



Midsomer Norton Primary School

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership'

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Tuesday 19/05/20

Return to school arrangements for Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised in the most recent letter from Alun Williams, CEO, I am writing to you to outline the measures we are taking at Midsomer Norton Primary School to ensure we can re-open Nursery (for Pre-School children due to start Reception in September), Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 after the Whitsun half-term break. We have all been working collectively on risk assessments and planning documents to ensure the safety of staff and children on-site from June 1st. The risk assessments have been checked and endorsed by our health and safety and legal teams and are being constantly updated where new government guidance is issued.

The plans in school are very detailed as you might imagine and will be dynamic, as the situation in school changes. In the list that follows, I have attempted to share with you how we believe we can organise school for the safe return of children:

- **Arrangements for classes**

Nursery: We have been providing care for some nursery age children of key workers and vulnerable children across the nursery age range throughout the lockdown period. This will continue. From **Monday 1st June**, we will be able to provide additional places, **part-time**, for those children in Pre-School (Sun Class) who are due to start in Reception in September **only**. The group size has been limited to 12 in any one session, with one group able to attend Monday and Tuesday and the other on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, Sun class will be closed to enable a deep clean between the two groups. Priority will be given to children of key workers/ vulnerable children/ those who have siblings also attending school and those whose parents/ carers have work commitments in that order. We will endeavour to support these work commitments as far as possible within the limitations described above.

The nursery age children of key workers and vulnerable children across the nursery age range we already provide care for will be cared for in the Sunbeams section of our nursery.

Reception: We will be able to accept all Reception children from **Tuesday 2nd June**. The children will be placed in 3 separate groups of no more than 15, with one smaller group learning in one of our Key Stage 1 classes (Pluto). The groups will be taught by Mrs Grice, Miss Hardisty and Mrs Meade.

Year 1: We will be able to accept all Year 1 children from **Monday 1st June**. The children will be placed in 3 separate groups of no more than 15. The groups will be taught by Mrs Buffham in Mars class, Mr Andrew in Venus Class and Miss Dodington in Neptune Class.



Year 6: We will be able to accept all Year 6 children from **Monday 1st June**. The children will be placed in 3 separate groups of no more than 15. The groups will be taught by Mrs Ross/Mrs Forster in Earth class, Mrs Cook in the hall and Mrs Josham in the library.

Parents will be informed of which group their child is in before the start of term; however, the arrangements described above may differ according to the number of children who are sent back to school on 1st/2nd June. In order to help us plan with greater certainty, **we will survey families again this week to get a clearer picture of expected numbers. It would be extremely helpful if parents could respond to this survey by the end of Thursday 21st May at the latest.**

School remains closed for children in Sunbeams, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 except for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

- **Breakfast Club/ Wrap around care**

We are not able to offer wrap around care at this stage of the return to school.

- **Social distancing**

The nature of Reception/ Pre-School means that it is inappropriate for children to be sat at desks spaced 2m apart. Instead these children will be kept in a 'bubble' of no more than 15 children so that they play, learn and interact within the same group of children and with the same staff every day as far as possible. Each 'bubble' will have a designated learning outside/ play area.

Year 1 and Year 6 will be sat at tables spaced out to enable 2m distancing as much as possible. They will also be kept in their 'bubble' so that they play, learn and interact within the same group of children and with the same staff every day as far as possible. Each 'bubble' will have a designated learning outside/ play area.

- **Movement around the school**

Play times and lunch times will be staggered so that each group (or bubble) move around one at a time. Each group has a designated route between the entrance/ exit they should use and the classroom and to and from outside play areas. A one way system will be used in the library. The children will remain in their 'bubble' and will not mix with children from other groups.

- **PPE**

PPE should not generally be worn in schools by staff or children according to the advice of the government. We do have supplies of PPE available for staff and they may choose to use this in certain situations to protect your child and themselves. In most cases, because of the arrangements that have been made, this will not be necessary.

