



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

28th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is now clear as we thought, the issues relating to Covid-19 are far from over. The Government has issued new guidance today, Sunday 28th November, which says all pupils in secondary schools and staff and visitors in all settings should wear face coverings in communal areas. This is a result of rising infection rates, but also due to the concern regarding the new variant of Covid-19 called Omicron. Please note, that schools no longer have large supplies of face coverings available for children and therefore in the short-term, parents and carers will need to supply these.

Face coverings are also a requirement on school transport for secondary school children and the Government is encouraging all eligible people to have the vaccine to reduce the risk of serious illness. The vaccination programme in secondary schools has been hampered by supplies of vaccines and medical staff shortages. Therefore, if you want your child to have the vaccine you should try to book it at one of the centres via the on-line booking service.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

In a further update, all secondary schools have been asked to test children on their return to school after the Christmas break. Before the end of term, schools will be in contact with you to check parents and carers still consent to this process.

In guidance issued a few weeks ago by BANES Public Health, schools were asked to avoid assemblies and other mass gatherings in school settings. As such, a number of planned Christmas events have been postponed, or will not be able to have live audiences. I think we had all hoped that we had seen the back of Covid-19, but it seems that the illness caused by the virus has more disruption to normality for us to traverse.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards

Alun Williams
CEO

