the event of a local outbreak, the Public Health England health protection team or local authority may advise a school to close temporarily to help control transmission. This may involve a return to remaining open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers and providing remote education for all other pupils". We will keep you updated as best we can if and when the situation arises.

Self-Isolation Period

The self-isolation period has now increased to 10 days. If you have symptoms or have tested positive for Coronavirus, you will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days.

What if there's a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school?

This guidance remains unchanged since my last letter in July and we will work with Public Health England where necessary.

Face Masks on Children

The current guidance states that the overwhelming majority of Primary-aged children do not need to wear face-masks in school and this remains our policy. We will ask parents to take masks home after removing them from children. It is absolutely fine for children to wear masks as part of their going to and from school routine. Likewise, we fully recognise that some children may need to wear masks for medical reasons.

Face Masks on Parents and Visitors

It is important that parents adhere to the 2-metre rule whilst dropping off and collecting children. If social distancing is maintained and parents remain outdoors, there is no need for facial coverings. If parents wish to enter school for an arranged appointment or to speak to our admin team, they must wear a face-mask. It is important that we all work together to keep the site calm, friendly and safe.





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Face Masks on Staff

Some staff need to wear masks for medical reasons. Therefore, some staff may be wearing visors or masks, particularly during non class based times.

Collection and Pick up

Make sure you collect and drop-off your children as quickly as possible to avoid queues. There is a 15 minute drop off and collection time to avoid everyone arriving at once. Remember only one adult is to come to school. Please allow plenty of time to make your journey to and from school and expect it to take time initially. Can you make sure that you have read and understood all the guidance and procedures from my last letter in July.

Returning from Abroad.

It is important that families inform us if they have been abroad over the last 14 days and are being asked to self-isolate as a result. Communication is key during this time from us and from you. Please make sure you have set up your ParentPay account and you use class e mails as that continues to be our main methods of communication. Likewise, please make sure our office has your **up to date** contact details.

Snacks and packed lunches

On Friday 4th September, **all** children will need to bring a snack to school. Sparrows and Doves children will receive fruit or vegetable snacks from Monday 7th September when the National fruit scheme starts again so do not need to bring a snack with them.

KS2 children can bring in a snack each day. The snack needs to be a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable or stick yoghurt (one that needs no spoon to eat). This will cut down on packaging but more importantly be healthy for the children. We want to promote fresh fruit and vegetables as even 'healthy bars' have extra sugars in. I would ask for your respect and support for this policy.

We also expect that packed lunches are healthy with no chocolate or fizzy drinks.

Thanks

Many thanks to Sparrows parents for all the time, resources and donations they have made to enhance the playground for the younger children. It looks absolutely fantastic and the children will love using the area so much – all of your efforts are very much appreciated.

We have also received a donation of a shed which has made Mrs Kirby very happy as she can store playground equipment.

Thank you and I am really looking forward to seeing you all on Friday.

Mrs Bell
Headteacher

