



Midsomer Norton Primary School

Head teacher: Mr Alun Randell



Dear Parents and Carers,

I continue to be very impressed by the resilience our children have shown since returning to school. After the initial excitement of the return to school, we can now see more clearly how the extended absence from school has impacted on many of the children. We need to continue to place a big emphasis on helping children relearn key social skills and learning habits. Parents and carers can help this process by continuing to help their child practice skills such as remembering number facts and reading aloud for a few minutes each day. Just as important are maintaining bedtime routines at home, talking positively to your child about school, especially if they are finding something challenging and communicating with your child's class teacher if there are any concerns.



One lesson we have learned is that the original plan to sit children in rows from Year 1 up to Year 6 simply does not work for such young children in Year 1 who have had an interrupted Reception year. We need to balance measures to slow the transmission of COVID with the mental health and educational needs of the children so will be moving to a more traditional table arrangement. Children in Venus class and Year 3 - Year 6 will continue to sit in rows. We will, of course, continue with our other COVID preventative measures including enhanced cleaning, keeping children in their bubbles and frequent hand washing.

Mrs Bailey

As you will be aware, Mrs Julie Bailey's passing has left a huge hole in our community. We wish to create a fitting tribute to Julie in the form of a large mosaic in our performance area and decorative plants in our school entrance. If you would like to make a contribution in support, please place it in a clearly marked sealed envelope for your child to hand in to their teacher. Any surplus monies will be donated to Cancer Research UK.

New staff

We would like to extend a warm welcome to 5 new members of staff who join us this year. Miss Danielle Seymour is our new Key Stage 1 teacher teaching Pluto class, together with Mrs Anna Cox who teaches the class on Thursdays. Mrs Tash Presley joins us as a teaching assistant in Neptune class and Miss Emma Emery is our new teaching assistant in Venus class. Mrs Hannah Cloude and Mrs Abbie Cullen join us as midday supervisory assistants.

Recruitment

We will soon be recruiting for an additional teaching assistant and a midday supervisory assistant. Please watch out for the adverts in the local press, on our website and on facebook. Please share with anybody who might be interested.

Social distancing

Please remember the importance of social distancing to keep our children, families and staff safe. Children from within the same bubble are allowed to interact before and after school but I would ask parents and carers to use the space available in the playgrounds to maintain a 2m distance between each other and also to remember that

Attendance

Attendance from September is compulsory. Please contact us if there are any issues about your child returning to school.

Child sick?

If your child has a temperature, continuous cough or loss of sense of taste and smell, they (**and any siblings**) must not attend school unless they have had a negative COVID test and the symptoms have disappeared.

School Dinners

Please book school dinners on ParentPay, they need to be booked one week in advance

Online Book Shop

Visit our [scholastic book shop](#) to buy books to shop and the school receives 25p for every £1 spent! All funds raised will be spent on books for our library

Healthy packed lunches

Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is healthy and **DOES NOT CONTAIN ITEMS THAT CONTAIN NUTS AS WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL AND WE HAVE BOTH CHILDREN AND STAFF WITH SEVERE NUT ALLERGIES. FOODS CONTAINING NUTS WILL HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM CHILDRENS LUNCH BOXES.** No fizzy drinks are allowed in school. Drinks bottles that children have in the class should only contain water.

conversations with staff should also be socially distanced or conducted over the telephone.

Playground equipment

Please do not allow your child to use the playground equipment/ climbing apparatus before or after school as we have to ensure it has been cleaned between use by different 'bubbles' of children. I have spoken to a number of children, some repeatedly, about this and children have been told that they will receive a yellow card if they do so. I appreciate that our new routines can result in inconvenience with some children needing to wait for siblings; however, it is vital that they are actively supervised by an adult. Thank you.

Timings

In order to minimise the time families are waiting at drop off/ pick up, we are adjusting the times slightly. Please do not arrive before the doors are opened to reduce the number of people on the playground. The doors will remain open for 10 minutes. Do not worry if you are a few minutes later and the doors are closed, the children can enter via the school office.

The new times are as follows:

Sun/Sunbeams: Drop Off 8:30pm/ Pick up 3:30pm

Receptions: Drop Off 8:35pm/ Pick up 3:00pm (once the induction period ends)

Y1/2: Drop off 8:45am/ Pick up 3:10pm

Y3/4: Drop off 8:45am/ Pick up 3:10pm

Y5/6: Drop off 8:35am/ Pick up 3:00pm

Meet the teacher

On Tuesday after school, we will be holding online Meet The Teacher events for Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. Please see the letter emailed home yesterday for details.

Greenie Time

Greenie Time is our reward time on a Friday afternoon. Children have the choice to play outside or in the class, but COVID measures such as arranging table in rows have had a bit of an impact on 'enjoyability'. We have decided that children can bring in a small wipeable toy if they wish to play inside the class. This must be kept in their school bag and only taken out for Greenie Time. Please make sure this is cleaned when your child returns home.

Breakfast club and Afterschool Care spaces

Our Breakfast club and Afterschool Care are up and running. To find out more or to book a place, please contact the office.

Skips!

You may have noticed yet another skip in the turning circle. Over the past year, we have de-cluttered our school a lot. I have lost count of the number of skips we have filled! Staff have given up their time after school and during holidays over and over again to make the learning environment as attractive and as conducive to learning as possible. There was another example of this with staff volunteering their time to clear the school gardens after school on Tuesday which had become overgrown during lockdown. A big thank you to all our amazingly dedicated staff!



Best wishes to all,

Mr Randell
Headteacher



Head Teacher Awards



Kai Charlie Archie

Frasier Alesha Alex

Isabelle Chloe Jesse

Toby Henson



Gold Awards



Ellie Noah Luna

William Max Maya

Nico Millie Alesha



News

Can we help?

Midsomer Norton Primary School holds Foodbank Vouchers. Please speak in confidence to reception who will be able to give you further information.



Don't forget that you can catch up with what's going on in school on our twitter feed:

<https://twitter.com/MSNPrimary>



Like us on our Facebook page! Search for Midsomer Norton Primary School and Nursery

All letters are uploaded to the school website.