



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

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Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD
Company No: 7365778

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As expected, schools will be closed to the majority of pupils from Monday 23rd March until further notice. There are a number of issues I would like to address in this letter to you. These are laid out below:

1) Examinations and Assessments – Years 11 and 13:

Examinations and assessments have been cancelled for this academic year with the government promising children will still receive their grades. At this point we have told all year 11 and 13 pupils to continue working hard, as it is likely that the exam boards will want exemplar work to support grades that they award. **As a Trust, we are also considering setting some on-line GCSE/A Level examination papers to provide further evidence of pupil performance. We anticipate that these may take place in June or July. Please ensure your children keep working.**

2) School closures, key workers and vulnerable children

Schools are largely closed to stop the spread of Coronavirus. However, it is deemed safe to have small numbers of pupils on school sites, particularly those that may be vulnerable and those who have parents that work in frontline services. I have asked all school leaders to find out from parents and carers if their children fall into these groups and if they are intending to send them into school. We will need to know the days that parents/carers intend to send their children into school, so that we can create registers and ensure their well-being and safety. In secondary schools this will be done through dedicated email addresses:

keyworkers@beechencliff.org.uk

keyworkers@somervaleschool.com

keyworkers@nortonhillschool.com

keyworkers@writhlington.org.uk

keyworkers@mendipstudioschool.org.uk

keyworkers@stdunstanschool.com

keyworkers@msnpartnership.com (MSN Sixth Form)

(These will go live prior to the weekend ready for Monday 23rd March).

For primary schools, there will be a Google form for you to complete online and each school will be able to provide this once available. **Children will be expected to attend school at the usual times and asked to register or meet their teacher in the main school hall. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform and if absent, the usual protocol is to be followed. At this point we are not able to provide wrap-around care.**

Frontline workers:

We are still waiting for a definition of this term and who is included to be updated by the Government. We will share this with you once it is available.

It is important to note however, that schools will only be able to accommodate children of frontline workers if they are from a single parent family or if both parents are classed as frontline workers. Some of our smaller schools may ask parents of vulnerable children or those of key frontline workers to attend another local school in the Trust, if numbers are too small to make the opening of the school viable.





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3) **Easter Holiday School Opening**

We are planning to keep schools in the MNSP Trust open over the holiday period to ensure vulnerable children and those of key frontline workers can continue with their schooling. We are planning to operate a rota systems of staffing and each school will communicate this to their parents and carers when this has been finalised.

4) **Free school meal children**

Those children entitled to a free school meal will receive pack-lunches or vouchers over the coming weeks, unless they are in school as one of the key groups, where they will receive food from kitchens as normal.

5) **Opening of schools for Friday 20th March:**

Schools will continue to be open as communicated in my letter of the 18th March.

6) **Vulnerable children with medical conditions:**

Children who are classed as vulnerable or, are the children of key frontline workers who also have an underlying medical condition should stay at home and follow the advice of Public Health England. This includes children that attend Critchill Special School in Frome.

These are challenging times and we realise that parents and carers will be worried about the impact of coronavirus on the health of loved ones. Many parents and carers will also be concerned about the security of their employment and have increased financial concerns. As CEO of the MNSP Trust, I consider ourselves a key public service, paid for by the tax-payer. Therefore, we are here to help in whatever way we can. Please do contact us if there is anything we can do to support your child or family during the current crisis. Whilst we may not be able to resolve the issue ourselves, we may be able to provide you with contact details of organisations who can provide direct support.

Thank you for your continued support and messages of thanks.

Alun Williams
CEO

Latest Public Health Guidance – 18th 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>

