



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD

Company No: 7365778

25th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the most recent set of announcements from the Government regarding the return of children to school, I thought I would write to you to confirm broad arrangements across the Trust schools.

Primary schools in Trust will re-open fully on Monday 8th March. Secondary schools are able to stagger the return of children from Monday 8th March, to enable COVID-19 testing to take place for all pupils. Each secondary school will plan a slightly different programme for testing based on numbers of pupils, facilities and number of testers available. Your child's schools will write to you with specific details relating to testing over the next week. All school transport will run as normal from Monday 8th March and we expect all children to return wearing full school uniform. The Trust school meals service will operate from the Monday 8th March along with many other services, including breakfast and after-school provisions. On Friday 5th March, I am expecting staff to return to schools in most cases, to undertake necessary training and to prepare for the return of children to school. I have therefore decided that projects and revision activities will be set for children on this day.

Please note, that it is expected that ALL children will return to school and we have been instructed to challenge non-attendance via the usual procedures.

The government has issued guidance on how schools can reduce the risk of virus transmission. This guidance is based on prevention and response to infection and includes measures we have all become accustomed to over the recent months. Staff will wear masks and where possible, social distancing will be expected. **Clearly, with younger children or those with specific needs, this is very difficult to achieve. In all Trust secondary schools children should wear a face covering to reduce the risk of transmitting infection in all classrooms and communal areas.** All staff will also be wearing face coverings when they are unable to socially distance and our usual expectations regarding hand sanitising will apply as before.

Schools will be required to keep rooms well-ventilated, but as we are beginning to experience some warmer weather, I am hopeful that classrooms will be a little warmer than they were before Christmas. All schools will be updating their risk assessments and these will be uploaded to school web sites. In most cases, these will not alter significantly from those published in September. Cleaning regimes put in place last year will resume to ensure all regularly touched areas are cleaned more frequently than would normally be the case. A number of schools will also continue to operate staggered start and finish times along with staggered break times and lunch periods. 'Bubbles' used in schools prior to Christmas, remain in force to reduce cross-contamination of sub-groups in schools.

Children in MNSP Trust schools have worked hard and maintained good standards of achievement despite learning remotely. 93.5% of children have produced good or better work across the Trust schools since January. I am very grateful to staff and parents/carers who have worked with children to achieve such strong progress, regardless of the difficulties. There will be a small number of children who need to undertake some catch-up intervention. Schools will notify parents/carers if their children need to attend catch-up intervention.

As a group of schools, our usual policies around behaviour, safeguarding, teaching and learning etc. will apply. It is important that we try to help children establish good routines that resemble 'normality'. As such, I have asked all Headteachers to reaffirm the high expectations we have across our schools for both children and staff. I am sure that you as parents/carers would expect nothing less.





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I want the reopening of schools to be a positive process and would therefore ask if parents/carers can do the following to help avoid wasting time on our return:

- Please ensure your child has the correct school uniform, including school-appropriate shoes. Coats can be worn as per the uniform policies, but non-school branded sweatshirts and hoodies are NOT permitted.
- Please ensure your child does not return to school with hair dyed outside of the natural range of colours or wearing jewellery that is not permitted.
- Please ensure your child has the basic equipment for school. This is a particular requirement of secondary schools. A pen, pencil and ruler are the absolute minimum.
- Please remind your child that the 'bubbles' they were part of in the past, will remain with little change; along with associated routines such as staggered break times.
- Please ensure your child has a face covering each day as well as a spare (secondary only).
- Please can parents/carers avoid congregating in playgrounds or at the school gates, particularly on primary school grounds.
- Please complete the consent form for testing if you have not already done so once you receive this from your child's school.

Finally, I have asked all Headteachers to write to you with specific details relating to your child's school. This communication from the school will cover daytime logistics, safety measures and information on testing in secondary schools.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Alun Williams
CEO

