



Midsomer Norton Primary School

Head teacher: Mr Alun Randell

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had to adjust many of our routines and habits during the COVID pandemic. These adjustments are necessary but can be frustrating, such as our staggered timetable, eating lunch in class (see below for good news!) and sitting children in rows; however, there have been silver linings. One benefit has been the learning curve we have been forced upon in how we use IT to learn and communicate. At times, that learning curve has been very steep and not without challenges! This week, we held our first virtual Parents Evenings using new software called School Cloud. A few technical niggles aside, it seemed to work very well with parents and carers avoiding the traditional 'Parents Evening Wait' as their child's class teacher finished speaking to other families. We would be very interested in your feedback as to the advantages and disadvantages of using this system.



We need to use every available corner of our site as we continue to maintain our 'bubbles'.

Remembrance day

It is Remembrance Sunday this weekend and Remembrance Day on Wednesday. Unfortunately, we were not able to sell poppies this year; however, you can still both mark the occasion and donate to the British Legion by downloading a poppy template via their website at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>. We will hold two minutes of silence on Wednesday at 11:00am and explore the meaning of Remembrance Day in our assemblies next week. We would be delighted to be sent photos of poppies in windows for us to share on our social media channels.

Christmas Celebrations

Having made the decision that we could not facilitate the delivery of Christmas cards to children this year, enterprising staff have identified a way that we can actually do this in a safe way. Children will be able to place their cards in a box in the library or Key Stage 1 area (Early Years staff will collect their classes' cards) and put to one side before being sorted. On the last day of term, all the cards will be handed out by the class teacher. If your child wishes to send cards, please send them to school by Friday 11th December. Thank you to the staff for their determination to sustain this tradition.

Christmas lunch/ Christmas Jumper Day

We are able to hold Christmas lunch this year on Wednesday 16th December. The good news is that all of our children will be eating lunch in the hall from Monday 16th November onwards as, working together with our academy trust's catering team, we have been able to find a way to work timings so that we can safely manage sittings in the hall.

Children (and adults!) are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or accessory, if they wish. Normally, we do not use this as a charity fundraising event; however, this year, we would like to suggest a voluntary donation in memory of Julie Bailey, our much loved TA, to Cancer Research UK. More details to come.



Important Announcement

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.

Shoe Box Appeal

For the last two years, we have run a 'reverse advent calendar' encouraging donations to the Somer Valley Food Bank. Due to the generosity of local individuals, families and businesses, the food bank's stocks are currently high. To help our children understand the meaning of Christmas, we would instead like to encourage our children to support the Samaritans' Purse Shoebox Appeal (<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>). Please see the letter that will be sent out next week for more details.

At Harvest, we were delighted to receive £63 in donations to help us send unneeded books to Books2Africa (<https://books2africa.org/>). We have over 40 boxes of books all packed up and ready to go once the lockdown is lifted! Many thanks for your kind support.

Celebrating Differences and Supporting Others

Both mental health and equality have been very much in the news over recent months. Last year, we invested heavily in a new PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) scheme called Jigsaw with the help of a £1000 donation from our PTA. This term's Jigsaw topic is Celebrating Differences which complements perfectly this term's learning power - 'Ruby Power: Supporting Others'.



Circle time is really valuable for exploring attitudes and values to develop children's self-esteem and respect for others.

Anti-bullying Week 16th November

Behaviour in our school is very good and we are very proud of the caring ethos demonstrated by young and old alike; however, schools can never be complacent. We will be holding our Anti-Bullying Week 16th-20th November with a range of activities to help children understand what constitutes bullying and what to do if they experience or witness bullying.

Have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes,

Mr Randell
Headteacher

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.

Message from Heritage Railway. We are aiming to run our Santa on the train again this year (Subject of course to any changes made by the Government) and all the details for this event are featured on our website along with details of the prices.

This event creates a great deal of fun for both Parents & Children, and is particularly good value in these financially difficult times, and we are sure that like last year we will be oversubscribed. Tickets are now available to purchase online, and in the unhappy event that we are unable to operate it, then a full refund will be given.

The site is under the S&D Heritage trust or sdjr.co.uk and is clearly shown as the Santa Train.