- **Hand-washing**

Children will wash their hands on arrival from school before and after eating, after outside play and at other times as appropriate. Each class also has hand sanitiser in the classroom.

- **Cleaning of the school**

We have engaged extra cleaning staff. There will be a deep clean over the half-term holiday. Hard surfaces, door handles etc will be cleaned during the day and the whole school cleaned thoroughly at the



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end of the day and on Friday afternoons. As Sun class will be used by two groups, it will be closed on Wednesdays for deep cleaning. All soft furnishings and soft toys have been removed from the classrooms.

- **Pick-up and drop off of children**

We will have staggered drop off and pick up times to support social distancing. Children should not arrive in the mornings before the times stated and should not be left unsupervised.

Nursery children should be dropped off for school **8:30-9:00am** and collected at **3:30pm** via the nursery entrance near the top playground.

Reception: Groups 1+2: should be dropped off for school at the Reception entrance **8:30am** and collected at **3:15pm**. Group 3: should be dropped off for school at the fire door by old office in the Key Stage 1 playground at **8:30am** and collected at **3:15pm** (Fridays: **12:00 noon**). There will be somebody there to guide parents.

Year 1 should be dropped off for school at the entrance by the cloakroom next to Mars class **8:45am** and picked up at **3:00pm** (Fridays: **11:45 noon**).

Year 6 should be dropped off for school at the entrance next to the top playground **8:45am**, and picked up at **3:00pm** (Fridays: **12:00 noon**).

Children of key workers/ vulnerable children should be dropped off for school at the entrance next to the top playground **8:30am** and picked up at **3:15pm**.

We ask parents/carers to use the playground markings that will be in place to support social distancing.

- **Lunches/Free School Meals**

Lunches for Free School Meal children will be provided by the Trust catering team, including children in infants who receive universal free school meals. Free school meals provided will be packed lunches. All other children should bring a packed lunch and snack and a full water bottle. Children who receive a free School Meal will be given their packed lunch before the early pick up Friday lunch time.

- **Break time and lunch time arrangements.**



Children will eat in their classrooms. Parents providing packed lunches should ensure lunches are in a hard lunch box or a plastic bag as these can be wiped down. Please do not send your child to school with lunch in a fabric lunch container.

- **Equipment**

Children in Year 1 and Year 6 will be provided with individual equipment such as pencils, pens etc kept in a tray on their desk. In Pre-School and Reception, equipment will be cleaned at the end of each day. Pencil cases should not be brought to school. Children should not bring any toys or soft toys to school.

- **Uniform**

School uniform will not be required as pupils should change their clothing daily if at all possible. Children should not bring PE kit to school but wear clothes and footwear suitable for physical activity.

- **Year 6 Transition to Secondary School**

Transition between key stages and schools will be arranged to follow the patterns that have been in place in previous years where possible. For Year 6, we are planning to have taster days before the end of the academic year and will send details about this to parents towards the end of June. Secondary schools in the Trust are making contact with parents/carers to discuss issues relating to transition and you should have received a pack of information already if your child is attending one of the Trust secondary schools from September 2020.

- **Induction for children starting Reception in September**

We are currently reviewing how we can provide induction for our children and their families who will be starting Reception in September. Details of this will be sent out to families as soon as possible.

As a reminder, all schools in the Trust will be closed for all children over the half-term break and we will be closing early at 12:00 noon Friday of each week in the primary schools to ensure time to deep clean and make arrangements for the following week. Our nursery classes and key worker/ vulnerable children will remain in school on Friday afternoons with cleaning scheduled for after 3:30pm.

Staff and children should not attend school if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household. If your child were to become unwell at school they would need to be collected promptly.

Finally, we are attempting to do our very best to ensure social distancing between children and indeed between children and staff. As Mr Williams outlined in his letter to you last week, this will be very difficult to achieve. We cannot guarantee this at all times, but have done everything in our power to minimise risk for children and staff to return.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely,
Alun Randell
Head Teacher