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# “part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership" Headteacher: Karen Bazeley

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It is such a delight to have *all* children back in school finally after so many months of uncertainty. I cannot thank you enough for your hard work and resilience with home schooling over the last few months. Please be reassured that we shall be doing all we can to ensure that every child has the chance to catch up on any learning missed whilst also prioritising children’s well-being - both physical and mental health – during these ongoing uncertain times.

Thank you also for your patience as we strive to keep everyone as safe as possible; the staggered start and end times and drop-off/collection arrangements will inevitably throw up challenges including the system being time- consuming. We shall monitor how things go and make any adjustments as necessary. The risk assessment and systems in place are subject to change, as I am sure you will understand.

Longvernal always prides itself on its ‘Open Door’ policy and it saddens me greatly that we currently have to restrict adults on site. However please use email or telephone if you do need to pass on information or have any concerns. Teachers will not be in a position to respond to emails during the teaching day but will get back to you as soon as they are able to do so.

Usually in September each class teacher holds a meeting for parents to discuss the curriculum, homework, routines and expectations around supporting your child’s learning at home. This year these meetings will be posted in video format during week commencing 14th September. You will then have an opportunity to send in any questions and we will compile a FAQs page on the website. Questions specific only to your child would be dealt with direct with you. We aim to get the FAQs on the website week commencing 28th September.

Week commencing 5th October, we shall be timetabling individual online parent consultations. If you do not have internet access for this, a telephone consultation could take place instead although the online format would allow for children’s work books to be shared with you so is preferable.

We shall be sending reading books home as usual but we will have a system in place to ensure that books have a period of quarantine between users. Teachers will discuss reading in their class parent meeting video. We ask that your child and the adult they are reading with either wash or sanitise their hands before reading at home. Your child’s teacher will outline in more detail their homework expectations but it is anticipated that online homework will be more common than in previous years for practical safety reasons.

We are aware that you will not be able to view the usual photo gallery in the entrance so teachers are going to keep Twitter feeds/blogs /regular photos posted on the website. Our new website is due to launch any day, which is exciting. I appreciate that some families have very sound reasons for opting for their child not to be photographed or to feature online or in any news articles. However if we are unable to carry out our usual events such as Harvest Festival, concerts, plays etc with a live audience, we would be seeking to do virtual versions. We have, on occasion, found a conflict when for instance out on trips- some parents asking for more photographs to be frequently posted whilst at the same time staff are struggling to ensure that they never catch ‘in shot’ any child without permission to be photographed; it can be almost impossible with moving children actively engaged in learning! With this in mind, the more children who are allowed to be photographed, the more freedom we will have to share learning, art, sporting and cultural experiences with you.

Teachers have requested that all children bring a named water bottle into school every day. The bottles will be sent home with your child every afternoon to be washed and returned clean the next day. Should you wish to purchase a new school water bottle, they are available to buy for £1.50 (please pay through parentpay, once payment has been received your child will be issued with a bottle).

As previously mentioned, the school office is not physically accessible to parents until further notice. Please ring or email should you have any queries. We have also attached the following that you may need in the coming weeks.

1. A medication form (if your child needs medication administered during the day).
2. An Asthma form (if your child needs an inhaler in school). Please complete these forms if needed and return to your child’s teacher at your designated ‘drop off’ point.

We have also attached for your information the school reopening letter that was sent out at the end of last term as a reminder of the start/finish times etc. Please be reminded that there is no parking on the school site, this includes disabled passes.

Parents are encouraged to visit [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) for information and practical guidance to help them plan for their children’s return to school. This includes our latest update to the [guidance for parents and carers on what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19).

Finally, I wish everyone all the best in these ongoing difficult times. Thank you in advance for your support; if you have any concerns please feel free to email me: kbazeley@longvernalschool.com and I will get back to you.

Karen Bazeley

Headteacher