



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill Primary School, Silver Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UD
Company No: 7365778

25th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have heard, the restrictions relating to Covid-19 are being relaxed. This has had an impact on our secondary schools already, as pupils and staff are no longer required to wear masks in classrooms. Further changes that have already taken place or are imminent include:

- **From Monday 17th January** it was possible for 16 and 17 year olds to book a booster vaccine online. Additionally, parents and carers of people at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 between 12 to 15 years old, or those living with people at higher risk, will also be contacted to book a booster.
- **From Monday 17th January** staff and pupils can stop self-isolating at the start of day 6 if they get 2 negative rapid lateral flow test results on the mornings of days 5 and 6 and do not have a temperature. Tests must be at least 24 hours apart. If either test is positive, your child should wait 24 hours before testing again.
- **From Wednesday 19th January** the government have said people should return to their workplace. This has a limited impact on schools as we have required all staff to be on school sites throughout much of the pandemic.
- **From Thursday 20th January** staff and pupils in secondary schools and colleges are no longer required to wear a face covering in classrooms.
- **From Thursday 27th January** it will not be necessary to wear a face covering in communal areas in schools for either staff or pupils.

As a group of schools, we are certainly pleased to see that restrictions are being relaxed and from February we will be able to do the following:

- 1) Have school assemblies in any configuration.
- 2) Remove all bubbles from schools.
- 3) Have fewer restrictions on school trips.
- 4) Allow foreign trips to go ahead as planned if they have not been postponed already. This will be subject to UK Foreign Office advice and any restrictions imposed by the country being visited.

We will continue to be sensible about trying to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 illness by:

- 1) Continuing to remind children about good hand hygiene and provide hand sanitiser in all schools.
- 2) Continue to ensure rooms in our schools are well-ventilated.
- 3) Continue to ask staff and secondary pupils to test twice weekly at home, where they have access to sufficient number of testing kits.





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Please do try to ensure your child attends school wherever possible. Attendance across the Trust schools remains above national figures, but is still lower than pre-pandemic levels. It seems likely that Reception-aged children and those in Years 1, 2 and 6 will be required to undertake formal assessments, as they would have before Covid-19. Attendance therefore, is vital to ensure they are well-prepared and can move forward through the rest of their time in school without always needing to catch up.

In our secondary schools, we are expecting pupils to sit GCSE and A-level examinations this Summer. Being in school will enable effective preparation for these exams and ensure pupils can be successful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Alun Williams

CEO

