



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD

Company No: 7365778

21st October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, thank you so much for your support over this first half term. Despite the COVID-19 protection measures we are all facing in schools, feedback from children and the reports from parents and staff have been overwhelmingly positive about the return to school. I hope that children will be able to enjoy a restful break and be ready for another half-term of learning

Uniform

From term 2 (November 3rd), children should return to school in full uniform. Given that the weather will be less pleasant over the coming months, please ensure that your children have school jumpers and/or blazers if they are part of the uniform and a waterproof coat. In most Trust schools, the published Risk Assessments require some windows and doors to be open in rooms to allow air to circulate and therefore classrooms may not be as warm as they have been in previous years. Please contact your school if you need any financial support with uniform.

School Trips

We will not be running any school trips between now and Christmas except where there is an examination course requirement at GCSE or A level. I intend to review this in December and update all parents about our plans for educational visits in the New Year.

COVID protection

Please remind your children of the importance of good hand hygiene and the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' slogan around colds etc. In winter we naturally have more children and staff who are unwell with colds and therefore having tissues and trying to stop the spread of minor viruses is really important, particularly given the threat of Covid-19.

Parent consultation

A number of the Trust schools will be trialling new software for video conferencing for parent consultation evenings. This will allow parents to see staff without visiting schools. Time slots will be available for booking and the software counts down the time left in the appointment. I have asked staff to be concise in their communications with you and hope that one of the positive benefits of Covid-19 will be reduced waiting times for appointments, particularly in secondary schools!

Full details of how parents' evenings will be conducted will be communicated to you directly from your child's school.

Assessment of progress

We are running the usual programme of assessments for all children and the full curriculum in all schools. Progress data will soon be available to parents across all schools via the usual systems.

GCSE and A level Examination 2021

The DFE have now decided that GCSE and A level examinations will be delayed by 3 weeks to allow time for children to catch up on work missed. Further details will be published in due course.

Trust Board

Many of you will be aware that there is a Trust Board that governs the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership. The membership of this group are largely local people, many of whom have children in the Trust schools. I am pleased to announce that Margaret Simmons-Bird has agreed to join the Trust. Margaret was Head of School Improvement at BANES Local Authority and will no doubt keep us on track in terms of pupil progress and other aspects of school development.

Governors

All schools require good governance and senior leaders to be held to account, we currently have a number of voluntary vacancies across the Trust for governors at both primary and secondary level. If you have a transferable skill i.e. HR, Marketing, Finance, Leadership etc. that schools could benefit from please complete and submit an application form for consideration.





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Charity of the year

As you will know, we have adopted the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust as our charity of the year for the MNSP Trust. We have a number of events planned in bubbles across the schools and hope we can support the charity to undertake the work it does fighting prejudice and supporting disadvantaged young people and children.

Lastly, please find the final dates of terms and INSET for the academic year 2021/22 below for your information.

Academic year 2021/2022

Term 1

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021

Term 2

Monday 1st November 2021

Friday 17th December 2021

Term 3

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Friday 18th February 2022

Term 4

Monday 28th February 2022

Friday 8th April 2022

Term 5

Monday 25th April 2022

Friday 27th May 2022

Term 6

Monday 6th June 2022

Friday 22nd July 2022

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Inset day 2

Friday 3rd September 2021

Inset day 3

Friday 22nd October 2021

Inset day 4

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Inset day 5

Wednesday 5th January 2022

National Bank Holidays:

Monday 27th December 2021

Tuesday 28th December 2021

Monday 3rd January 2022

Friday 15th April 2022

Monday 18th April 2022

Monday 2nd May 2022

Monday 30th May 2022

Monday 29th August 2022

Thank you for your continued support and dedication I wish you all a safe and restful half term.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

