



SOMERVILLE FEDERATION

Somerville Nursery and Somerville Primary Schools
"Aiming high together"



NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS 29th September 2016

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **Friday 30th September:** Year 5 pupils participating in *Bike Right* –bike safety course.
- **Wednesday 5th October:** School photographs to be taken in the school hall.
- **Monday 10th October:** Takeaway for a change week. On Wednesday 12th October- a chance to try healthy takeaway food. More info to follow in your goody bag.
- **Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October:** Parents evening- further information to follow.

See the Calendar on our School Website for events throughout the year.
Most dates are now confirmed.

Website APP

Thank you to all those parents who have now downloaded the Website APP onto their smartphone. We now have 78 parents who have downloaded the APP. If you have not downloaded the APP onto your smart phone yet please search for 'school spider' on the app store either iTunes or google play. You will then be asked for the school name-Somerville.

The benefits re that you will be able to download gallery photos of your child straight onto your smart phone, you will be able to read the school newsletter direct onto your phone usually before it is delivered to your child, you will also be able to receive urgent information direct to your phone.

Some parents have asked for their parent login details – these are being uploaded onto the website next week, we will be in touch once they have been successfully loaded and with information on how to login.

Much improved safeguarding!

A huge thank you! We would like to thank our parents and carers for being so supportive during the transition to our new safeguarding arrangements on the playground. There have been so many positive comments from parents and children alike regarding the new arrangements and we have also benefited from the knowledge that safeguarding has been much improved on the playground since changes. A very small number of children are still getting used to the changes but we hope that in the next few weeks they will be able to settle into the new morning routine for our school.

Here are some thoughts from the children on the new arrangements.

Year 2:- "It is better that the mums talk to each other outside and not on the playground. There is more room for us and it is nicer."

"Mornings are better because it's less crowded and calmer."

Year 3:- "We could never play before because the grown ups used to get in the way."

"I love it! It helps with the parking, my mum likes it too."
"Lining up is nicer because there are no adults standing in the line."

Year 4:- "My mum can get to work on time and I can play. It's great!"

Year 5:- "We feel trusted to line up by ourselves."

"I am happier, we can play because there are no parents or prams in the way."

"I can now wheel my bike to the stand easily because the playground is emptier."

"It is more safe because the teachers can actually see us and watch us while we play."

Year 6:- "The playground is no longer crowded, it used to be difficult to get past other parents who used to block the classroom doors. It is so much better."

"I feel safer, before you didn't know who all the adults were or even if they were all parents."

School photographs. Smile please!

The photographer will be at school on Wednesday from 8.15am. Somerville Nursery children are welcome to come to the primary school at 8.15am and have their individual photo taken in our school hall after which the primary school individual portraits will be taken.



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Photograph permissions

****VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION****

We have now launched our new school website and school website app. We would now like to start uploading photos of what the children are getting up to both on the school website, the app and on class twitter feeds to keep parents updated with regular information and photos on what has been happening throughout the school day.

However we are currently limited by the previous permission granted by parents and carers. We would therefore like to give parents an 'opt out' option only which will help teachers greatly when deciding which children can be photographed and who can't. **If you would like to see photos of your child on the website, on the school app and on your class twitter feed you don't need to do anything.** Your child will be automatically added to the permission granted for photographs on our system. This will make it easier for the teacher when deciding which photos to upload.

If you DO NOT WISH your child's photo to be used on the school website, app or class twitter pages let us know by letter (sent to the school office or via the class teacher) by Friday 7th October. You will have opted out and your child will not appear on the school website and class twitter pages (or your child's face will be obscured when group or class photos are taken).

Please remember that if you do not let us know by letter by Friday 7th October we will start uploading photos of how your child has settled into their new routines and what they get up to throughout the year in class.

Silence in the hall.

There has been much talk from parents and carers about children being asked to remain silent in the school hall on a single day last week. We can assure parents and carers that this was a one off incident and it has now been rectified. We encourage children to enjoy their lunch with their friends and classmates and this is an opportunity away from the classroom to chat about the many things they have been up to. We want all children to benefit from this sociable opportunity of dining in our school hall. We remind children at times that talking too loud or shouting across to other tables only makes other children talk loudly which can sometimes end up in the hall being noisy and with no one being able to hear each other's conversation. This obviously would not be a nice experience even for the most tolerant of children especially for our youngest of children who are just beginning to enjoy staying for school lunch. We fully support children enjoying their lunch together whilst having conversations with their friends.

Have you lost something?

Can you read this? If not you may have lost something! Several pairs of glasses have been left in school during last week. A number of children have lost their glasses and these have been brought to the school office. However up until now, no one has claimed the glasses. If your child wears glasses in school please check that they have them to hand. If not they will probably be one of the pairs of glasses which have been handed into the school office.

Stay and Play sessions

We would like to welcome any parents with young children from the age of 0 to 2 years to our stay and play sessions at our Nursery School on Brentwood Street. The sessions take place from 10am to 11am every Thursday morning. No need to book, just come along.