



Midsomer Norton Primary School

Head teacher: Mr Alun Randell

Dear Parents and Carers,

We marked Anti-Bullying Week this week along with schools across the country. The theme of Anti Bullying Week was 'United Against Bullying'. More than ever, it is vital that our children are taught that our local and wider community are rich and varied and that difference is to be celebrated and respected. Our inclusive ethos is on display every day in the actions of children and adults alike; however, it is also important that children are taught to recognise bullying and how to respond whether they are the intended target or a witness.

I was struck throughout the week by just how supportive our children are of each other and how they can articulate the need for tolerance. Things do go wrong on the playground sometimes; friends argue, children can be unkind especially when frustrated. Through the hard work and patience of children, their parents and carers and staff, behaviour is very good and incidents of deliberate unkindness or actual bullying are thankfully very few.

Welcome back to Sun Pre-School

As you will be aware, our first 'bubble' had to isolate over the past two weeks. We look forward to welcoming back all of our children and staff to Sun Pre-School on Monday.

Calling all prospective parents and carers

Schools are unable to run tours this year due to COVID safety measures but, of course, this is the time of year when parents and carers of pre-school age children have the difficult decision to make as to which school they wish their child to attend. We have published our first ever '[virtual tour](#)' to help families get a feel for our school. We are also holding an online Open Evening on Thursday 3rd December, 5:00pm. Please contact the school office for details of how to join the meeting.

Christmas plans

So much has had to change this year and I am looking forward to an eventual return to normality. This year, we are not able to hold our usual Key Stage 2 carol concert or infants nativity show but we are eager to try and protect Christmas traditions as much as possible and to help our children feel excited.

- 1) All classes will make a short Christmas themed video which we will combine into a Key Stage 2 video and an Infants' video



Children in Reception share their Friendship Pie.



We celebrated our differences on Odd Socks Day.



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.

- 2) Christmas dinner will be served on Wednesday 16th December. Thankfully, we have managed to find a way for our children to eat in the hall not in their classrooms! We have decided that we will no longer celebrate with Christmas crackers to help protect the environment by avoiding unnecessary plastic waste but each child will make a Christmas crown to wear.
- 3) In the last newsletter, I announced that we would make a collection on 16th December for Cancer Research UK in memory of Julie Bailey our much-loved colleague who passed away at the beginning of the year. However, having discovered that the RUH is encouraging supporters to donate to their [Keep It Cosy](#) appeal and as the RUH provided such amazing care and support for Julie and her family we have decided to support their fundraising effort. Throughout this school year, we will, of course, continue to support Cancer Research. So... children (and adults) are invited to wear a Christmas jumper, or accessory or scarf and a woolly hat for this great cause and in memory of Julie. She loved Christmas Jumper Day!
- 4) Christmas cards: Children can bring in Christmas cards for their friends from 1st December. They will be put to one side and distributed by staff on the last day of term.

PE kit

Our children are allowed to come to school in PE kit on their PE days at the moment. Please support our uniform policy on these days by asking your child to wear their school jumper rather than a colourful hoodie. No child will ever miss PE because they have the wrong kit but our uniform does help foster pride in the school and equality between children.

Calpol

Given that a high temperature is one of the main symptoms of COVID-19, if your child is unwell enough to need Calpol in the morning, please do not send them to school as Calpol will disguise a temperature.

RSE consultation

This year all schools are required to follow new statutory guidance for Relationships and Sex Education. Please look out for next week's letter detailing our programme. Parents and Carers can join an online question and answer session on Thursday 10th December, 4:00pm. Please contact the school office to request an invitation to join this meeting.

Governors sought

We are looking for governors. This is a very valuable role that helps provide strategic direction to the school and monitor standards. We have a number of governors who are parents and work in education. We are seeking to broaden our governing body in terms of experience and background. If you are, or know someone who is perhaps, a grandparent or works outside of education, please get in touch to find out more.

Dates for your diary

Friday 18th December - Last Day of Term
Monday 4th January INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January INSET Day

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.