



# Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As week one of the national school closure is nearly at an end I thought that it would be best to try and send you an update to keep you all in the loop as much as possible.

**Childcare provision.** A number of our key workers and vulnerable children took us up on the offer of childcare this week and we have been able to accommodate those children which were prioritised. This has meant that a number of staff have had to be involved in the childcare provision to support these children. For instance the caretaker, cleaners, all of the kitchen staff, several teachers and teaching assistants, senior leaders and staff from the OTIS breakfast and after school club have had to be in school to support this opening for childcare provision. I would like to thank all of those staff involved in this provision in supporting our key workers whilst also putting their own safety and families at risk.

**Free School Meals.** The staff prepared a 100 packed lunches on Monday in case we had a surge of people collecting lunches for their families who were entitled to free school meals (213 entitled out of the 519 children in school). However only 3 were collected on Monday, this has increased each day and we had 27 lunches collected today. I realise coming to school to collect lunches each day puts yourselves and all of the kitchen staff at risk, therefore from the outset I have been looking at better ways we could manage this. From my initial survey that I sent out to all of you I had responses for 88 children stating that you would rather wait for clarification on the vouchers. This has not been forthcoming from a national level even after a week and therefore I have decided to explore this option further myself. I hope to bring you more news on this either over the weekend or at latest by Monday. One other option that I explored is that we provide a hamper for the week for the number of children in a family with tinned items, pasta, wraps etc. These items have now arrived in school but I would like to see if we can get the vouchers out to parents by Monday to prevent you from having to travel firstly to the shop and then to school to pick up a hamper. Don't worry none of this food will go to waste as it all has a long shelf life.

**Free school meal applications.** Since sending out my request to parents who have not applied for free school meals ten of you applied and were successful in your applications, this is £10,000 extra income for the school this year. This will provide an extra £1,300 a year multiplied by how many years left in the school your child has to the school budget and resources. Thank you. If you still have not checked if your child is eligible it only takes minutes. Your child as well as all of the other children at Somerville will benefit from more resources including staff rather than it sitting in a government bank account. <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>

**Working from home.** May I thank all of you who managed to collect a work pack in the last few days of school. Please understand there are no expectations from the school on completing the work packs. There are plenty of resources online which I will add to over the weekend and I know several staff have been uploading links and more information onto the #SomervillePrimHomeLearning twitter feed with further ideas and activities. A very small

number of requests have come in to ask for further work packs or if work can be delivered to the home. This I am afraid is not possible as staff are currently facing their own challenges as well providing the childcare provision at school for key workers and trying to reduce risk to their own families. Overarching this is the government guidelines to only travel to work if absolutely necessary. I trust that the very large majority of you understand this and thank you for bearing with us.

**Key workers:** Thank you to our many key workers for doing such a fabulous job under difficult circumstances. Especially those key workers on the front line; the NHS and other essential services. Children at the childcare provision at Somerville produced this lovely art work now placed on our Poutlon Rd fence. A lovely thought at this challenging time. I trust that you will be able to see it on this email.

**Texts, emails and surveys.** Thank you to everyone who has managed to respond so quickly to any of the surveys and requests for email addresses I have sent out over the last week. Some of you responded within seconds of me sending the surveys and I would just like to thank you as this is so reassuring. we had around 150 parents who we did not have email addresses for so thank you for starting to send these in so that we can start updating our system. It is unfortunate that we have not had your email address on the system before for these parents, as sending a text I can only send 160 characters at a time, hence I would prefer to send you all an email to let you know as much information as possible. School office staff are starting to input these details over the coming days.

I will endeavour to keep you updated regarding the vouchers over the weekend and at latest by Monday.

Thank you all, keep yourselves and your family safe.



Mr M J Forber

Executive Headteacher



“Aiming High Together”