



# Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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Company No: 7365778

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I thought I would write to all parents and carers to thank you for your recent support during some difficult weather conditions. Largely, staff and the majority of children made it into the Trust schools, a fantastic effort by all. The Department for Education are very clear that schools should not close unless absolutely necessary. Having checked school sites and whether bus companies were able to collect children, we decided to open late on the 19<sup>th</sup> March. This appears to have been successful and has resulted in the vast majority of our children being able to attend school, as is the expectation for 190 days of the calendar year.

I was a little disappointed that some comments on social media suggested that Norton Hill opened because it was trying to keep the school statistics/attendance high. This is not the case. In fact, if we had closed, the absences would not be counted against the school, whereas opening means that the attendance figures are adversely affected by any absenteeism.

Norton Hill and other schools in the Trust opened because we have a statutory duty to do so. Clearly, if individual parents/carers feel it is unsafe to get their children to school, that is perfectly acceptable. Many parents/carers and carers however, were able to get their children to school and as such, it was right for the schools to be open.

As is always the case, the vast majority of parents/carers were very supportive, something the staff and children really appreciate having made the effort to make it in.

Yours sincerely

Alun Williams

CEO Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership

