



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

17th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Late yesterday there were some changes to the advice relating to Coronavirus from Public Health England. As a result of this, I thought it would be sensible for you to understand the actions we will now be taking across all schools in the Trust.

Firstly, children, staff, volunteers, etc. who display the symptoms of Coronavirus (in particular a fever and/or continuous cough), must now self-isolate for 14 days or 7 days if you live alone. In addition to this, any family members who live in the same household should also self-isolate for 14 days. We would ask that parents and careers notify schools in the usual manner if their child will not be attending school.

To reassure you, we are continuing to take the following actions in all our schools:

- 1) Increasing the frequency of cleaning in certain parts of the schools, e.g. toilets, door handles, etc.
- 2) Cancelling or postponing all unnecessary calendared events e.g. Parent Consultation Evenings, assemblies/collective worship and most trips.
- 3) Ensuring primary school children are being helped to wash their hands properly and regularly.

We have been informed that schools should continue to operate as normal and avoid altering significantly the way that we work. This is because it is important for children to see normality where possible, so that they do not become frightened, anxious or hysterical. Clearly, some children and staff may have to self-isolate. As a reminder, we are not permitted to close any school without the permission of Public Health England. However, if certain schools are not able to operate safely due to a lack of staff, it will become necessary to close or partially close for this reason.

- **I can confirm that schools will be closed for Year 12 from tomorrow until further notice. This includes Beechen Cliff, MSN Sixth Form, Writhlington and Mendip Studio School.**

Schools will endeavour to set and mark work, but please remember teachers and support staff may also be unwell or self-isolating.

For clarity, Public Health England guidance on self-isolation and how to separate yourself from the others you live with is as follows:

- You should remain in your home. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis.
- Aim to stay in a well-ventilated room with a window that can be opened. Try to keep the window open as much as possible to enable ventilation and airflow as this will help to keep clean air moving through your room.
- Try to separate yourself from other people in your home and keep the door closed. If you cannot stay in a separate room, aim to keep 2 metres (3 steps) away from the other people in your house.
- Try to keep yourself separated from other people as much as possible, and make sure everyone regularly follows the steps in this guidance (cleaning your hands, not touching your face and cleaning surfaces for example).





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- Use your own toothbrushes, eating and drinking utensils (including cups and glasses in the bathroom and bedroom), dishes, towels, washcloths or bed linen. Do not share food and drinks.
- If you have a garden, it is fine to use it as long as you keep 2 metres away from other members of your household. If possible they should use the outside area separately.
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Obviously, we are receiving a very high volume of calls in schools about the Coronavirus and I ask that you are patient with all members of staff. **It would be helpful if parents/carers did not at this point contact us and offer advice or views, as we are following guidance from the DFE and Public Health England.** Additionally, staff generally have access to the same information that is available to the general public - please see links below.

Thank you for your continued support and as the situation changes, I will write with further updates.

Kind regards

Alun Williams
CEO

Latest Public Health Guidance – 16th March:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

