

# Somerville News

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**AIMING HIGH TOGETHER**



## DT WEEK

This week we have had DT week and there has been a real buzz about the school. I have had the pleasure of visiting all of the classes to see what the children have been designing and making from FS2 up to Year 6.



They have impressed me with their design skills and use of technical vocabulary. F2 have made pancakes this week and tasted them. Year 1's have been making pictures with mechanisms including levers and pivots. Year 2 have had a superhero theme and are making their own superhero capes. Year 3 and 4 have been researching about bridges and how they are strengthened, they have then designed their own and will be building their own. When talking to them about their designs they used the words truss, beam and span! Year 5 have been working as chefs. They have taste tasted a range of Mexican food and created their own recipes. They then made salsa, guacamole and quesadillas, which of course they just had to eat to evaluate their product. The hall smelled **AMAZING!** Year 6's have been working as computer programmers. They have been investigating real life systems that need to be controlled e.g. central heating. They have then used their knowledge to design their own house alarm system which they will be building with working circuits in April / May.

## PARENT PAY



Just a quick reminder that as of 1st April we will be a cashless school. All money will be paid via Parent Pay and trip slips will be signed using this online system also. If you haven't already set yourself up then please see the ladies in the office who are happy to help you.

## PARENTS' EVENING

This term Parents' Evening will be Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March. Appointments will be available using the School Spider App on **MONDAY 9th MARCH.** This is a very important meeting in which we will share with you where your child is working at and what provision we are providing for your child. It is also **YOUR** opportunity to ask any questions regarding your child's education.



### Dates for you Diary

#### MARCH

##### Thursday 5th

World Book Day (Info on Reading Newsletter)

##### Friday 6th

Year 3 trip to Conway Castle

##### Tuesday 17th

Cherry Class - Port Sunlight Trip

##### Thursday 19th

Year 1 trip to Chirk castle

##### Wednesday 25th

Parents evening

##### Thursday 26th

Parents evening

##### Friday 27th

Elm Class - Port Sunlight Trip

##### Tuesday 31st

Year 2 trip to Ness Gardens

# CHILDREN WALKING HOME BY THEMSELVES

We have had an increase in children walking home by themselves. Somerville only recommends that children in Year 6 walk home by themselves but should not be responsible for a younger sibling. This is to prepare for secondary school.

We do not recommend **any child younger than Year 6** walk home by themselves due to:-

- ▶ Maturity levels.
- ▶ Knowledge that has not yet been taught in PSHE lessons about personal safety and being out by themselves.
- ▶ Vulnerability due to age.
- ▶ Developing road sense, due to age.

Please be aware that being younger than Year 6 and having a phone does not necessarily make walking home safe due to the above factors.

## How can you prepare your children?

Before your child heads off on their walk to school by themselves (or with friends), there are a few safety precautions you should take.

### To avoid injury:

- Never let a child under age 10 cross the road alone.
- Traffic signals and pavement markings have done wonders to improve road safety for kids. Make sure your child can recognise and obey them all.
- Choose the safest route between home and school and practice walking it with your child until they can demonstrate traffic-safety awareness.

### Remind your child to:

- Stick to well-travelled streets, use the same route every day and avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, car parks or alleyways.
- Carry backpacks and bags close to their body, not dangling by the straps.
- Put their purse or wallet in an inside coat or front trouser pocket, not a back pocket.
- Don't wear movement restricting shoes or clothing.
- Cross streets only at safe points i.e. at zebra crossings; never enter streets from between parked cars or from behind shrubbery.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street. "Stop. Look. Listen. Live."
- Walk -- don't run -- across crossings, and only when the man is green.
- Switch direction or cross the street if they think someone is following them or if they feel unsafe. Walk towards an open shop, restaurant or yell for help.
- Be aware of strangers. If a stranger approaches, tell a teacher, the head teacher or another trusted adult.

## What is stranger danger?

This last point is particularly crucial. It is important to teach your children about good strangers as well as bad. While the general principle of 'stranger danger' is a good one, a child should be encouraged to speak to 'good' strangers (such as policemen, teachers, other parents with small children etc) if they need assistance or find themselves in a dangerous situation.