



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

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Dear Parents/Carers

Important notice following the DFE announcement for frontline workers

Guidance was given early this morning about which frontline workers can still send their children to school. In some Trust schools, this has led to large numbers of parents requesting that their child attends from Monday.

I have been asked to stress to you that the Coronavirus is potentially deadly for all age groups and that social distancing is advised by the government. The general principle from government is that children should be at home. Having large numbers of children in confined spaces in school is not conducive to preventing the spread of the Coronavirus and therefore we will be doing the following:

- 1) Assessing if your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed and you cannot keep your child safe at home.
- 2) Assessing if vulnerable children will be safer at home than in a school setting. Some children with EHCPs for example, may have serious underlying medical issues which could heighten their risk of infection. In these circumstances, schools will discuss their concerns with parents to ensure the best possible support can be arranged.

This means that schools may NOT be able to look after all children that have a parent who is in a frontline employment, as we ourselves are experiencing high levels of self-isolation and illness. There simply are not enough staff in the primary schools in particular, to keep children safe if too many children continue to attend school. Please do not be surprised therefore, if you are not able to leave your child at school. Please be patient with us while we manage the emerging situation.

Over the coming week, we will be looking to try and enhance capacity by moving staff around from secondary schools to primary settings and therefore provision should be improved.

Please also be aware, that under new emergency powers, school staff must now be available to the Local Authority for services outside of schools. This places an additional requirement on school staff.

The best course of action to protect everybody from the Coronavirus is to keep children at home if at all possible, ensure social distancing and good hygiene.

I will be writing again with updates on the following;

- 1) Free School Meal Provision.
- 2) Further clarification on what will happen with GCSE and 'A' level grading.
- 3) Arrangements to keep schools operating for the Easter Break.

Alun Williams
CEO

Latest Public Health Guidance – 19th March:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

