



Midsomer Norton Primary School

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'

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Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have been really impressed by all of our children, families and staff once again this week. Staff and families have adapted to using Google Classroom really well. I was able to join a lesson today and was very impressed at how many children participated and how focused and enthusiastic they were. Staff are aiming to provide an appropriate amount of work for each day whilst bearing in mind the challenge of learning at home and the fact that children may have siblings or parents or carers who may also need to share a device. Please use your judgment if you feel that your child needs a break or if you need to reduce that amount of work they complete each day.

The approach we are using now is certainly a significant improvement on what we were able to provide in the first lock down. We do encourage children to keep to a routine, to make sure they get up and go to bed at a suitable time, to take lots of breaks and to exercise.

Google Classroom

Teachers are investing time in training the children how to use Google Classroom effectively and also to establish expectations such as making sure children join lessons on time (and not in their pyjamas!), mute themselves and ask questions at the appropriate time. Please see this [link for the full guidance for children and parents on how Google Classroom should be used](#).

E-safety

With the country in lock down once again and spending significant time online it is important that we continue to consider e-safety. Please ensure your children are supervised whilst online. The [Net Aware](#) website is a fantastic source of information covering subject such as keeping your child safe online, online learning and [advice on the safety of a huge range of apps](#).

Wellbeing

It is a stressful time and it is important that we look after the wellbeing of children and adults. Please [follow this link for ideas of where you can turn to for advice with wellbeing](#).

Lunches/ Free School Meals

Hot lunches will continue to be provided for children attending school. These can be ordered as usual. Families of children in receipt of Free School Meals (not Universal Infant Free School Meals) will be sent vouchers from next week onwards. There may be some delays as this national scheme restarts.

Communications

Please be aware that when staff are working from home using personal devices to communicate with parents your telephone display may show an incoming call as 'telephone number withheld'.

If possible please email rather than phone the school with any queries. We can only have one member of staff in the office at the moment and they are extremely busy receiving phone calls each day.

I hope our children, families and staff all enjoy a well-deserved rest this week.

Best wishes,
Alun Randell
Head Teacher

