



Midsomer Norton Primary School

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'

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Head Teacher:
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Monday 31st August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Mr Alun Williams, CEO of our academy trust, sent a letter to all parents and carers earlier this week regarding arrangements for how schools are managing the return of all children in September. Please find key information about how our school will run in the new academic year below.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Thursday. School may feel a little different but we are confident these arrangements will help us minimise the risk to all those on the school site whilst also delivering an excellent education and ensuring that our children enjoy their time at school. It is important to remember that the COVID 19 virus has not gone away and that we will need our children and families to support our arrangements and continue to practise social distancing where possible.

There is a lot of information below which can seem overwhelming. Staff will be on duty as children come into school and move around to help children and their parents/carers know what to do and where to go and to reassure anxious children. We can also follow up with phone calls to let parents and carers know how their child has settled into school where appropriate.

Bubbles

Our children will continue to be organised in what are called 'bubbles'. These will be bigger than our current 'bubbles', but will be kept apart from other bubbles during the school day as much as possible by staggering the timings of the start and end of the day, playtimes and lunchtimes.

The different bubbles will consist of:

- Sunbeams Nursery
- Sun Pre-school Class
- Our Reception classes
- Our Year 1 and Year 2 classes
- Our Year 3 and Year 4 classes
- Our Year 5 and Year 6 classes.

Children will need to enter school only via their designated entrance. We appreciate that this will cause some inconvenience; however, this measure will help ensure our bubbles remain separate.

Staggered start and end to the school day

We will need to stagger the start and end of the day. It is very important that parents and carers try to ensure that children are dropped off and picked up as punctually as possible so that we can avoid overcrowding in the playground. **Children should also be dropped off and collected by one parent/carer only to limit the number of people on site.**



The Drop off/ Pick up times will be as follows:

- **Sunbeams Nursery** **Drop Off:** 8:30am **Pick Up:** 3:30pm
Entrance/Exit to use: Sunbeams Nursery
- **Sun Pre-school Class** **Drop Off:** 8:30am **Pick Up:** 3:30pm
Entrance/Exit to use: Sun Nursery entrance facing the top playground
- Our **Reception** classes **Drop Off:** 8:35am **Pick Up:** 3:00pm**
Entrance/Exit to use: Reception entrance facing the bottom playground
****Please note: This time applies only once the Reception Induction programme has finished. Please see the communications sent by the Reception team for more details.**
- Our **Year 1** and **Year 2** classes: **Drop Off:** 8:50am **Pick Up:** 3:15pm
Mars class: Entrance in bottom playground
Venus class: Yellow fire exit next to the Venus classroom rear exit.
Pluto Class: Entrance on the slope next to the old school office
- Our **Year 3** and **Year 4** classes **Drop Off:** 8:50am **Pick Up:** 3:15pm
Entrance/Exit to use: Entrance on top playground
- Our **Year 5** and **Year 6** classes. **Drop Off:** 8:35am **Pick Up:** 3:00pm
Entrance/Exit to use: Entrance on top playground

Don't worry: Miss Biss and I myself will be outside directing children where to go and available to answer any queries!

We have seen a recent spike in cases locally which reinforces of adults continuing to socially distance. When you drop off and collect you child please endeavour to maintain the 2-metre rule.

Cloakrooms

We will need to use our cloakrooms once again. Pegs will be labelled with children's names in Early Years and Key Stage 1. In Years 3-6, each class has a designated colour coded area. Staff will supervise movement around school to avoid bottlenecks as children move to cloakrooms.

Classroom layouts and furniture

Our classrooms can now be used with the normal number of children. Adults must endeavour to be two metres away from children and, therefore, teachers will be at the front of classrooms more than they normally would. Teaching Assistants are also expected to maintain a two metre distance where feasible, although this will not always be possible if children need support that requires closer supervision. Our classrooms (Years 1 – 6) will have tables and chairs set out in rows as far as possible and we will aim to have all children facing forward to reduce the risk of any infections being passed between individual children. In our Reception classes and nurseries, however, we will continue to teach in the usual manner, where children have the opportunity to move freely around rooms and interact in groups. Excess furniture will be removed from classrooms to allow children to be seated away from one another as much as possible.

Hand 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.



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Equipment

Children should bring the minimum number of belongings to school. They will not be allowed to bring in pencil cases or toys. Coats will be hung up in cloakrooms on colour coded pegs with named pegs for infants as usual. All belongings must be taken home at the end of each day so that the cloakrooms can be cleaned. Please, please, please make sure that every item of clothing belonging to your child is named!

Uniform

We would like children to wear school uniform, but not all of it, if necessary, to enable clothes to be washed frequently. Please aim for your child to wear school shoes, trousers/skirt and the school polo top, but we will be relaxed about school jumpers/ cardigans etc.

PE kits

We do not want our children to bring in their PE kit until further notice. On their class's PE days they should wear footwear suitable for PE.

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. Most classes will eat lunch in their classrooms. Sun Pre-School and the Reception classes will eat in the hall. Hot schools meals will be available. These will be delivered to classrooms to avoid queuing.

Cleaning in schools

All staff will continue to have cleaning duties so that we can ensure additional cleaning during the day.

Parents' evenings/ Meet The Teacher Event

Our Parents' Evenings will be held virtually, by either phone or videoconference. We will review this decision in December for the events in 2021.

On Thursday 3rd September, each phase team will hold a meet the teacher event at 4:00pm using Google Meet. An invite with the link to attend the meeting will be emailed to parents on 1st September.

Wrap around Care

We are able to offer Breakfast Club and After School Care. We will ensure that cross contamination 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.

School Clubs programme

After school activities are a vital part of school life; however, we will only be able to offer a reduced programme of outdoor sports clubs due to the need for After School Care to use the hall to enable distancing.



Volunteers/ Visitors to School Sites

It continues to be necessary to limit access to the school. Please ring or email the school office with any queries or issues you might have. We are sadly not yet able to welcome our amazing volunteers to our school. We miss you all!

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 September. This has been published on our school website and is available [here](#).

Curriculum

Our curriculum has been modified to ensure that a greater proportion of each school day is devoted to supporting our children's mental and physical health during the first few months to help with the transition after such a long break from schooling for many of our children. We will also spend time to ensure that the previous year's learning objectives are revisited to avoid gaps in our children's understanding.

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.

Best wishes,

Alun Randell
Head Teacher