

Midsomer Norton Primary School



Head teacher: Mr Alun Randell

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The second week back always feels slightly odd in school due to the absence of our Year 6 pupils and staff. They have spent the week on camp at Osmington Bay; they look like they are having fantastic time! The weather has been very kind and judging from our twitter feed the children have loved the activities. It can be daunting being away from home at such an age but I highly recommend it to all of our children when they are in Year 6 as an incredible experience for boosting confidence and independence and as a wonderful team building exercise. You can see all of Year 6s adventures at <https://twitter.com/MSNPrimary> or search for @MSNPrimary.



Nursery Classes

I very proudly showed Alun Williams, the CEO of our trust, around yesterday. Throughout the school, children were engaged and working hard and behaviour was excellent. I particularly wanted Mr Williams to see our Early Years setting. As you may recall, we opened Sunbeams, our nursery class for 2-3 year olds last November to complement Sun class, our pre-school class and Reception and there is a real buzz about Early Years. We have a fantastic Early Years team, led by Mrs Grice, who ensure our children have a wonderful start to life at our school. If you would like to find out more about our nursery classes or Reception please contact the school to arrange a visit. Alternatively, please join us on one of our two open days on 27th September and 15th November or our open evening on 16th October to find out more. Details are available from the school office: office@midsomernortonprimary.co.uk



Lunches

I mentioned last week that the trust now provides our school lunches. I have been checking the quality on a regular basis and the kitchen staff and children all agree that they are much improved and really good value for money. Research shows that school lunches are healthier than 90% of packed lunches ([click here for more information](#)). Children on packed lunches can have quite fixed views about school lunches but I would strongly recommend encouraging your children to sample our new lunches. If you have any questions please contact the school office.



Important Announcement

Parent Pay - Lunches

Current Year 3 children will need to pay for school lunches from September so please sign up to ParentPay if you haven't already done so. Contact the office for an activation letter.

Please note - From September all dinner money must be paid in advance. There will be no facility to go into debt on ParentPay and we will be chasing payment on a daily basis! Please be aware if we don't receive payment in advance, there is a possibility your child will not get a school meal and you will be asked to provide a packed lunch.

Visitor access to school

Please remember that visitors, including parents, can no longer access the school via the lower entrance. All visitors are asked to enter via the main entrance and sign in at Reception. Thank you for supporting us in keeping the school site secure.

Breakfast Club/ After School Care

- Breakfast Club 7:00am-8:45am: £5:50 (Siblings £4.50)
- After School Care 3:15-6:00pm: £8:50 (Siblings £7.00)
- Children who attend After School Care can also attend school clubs such as football etc free of charge (subject to availability).

Please contact the school office to book: office@midsomernortonprimary.co.uk

Can we help?

Midsomer Norton Primary School holds Foodbank Vouchers. If you are struggling to feed your children please speak in confidence to reception who will be able to give you further information.



Behavior

I have been delighted with behaviour so far. We use many strategies to encourage positive behavior choices, including expecting our children to follow our Green Rules: **We are kind and gentle, We listen; We try hard in our learning; We look after things; We play safely; We are honest; We are helpful and polite.** The more children manage to follow the Green Rules the more 'Greenie Time' they earn on a Friday afternoon. During Greenie Time, children can choose from a range of activities from gym to board games to wheelie play and playing on the field. To find out more about how we promote good behaviour and what our children think about behaviour in and out of class come along to our first Parents' Forum on 4th October, 1:45pm.

Author Visit

We are delighted that Blue Peter Book Award winning author **Andy Seed** is visiting us on Thursday 20th September to launch his new book, *The Clue is in the Pool!*

Holiday Requests

These will only be authorized in exceptional circumstances and we do require at least 2 weeks notice. Holidays cannot be granted retrospectively.

Staff Car Park

Please do not park in the staff car park unless you are a holder of a disabled badge. The turning circle can be used for drop off but not for parking.

Clubs

We are offering 20 clubs this term - which is remarkable for a school of our size. Please remember to return reply slips for your child's club choices. Although the deadline is today any replies received by first thing on Monday will be included as we allocate clubs. Your child will find out which clubs they will have towards the end of next week.

School Funding

Funding cuts continue to have a detrimental effect across the education system nationally and like all schools in the trust we are certainly being impacted. Every day, I need to make difficult decisions as to how we manage our budget. These are not decisions about how to make efficiency savings as the government suggests but harder decisions about what to do without - from the number of teaching assistants we can employ to whether we can afford to send a teacher on training course to ensure they have up to date skills and knowledge. I would like to encourage you to attend a meeting about the impact and what parents can do to help campaign for better funding of schools at Norton Hill School, Wednesday 3rd October 7pm. Please see the accompanying flyer for details.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Alun Randell
Head teacher



Jecaela Mason Frasier

Jack Tyler Aaron

Max Seb Rhys



News

Drop Off and Read

Drop off and Read will begin from the week beginning 24th September (Reception week beginning 1st October). You are welcome to join your child to share a book 8:45-9:00 on the followings days in Term 1:

Tuesdays: Year 5/6 and Reception

Wednesdays: Year 3/4

Thursdays: Year 1/2

Important dates for your diary

- *Harvest Festival: 1st October Infants 9:30am, KS2 10:45am*
- *Clubs start week 4 (week beginning 24th September)*
- *EYFS Phonics workshop: 2nd October, 3:30 crèche provided*
- *Parent Forum: Behaviour 4th October, 1:45pm*
- *Y1 Phonics workshop: 9th October, 3:30 crèche provided*
- *Coping with challenging behaviour coffee morning: 25th October, 9:00am*
- *Parents' Evenings: 6th & 8th November, 3:30-7:00pm*



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

<https://twitter.com/MSNPrimary>



Gold Awards



For demonstrating exemplary behaviour...

Eva Freya Jonah
 Karis Ethan Isaac
 Adam Charlie Olivia



Birthdays



Ella Marco Jeannie
 Mario Ronni Jake
 Isabelle Nada Franco

Attendance Champions of the week

1 st	Star	99.4%
2 nd	Mercury	98.8%
3 rd	Jupiter	98.1%