



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD
Company No: 7365778

16th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you for all of your support since September. It has been a difficult time for many people and therefore your kind words of support have been appreciated more than ever. We have avoided full school closures and in many schools, we have had no cases of COVID-19 at all. In those schools where it has been necessary to send year group bubbles home, the quality of on-line learning and teacher engagement with groups has improved significantly from our first lockdown provision. We now have the means to run more live lessons and teachers are becoming better skilled at delivering learning activities over the internet. Of course, this is not really a substitute for face-to-face learning with a teacher or TA, but it certainly helps keep children learning whilst away from school.

A further positive piece of news relates to the progress children appear to be making. In our secondary schools, children are catching up quickly and progress looks relatively strong across all year groups. In primary schools, pupils are catching up and in particular the phonics scores for Year 2 appear to be on-track to hit national levels pre-pandemic. Sixth Form pupils are also coping well and are generally quite close to the level of attainment we would expect at this point in their studies. Much of this is due to the hard work of pupils and commitment to their studies whilst in school. Attendance during the last half-term has been positive across the schools and I hope that this continues until the last day of term. I do need to remind parents that schools will not be able to authorise any absence unless there is an exceptional reason. If the number of unauthorised absences recorded are greater than 5 days (10 sessions) this may result in a penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority.

COVID-19 continues to disrupt our lives and school staff have been asked to be available before Christmas to support the national track and trace initiatives. Therefore, if your child tests positive for COVID-19 after we break up from school up until the 24th December, please use the central email address below to notify us. You will receive an automated response with a Google form to complete so we have all the necessary information to identify close contacts and notify those that need to self-isolate.

Reporting steps between **Saturday 19th – Thursday 24th December 2020.**

1. Send an email to mnsps-covid19-alert@msnpartnership.com titled - Positive Result Student.
2. On receipt of the automated response complete the Google form and submit.
3. A response will be received by MNSP Senior Staff and the relevant School Headteacher notified.
4. Telephone contact will be made to confirm details.

I hope it will not be necessary for anyone to make contact, so that everyone can enjoy Christmas.

In other updates, Hayesfield Girls' School (HGS) have now been given permission to join the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership. I am delighted by this news and look forward to welcoming this excellent school into the Trust. I anticipate that HGS will join us by April next year.

At St Dunstan's School in Glastonbury, we are very pleased that a new Resource Base will soon become part of the school. This provision, based in Frome initially, will cater for children with Autism and offer specialist support and help youngsters with Autistic Spectrum Condition access the full school curriculum.

Lastly, the new Norton Hill Primary School will finally be handed over to the Trust on Wednesday 23rd December – only 5 months late! It has been worth the wait however, as the building is superb and it will be a great facility for the community for years to come and paid for by central government rather than the





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Local Authority. I am genuinely sorry that Silver Street has been closed for so long, but I have not had any control over this. Big thanks must also go to the pupils, staff and parents of Longvernal school who have provided a temporary home for Norton Hill Primary staff and pupils since September.

As a final reminder, all schools re-open to pupils on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

I hope all our families across the Trust Schools are able to enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

