



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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with regret and no small amount of frustration that I write this letter asking that all families continue to adhere to the government's COVID restrictions to keep their own child, other children in school and staff safe. Although restrictions are being slowly relaxed, it is important that everybody follows carefully what we are allowed to do.

Staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to provide learning both in school and at home, including during the Easter holidays. Half-term was spent preparing the school to keep children and staff in school as safe as possible and to make sure we do our bit to limit the spread of COVID-19. Children are kept in 'bubbles', physical distancing is encouraged as much as possible, additional cleaning staff have been engaged and all staff have cleaning duties. I could not ask more of our staff at time when they are also anxious about exposing their own families to the virus as a result of them unflinchingly carrying out their role. Some staff live with relatives who are high-risk.

I have been informed that a number of families who have already chosen to return their child to school chose to take their child out of school yesterday and visit the beach. You may have seen media images yesterday showing just how busy the beaches were. We are trying desperately hard to bring back as many children as we safely can within government guidelines. We need the support of our families. If they mix with other families outside of school, then the chances of transmission across 'bubbles' within school increases which ultimately could result in multiple bubbles needing to self-isolate. Our children also need to be in school as much as possible having had their education so massively impacted. Over the coming months, school and families will need to work closely together to reverse this impact over time. Although the government has declared that no parents will be prosecuted for non-attendance at this time, this is because they recognise that some families still feel very unsafe. If you have chosen to send your child back to school, they should be in school. School is not optional. Parents and carers risk teaching their child that it is with these actions.

I hope that this letter gives our families cause to reflect on the importance of us all working together. We have many months of this ahead. Chris Witty, the Chief Medical Officer recently said we are still in the middle of the crisis because of the risk of a second wave. It is not over.

Best wishes,

Alun Randell
Head Teacher

