



# Midsomer Norton Primary School

*Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'*

High Street  
Midsomer Norton  
Radstock BA3 2DR  
Tel: 01761 412289  
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Head Teacher:  
**Mr Alun Randell**

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## LOCAL GOVERNING BODY MEETING Thursday 21st January 2021 at 7.00pm VIDEO CONFERENCE VIA GOOGLE MEET

### Present:

Alun Randell (AR)  
Kath Cox (KC) – Chair  
Anna Swift (AS)  
Claudia Gumm (CG)  
Jake Andrew (JA)  
Daisy Nicholls – Clerk  
Sarah Biss (SB)

**Absence:** Sharon Wilson (SW), Jude Vale (JV), Tracey Mallon (TM), Isobel Mills (IM)

Meeting open- 19.00 Meeting Close 19:54

### 1. BOARD BUSINESS

1.1 CH welcomed everyone to the meeting, and all declared in turn they are in a secure and confidential environment.  
1.2 Apologies – SW, JV, TM. The meeting is quorate.  
1.3 Declaration of Interests specific to Agenda. There were no declaration of Interests nor related to any items on the agenda.  
1.4 Housekeeping - No contact with IM, DN to make contact. KC wanted to thank all school staff for all they are doing. She has received tremendous feedback. **CG agreed that the online learning is great and the different structure from last lockdown has made her family feel very well supported.** KC asked AR if he would be happy for her to send an email to all staff thanking them for their work during this difficult time. AR agreed that would be very welcome.

### 2. MINUTES & REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS - Minutes from previous meeting attached

2.1 Previous minutes agreed by all.

### 3. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT - Head teacher Report distributed with the agenda.

AR gave a overview of the heads report

3.1 CURRENT SITUATION DURING PANDEMIC- AR advised that the reception team and the majority of the year 3/4 bubble have been self isolating including AR. Reception returned this Tuesday and years 3/4 next Monday. **AS asked if the nursery is open** - AR advised that the nursery is open however there is a decrease in numbers and with one member of staff signed off sick the two nursery rooms have been combined. AR explained how funding is being allocated during this lockdown meaning that we are encouraging our funded children to attend nursery however some families have opted to attend at reduced hours. AR advised nursery children are being supplied with online meets.

3.2 CHILDREN IN SCHOOL- AR advised when all bubbles are in we have an average of around 25% of children attending with 31% attending across the week. This makes us in the top 25% of the trust, AR does feel numbers will start to increase as some families are starting to advise that they are struggling, AR will decide who can/ cannot attend school and does not want to contribute to anyone's vulnerabilities so tries to be supportive where possible.

3.3 HOME LEARNING- AR & SB agreed home learning is going well with the vast majority of families engaging well. AR did advise that online learning uptake with reception children is lower than other year groups, reception families are preferring the work packs, AR advised that this is 'trending' through other schools within the MAT.



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CG - commented that she is very happy that we are measuring by children's engagement rather than work handed in. AR agreed that during these times its important families are aware that there is flexibility.

3.4PP, SEN & LAC - SB advised that 44% of SEN children are currently attending school. We currently have 6 EHCP children on role (2 pending) 3 of these are attending along with 24 out of 84 Pupil premium children. SB advised all SEN children but 1 that are not attending are engaging well with online learning, SB feels positive with these figures. SB & AR to arrange communication with the EWO for the 1 child not engaging.

3.5SAFEGUARDING, WELFARE - SB & AR are communicating with the EWO for a child who has not made contact with the school.

3.6HEALTH & SAFETY - No comments made.

3.7STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING - AR advised we currently have three members of staff signed off sick one covid related the other two not. All other Staff are working incredibly hard and doing well. Staff are currently working on a rota basis of alternate weeks. Workload is significant.

3.8 Questions/ Challenges sent prior to meeting

**Q - How is the school planning to assess student progress in English and Maths during lockdown?**

A- AR advised that there had been a discussion within the primary heads meeting but nothing confirmed at this time. AR feels that individual online assessments will not be reliable due to some parents being involved, not seeing how children complete the task etc and would argue the amount of teacher time this will take is better spent assessing more broadly areas that need reinforcement and teaching. AR confirmed assessments will regardless need to be made on children's return. As the teachers are teaching this time online they will be aware of where the gaps are. AR advised the priority is safeguarding, engagement and families wellbeing.

**Q-How is the school ensuring children have access to reading books?**

A- JA advised that all children have a login to oxford owl where they can find the WRI books along with many others. AR & SB to have a discussion to possibly give old library books to those families they feel could benefit.

**Q- Year 5 seems to be especially low attaining, is this something that has been tracked through the school or has it become more of an issue recently? Also is there anything extra in place to tackle this?**

A - AR advised that we do often find due to the mixed year groups some children in yr 3 & 5 do show lower outcomes in term 2 (which maybe partially due to an unconscious comparison made with older children in the class) however often accelerate later on in the academic year. The current year 5 children however are a higher need year group than the average with 10 SEN children and 18 (37%) pupil premium. AR would like it noted that our staff did a conservative estimate of 37% in maths whereas NFER results were 46% (still low) and that the NFER tests covered areas of the curriculum not taught due to a focus on closing gaps. It was agreed that catch up funding would be used to free SB from her PPA cover so that she could complete 1:1 sessions with those children that needed her within Yr 5&6; however, that is now not possible. SB will be doing some online small group work.

**Q-Catch-up after first lock-down: what interventions are in place to support those children who fell behind last time now that learning has moved online again?**

A-AR confirmed that they had planned to use some catch up funding to release staff to carry out 1:1s and small group booster groups, now that school has closed again AR advised that TAs and support staff are being used better during this lockdown period compared to March, offering smaller group or 1:1 sessions online often to those children in need.

**Q-How many families have reported that they don't have sufficient laptops or internet provision and how are they supported?**

A- AR confirmed that we currently have 23 laptops out on loan to 19 separate families. AR also managed to source 30 internet dongles for those families who do not have internet at home. No families have required these yet.



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**Q- PP/SEN outcomes: how are these children supported during lockdown? What proportion of these children are attending school?**

A- SB advised that 44% of SEN children are currently attending school. We currently have 6 EHCP children on role (2 pending) 3 of these are attending along with 24 out of 84 Pupil premium children. SB advised all SEN children but 1 that are not attending are engaging well with online learning, SB feels positive with these figures. SB & AR to arrange communication with the EWO for the 1 child not engaging.

**Q - Online learning due to lockdown: do you have data on what percentage of children is not completing the expected work or do not engage in video calls?**

A- AR commented that the vast majority of children who are not currently attending school are interacting well - 95% on a regular daily basis with most of the rest more infrequently. AR & SB confirmed there are 2 children that are a cause for concern, one child the EWO and AR have spoken with the family the other AR/SB to report to the EWO.

**Q-Workload/ wellbeing of teachers: has there been an increase in staff absence? How are teachers coping and is there additional support they need?**

A- Staff are working very hard JA advised that it is very different to a usual day and much busier 'behind the scenes' majority of days spent reassuring parents and answering queries. AS also agreed that things are very busy with so much to do. Staff are coping and supporting each other well. Teachers and support staff are working on a rota so that they have time to plan, prepare and support remote learning from home.

## 4.LINK GOVERNORS/ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES/MONITORING

4.1 KC asked AR for guidance as aware the school is very busy at this time AR agreed to put on hold for the moment. KC advised to raise if any concerns.

## 5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 Confirm date of next meeting – **Thursday 9th March 2021 at 7pm**

5.2 Future Agenda Item – EYE & PHSE

KC thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight The meeting finished at: 19:54

Authorised By: ..... Date: .....





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