



## Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

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30th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have seen that earlier today, Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) issued updated information on the reopening of schools after the Christmas break. If you have seen the various announcements, then you will probably be wondering what this means for you as a parent/carer and your children. In addition, I have been giving some thought to the lateral flow testing that the Government wants secondary and special schools to adopt in the new term. Testing will likely reach primary schools by the end of January.

**At this point I believe the following to be correct:**

- 1) BANES will shortly be in Tier 3.
- 2) Somerset and North Somerset will shortly be in Tier 4.
- 3) Primary school children will all return to school in the first week of term as planned - **for Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership Schools, that will be on the 6th January 2021.**
- 4) Special Schools will also return as normal at the beginning of term - **again the 6th January 2021.**
- 5) Examination year groups - **Years 11 and 13, will now return to secondary schools on the 11th January 2021.**
- 6) **All other secondary school-aged children will return to school on the 18th January 2021.**
- 7) Secondary schools will need to be open from the first week of term for vulnerable pupils and those of key workers. Parents/Carers of these children will soon receive details regarding how they can notify their school if their children fall into one of these categories and will be returning from the 6th January.
- 8) Secondary school children will receive remote learning if not in school from the first week of term.
- 9) Testing kits will be delivered to schools on the 4th January - I have arranged for personnel to be available to receive these at each secondary and special school.
- 10) Full testing guidance is due out on 31st December, but at the moment I am expecting all staff to self-administer a test and all secondary-aged children to self-administer a test. Clearly, Parents/Carers will need to give permission for this and I will send out details of what the test entails before the start of term.
- 11) Testing processes will need to take place in a large space such as a sports hall. I anticipate a year group of approximately 200 will take half a day to test.
- 12) Staff required to watch the self-administering of tests will need to be trained via a video presentation.
- 13) Despite much hype, it is unclear to us and indeed the army, what their role might be in the testing process.

I hope this update is useful. I will write again soon to provide further information.

Your sincerely

Alun Williams - CEO MNSP