



# Learning together, growing together

## Dorin Park School and Specialist SEN College

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### 01.09.20 – Welcome and Info for Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new Autumn term 2020.

The Dorin Park School family (staff, pupils, and parents) have been through many challenges and changes recently. Staff are keen to welcome all pupils back, and to start having fun learning together again. I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that Dorin Park Staff have worked hard to make the school as safe as it can be for our pupils/families.

Jane Hughes (ex Headteacher), has moved to her new role and is looking forward to the new challenges. She thanks you for your best wishes/gifts.

From today, 01.09.2020, I am in post as 'Acting Headteacher', until our Governors are able to appoint a new Headteacher. Many of you will know me/have met with me in my role as Deputy Headteacher.

Sarah Adam (who many of you will know as Assistant Headteacher) will take on the role of 'Acting Deputy Headteacher'.

In my various roles/settings, as Teacher, Senior leader, Advisory teacher, Assistant Headteacher, and finally as Deputy Headteacher Here at Dorin Park, I have had the privilege to work with passionate/experienced staff and many amazing children/families. I am looking forward to this new role. For those of you who do not yet know myself or Sarah, I hope we will have chance to get to know each other as soon as we can.

**When our pupils return this week**, they will be class based in their '**Bubbles**' (sometimes linked to one other class) to help minimise the number of contacts they have. Staff have worked hard to make pupils' return to school a good experience. Staff have kept up to date with the guidance from Gov.Uk/Education/Health, and have ensured we have all measures in place to keep pupils and staff as safe as we possibly can.

**Please be aware the guidance for special schools may sometimes differ from the things you hear in the news.**

**Social distancing** – We are aware that many pupils will find it difficult/impossible to socially distance, due to the care/support they need, or their age/abilities. Staff are therefore working hard to ensure all other measures are in place to minimise risk, such as enhanced cleaning throughout the day and encouraging pupils to wash their hands frequently. Staff and those pupils who are able will be maintaining a safe distance from each other.



**Acting Head Teacher – Jane Mills**

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**Illness** – We ask that you as parents do not send your child into school if you know they are ill, or if they have any symptoms that could be COVID related. Any pupil who displays symptoms in school will need to be collected by parents. Please get in touch if you have any concerns re illness, as we can help you access a test.

**Test and trace** – We will be fully compliant with the test and trace system. Please ensure you have updated any details such as new phone numbers/change of address.

**Transport** – Transport staff are not permitted to allow pupils who are ill/displaying symptoms onto the transport. All transport whether local authority/parents' cars will be directed where to park and when to allow pupils to move into school. We are doing this to try and reduce the number of children going into the main entrance together and to avoid crowding. It may therefore take a little longer than usual to get everyone into the building.

**Curriculum** – Staff have put in place a recovery curriculum for the first couple of weeks back. They aim to help pupils gain confidence and feel safe being back in school. They will be supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing and making sure we have fun being back in a class group again. They will also be assessing skills and noting any improvements/gaps, to enable them to plan the curriculum moving forward. If you have noticed your child gain new skills during their time away from school, please let staff know and they will look out for these skills being transferred to the school setting.

**Face masks** – SEN pupils are exempt from wearing face masks, due to the increased risk if not worn/handled correctly. However, if you do wish your child to wear one, please ensure they know how to put the mask on/take it off and store it correctly. Staff will not be able to do this for them.

**Uniform** – We are aware that buying uniform may have been more of a challenge this summer. Please do not worry if your child is not able to return in full uniform straight away. Simply ensure they wear something that is comfortable, and that you are able to wash easily, to reduce the risks of transmission.

**Lunches/snacks** – Packed lunches/snacks can be brought into school, in their own container and labelled. Staff will ensure they are stored safely until lunch/break time. A reduced hot lunch option will be on offer, and snack available at break time (further details to follow) for those who wish to buy it.

**Personal belongings** – Please try not to send your child in with anything that is not necessary. For those who are travelling independently, a mobile phone can be reassuring. In such cases the phone will be handed in at the front desk on arrival, and kept in its own named container until the pupil can collect it at the end of the day.

We are aware that many things may look/feel different for you as Parents/Carers. Please be assured that we, as staff, are working hard to make our new normal a good experience for our children/families. The children who returned in the summer term reported feeling glad to be back and, despite the challenges/changes, lots of fun and laughter was had alongside the learning.

We look forward to welcoming your child/ren back.

If you have any questions/concerns please get in touch with school either via the parent communication email [parentcomms@dorinpark.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:parentcomms@dorinpark.cheshire.sch.uk) or via the main office number 01244981191, and staff will do their best to get back to you as soon as they can.

Jane Mills

Acting Headteacher