

SOMERVILLE FEDERATION



Somerville Nursery and Primary Schools "Aiming High Together"



SAT'S & TESTS

Next week is SAT's week for Year 6. Sitting tests requires a **lot of energy for concentration**. Please can you ensure that your child **goes to bed early** to ensure a good nights sleep. If you haven't already sent your SATs breakfast slip back, please do this asap. **A good breakfast is the most important meal of the day!**

For Years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 children will be completing their tests over the next two weeks. Again, please ensure that your child gets plenty of sleep and goes to bed early.

Thank you for your support.

ROYAL WEDDING

Next **Friday, the 18th May**, school will be celebrating the upcoming **Royal Wedding**. We will celebrate in style by having a **non-uniform day**.

Foundation Stage 2 can dress up as princes or princesses and the rest of the school can dress up in any clothes that are red white and blue, however if children from other year groups also want to dress as a prince or a princess then they are more than welcome. We will not be taking donations as this is purely a celebratory event and you have already been extremely generous in your support for our charity work this term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

Monday 14th
Year 6 SATs week

Friday 18th
Non-uniform celebration day

Friday 18th
Fitness Day for all classes

Monday 21st
Walk to School Week

Friday 25th
School closes for May half term

JUNE

Monday 4th
Inset Day

Tuesday 5th
School opens

KS1 MOVING TO PACKED LUNCH

If you have a child in **KS1** who is currently having a school dinner and they want to change to a packed lunch **next half term** then you need to give notice, to the school office, no later than **FRIDAY 18th MAY**. Although KS1 school dinners are free to you if you change without notice, school is actually charged for this as we have over ordered the meals required.

KS2 CHANGING DINNERS

If you have a child in **KS2** who wishes to swap over dinners for next half term then you also have to give notice by **FRIDAY 18th MAY**.

Unfortunately, for all year groups there can be no swapping before this date and no opportunities to swap after due to the notice period required. This saves the school from being overcharged, it stops our cook from over ordering and it saves over ordered food from being wasted.

SAFEGUARDING AND VIDEO GAMES

It has recently come to our attention that a number of pupils' are playing video games that are rated for adult gaming only. This is causing the children to write in their stories in English, quite graphically, about violence and death as well as demonstrating other behaviours. This is disturbing as young children should not have any access to such unsuitable materials. Games such as Grand Theft Auto, Call of Duty, Dogs of War and Fortnite (although this is a 12 rating) are being played by our children. Any game rated 17 and above 18 are for ADULTS only. Games such as these, with adult ratings, contain prolonged violence, graphic sexual content, foul language, gambling with real currency and references to drug use. Playing games with this content can have a serious, negative impact on a child.

Academics and scientists have been studying the effects of violent video game play on children and their findings are extremely worrying. Research is currently showing that playing violent video games at a young age (any age in primary education) teaches the player to associate violence for pleasure. Under normal conditions we would not tolerate or accept violence however violent gaming teaches / trains the child to think that violence is normal and acceptable. In adult rated video games the player practices and repeats actions hundred if not thousands of times, much more practice than we would give normal activities. Practice at this volume then becomes an automatic response. Video games can be addictive due to the immediate rewards and children are susceptible to addictive behaviours. Recent brain research shows that addictive behaviour can harm the final stages of brain development. Neuroscience is showing that children who have more access to these violent games, the less their parts of the brain responsible for thinking, learning, reasoning and emotional control work.

We are going to be more observant of violent video gaming and the specific impacts on our children and take advice where necessary to safeguard our children against viewing and interacting with such unsuitable content.

A number of our children tell us they game every night and are often up in the middle of the night gaming with other children and adults. IT IS SO IMPORTANT OUR CHILDREN ARE RESTED AND GET A FULL NIGHTS SLEEP. If you suspect your child is gaming in the night or becoming too attached to their game station then take the power cord away before they go to bed. A number of our parents have found this useful.

We wanted to share the research with you as much of it was startling to us and we didn't quite have a full understanding of the negative impacts of violent gaming. We hope, in light of this, you share our desire to protect our children from witnessing such harmful content.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this.

FOUND - WHITE DIGITAL WATCH

A modern, white digital watch has been found and handed in to the school office. If you have lost one please go to the office and tell them the make and shape of the face and they will hand it over to you.

