



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

21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 Update:

Thank you for your continued support over the last term. By all accounts, the first term back has been very positive and whilst we still feel a little under siege from Covid-19, we have managed to keep the majority of schools open for all children. Attendance across our schools is still well above the national rate and staff absence has again been fairly low. Of course, some schools and groups of staff have suffered more disruption, but given the rise in cases of Covid-19 in BANES and Somerset, we have remained largely unscathed. I suspect that as the winter months approach and vaccines begin to lose some of their effectiveness, we may see further disruption and illness.

BANES and Somerset currently have some of the highest rates of infection in England. Additionally, there is an increasing number of people requiring hospital treatment, with many of our major hospitals in the region approaching capacity. The Department for Education is encouraging children and staff to continue twice weekly testing at home during the holiday period, as well as testing at home the evening before they return to school. BANES Public Health are encouraging secondary schools to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in communal areas.

The vaccination schedule for secondary schools in BANES has been delayed for some settings and we hope that those children whose parents wish them to be vaccinated, will be able to have their injection sometime shortly after half term. Somerset secondary schools are ahead of those in BANES and children at Buckler's Mead and St Dunstan's have received their first vaccinations already. Please do keep schools informed if your child does test positive for Covid-19. We are liaising closely with Public Health England to ensure any outbreaks are contained swiftly.

Fighting Prejudice:

Fighting prejudice in all its forms remains a key goal for the Trust and its schools. We are incredibly lucky to have enlightened children in our schools who are welcoming of different people and cultures. Recently, schools have been undertaking work as part of Black History Month. The learning involved in Black History Month is focussed on the history of black people and in particular, racism in the past. I know a few parents have queried the value of this work and were worried that it could cause racial tension. To reassure all of you, we encourage children to have their own views about teaching materials and we also steer clear of political messaging. Throughout the school year children celebrate and learn about other cultures and ethnicities including their own. Our aim as an organisation remains focussed on teaching children right from wrong, but also to be objective, good listeners and wise in their judgements.

Terms Dates for 2022-23:

Although this seems a long way off, we have now confirmed the term dates and INSET days for the next academic year. For the first time in a number of years, the term dates for BANES, Somerset and North Somerset align, which has made the process of agreeing dates much easier. For the vast majority of the Trust schools these dates are as detailed on the next page. However, two of our Bath schools have some slightly different end dates to terms, due to unique local circumstances. All schools will be asked to add the term dates to their school websites for parents to view.

Staffing updates across the Trust:

From November, I am proposing that Ms Addison (Headteacher at Critchill School in Frome), will also take responsibility for line managing Park Road Autism Resource Base, which is part of St Dunstan's School in





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Glastonbury and Orchard Lodge Moderate Learning Difficulty Resource Base, part of St Mark's School in Bath. This move should ensure children receive improved provision, as well as better access to specialist staff and facilities. Both Park Road and Orchard Lodge will still remain the responsibility of the secondary schools to which they are affiliated, but the day-to-day running will be overseen by Ms Addison.

I would like to wish you a restful half term break.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

Term Dates Academic Year 2022/2023

Term 1

Thursday 1st September 2022
Friday 21st October 2022

Term 2

Monday 31st October 2022
Friday 16th December 2022

Term 3

Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Friday 10th February 2023

Term 4

Monday 20th February 2023
Friday 31st March 2023

Term 5

Monday 17th April 2023
Friday 26th May 2023

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2023
Friday 21st July 2023

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Thursday 1st September 2022

Inset day 2

Friday 2nd September 2022

Inset day 3

Friday 21st October 2022

Inset day 4

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Inset day 5

Monday 17th April 2023

National Bank Holidays:

Monday 26th December 2022

Tuesday 27th December 2022

Monday 2nd January 2023

Friday 7th April 2023

Monday 10th April 2023

Monday 1st May 2023

Monday 29th May 2023

Monday 28th August 2023

