



Midsomer Norton Primary School

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'

High Street
Midsomer Norton
Radstock BA3 2DR
Tel: 01761 412289
Fax 01761 415896

Head Teacher:
Mr Alun Randell

office@midsomernortonprimary.co.uk
www.midsomernortonprimary.co.uk

Friday 26th February 2021

Arrangements for the return of all children to school

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted that all of our children will be returning to school on Monday 8th March. Our families have done a brilliant job supporting learning at home. We know that some of our children may be tempted to take the foot of the gas now that the end is near; as it is the start of a new term when motivation and momentum are so important, please try and encourage your child to continue to stay positive, focused and determined for that last week. You are in the final stretch now!

Please see yesterday's letter from Alun Williams, CEO of our academy trust, for information about the implications for all schools in relation to 8th March. I would like to reiterate that primary school children will not need to be tested or to wear face masks.

Please find specific arrangements for our school below:

Please note: On Thursday next week, learning tasks will be set but there will be no live lessons. (Not Friday as stated in Mr Williams' letter).

Safety

It is important that we continue to do our bit to prevent a resurgence of the COVID virus. Please:

- Wear face masks when on the school site.
- Maintain socially distancing with other families and if you need to talk to a member of staff on the playground as, whilst a face mask helps reduce transmission of the COVID virus, it will not prevent all transmission.
- Do not enter the school office unless absolutely necessary but make contact via email or telephone if possible.
- Keep your child by your side if you are waiting in the playground before or after school.
- Remember that the lockdown has not finished and that children should not be having play dates - especially not indoors.

Wellbeing

We want our children to be excited about returning to school to help with any nerves. Therefore, we are celebrating **World Book Day** on Thursday (a week late - please see this week's letter) and we will also get our **sports clubs** programme up and running on the very first day back. An online clubs sign up form will be sent out next Monday to be completed by Wednesday. We will then be able to inform children and their families whether they have a space in their chosen club(s) by next Friday. After Easter, we hope to be able to expand our clubs programme further.

We strongly encourage participation in these clubs due to the well-documented effect of the pandemic on children's mental and physical health. **Therefore, for the remainder of the school year there will be no charge for any of our clubs.**



Parents' Evenings

In a normal year, we would have held Parents Evenings just before half-term. We believe it would be immensely helpful for parents and carers to have the chance to talk to their child's class teacher as soon as possible after all children return. We will therefore hold Parents' Evenings on Thursday 25th March and Tuesday 30th March. Information on how to book your consultations will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Bubbles

Our Sunbeams Nursery and Sun Pre-School Class are currently learning altogether in Sun class. This is possible due to our current numbers and staffing capacity. We will continue to maintain all other bubbles: our Reception classes, Year 1 & Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4 and Year 5 & Year 6.

Staggered start and end to the school day

We have amended our drop off and pick times once more to minimise waiting in the playground. The drop off/ pick up times will be as follows:

- **Sunbeams Nursery/Sun Pre-School** **Drop Off:** 8:30am **Pick Up:** 3:30pm
Entrance: Either entrance via top or bottom play ground
- **Reception:** **Drop Off:** 8:35am **Pick Up:** 3:10pm
Entrance: Normal reception entrance
- **Year 1 and Year 2:** **Drop Off:** 8:40am **Pick Up:** 3:15pm
Entrances (same as December): Pluto via door next to PTA shed, Venus via door near the back of Venus classroom, Mars via usual entrance)
- **Year 3 and Year 4:** **Drop Off:** 8:40am **Pick Up:** 3:15pm
Entrance: Top playground
- **Year 5 and Year 6:** **Drop Off:** 8:35am **Pick Up:** 3:10pm
Entrance: Top playground

Entrances remain the same as those used before Christmas. Older siblings of children in Year 1 – 4 can enter at the same time and via the same entrance as their sibling. At the end of the day, older siblings will go out the same exit as their youngest sibling.

Children should still be dropped off and collected by one parent/ carer only to limit the number of people on site. Please try to be punctual but avoid arriving too early.

Hand cleaning/ Cleaning

Children and adults will be expected to wash their hands or use sanitiser on entry to school in the morning and at other points during the day, such as, break times and lunchtimes. All staff will continue to have cleaning duties so that we can ensure additional cleaning during the day.

Equipment

Children should bring the minimum number of belongings to school. Please do not allow your child to bring a toy to school except for a small wipe-able toy for Greenie Tie on Friday afternoons. Please, please, please make sure that every item of clothing belonging to your child is named!

Uniform

It has been a much disrupted year and it is important that our children feel that sense of belonging and pride in our school. Children are expected to wear full school uniform including appropriate footwear. On PE days, children may continue to come to school in PE kit; however, they should wear a school jumper or one of our lovely new hoodies. As we do not have a school tracksuit, leggings or (preferably unbranded) tracksuit bottoms are acceptable.

Hair/ Jewellery

Please remember your child should not wear jewellery in school. Hair styles should be suitable for school. Please do not allow your child to have an 'extreme' hair cut or to have their hair coloured. Long hair must be tied back.



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Break times, lunchtime and school dinners

Break times and the lunch period will be staggered. Please provide a snack for the morning. Fruit is provided for Reception – Year 2.

Wrap around Care

We are able to offer Breakfast Club and After School Care. We will ensure that mixing of teaching bubbles is kept to a minimum, by encouraging social distancing to be observed and maintaining bubbles within each session. Please contact the school office for more information on how to book a place in Breakfast Club or After School Care.

Attendance

Attendance at school will be compulsory and, after such a disrupted year, it is vital that we do our best to ensure attendance for all pupils is excellent. Some children and parents may be anxious about the return to school. Please contact school as soon as possible if this is the case, so that we can find ways to provide support.

Risk Assessments

We have updated our statutory risk assessment for March. This has been published on our school website and is available [here](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about the arrangements described above or any concerns about your child as they begin school, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate member of staff via the school office.

Once again, thank you for your amazing support and understanding in extremely challenging times! We can't wait for Monday 8th March!

Best wishes,

Alun Randell
Head Teacher

