



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Proposed Phased Reopening of Schools for children in Foundation 1

Dear Parents and Carers

I continue to prepare with the staff at both Somerville Nursery School and Somerville Primary School for the possible reopening to specific year groups as stated by the Prime Minister. For Somerville Nursery this relates initially to children in Foundation 1, known as The Butterflies . Many thanks for those who completed the original survey which I sent out last week, however I am conscious that some of you may not have accessed this. As such a similar but much shorter survey is now available for completion at the bottom of this letter to help us understand whether your child will or will not be returning on the planned first day. This new survey will only require your child's name, year group and Yes or No. This will help us to prepare the setting for your child's possible return. Even if you don't intend to send your child into Nursery can I urge you to complete the survey to help us to plan. If you state 'no' initially you may change your mind as more information becomes available and you feel more confident to send your child into Nursery. This letter has been sent to every parent and is available on the Federation website to ensure that you are all kept informed. Further information with regards to opening up to other children within Nursery will be made in due course.

Please note: If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to Nursery. Please refer to government guidelines for further details of these groups.

We will be opening the schools in phases to ensure that we have the staffing, space capacity and safety measures in place to open to more children in each phase.

- **Phase 1** from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 will be to increase our childcare provision for our children who need additional support and availability for frontline key workers and these will continue to be catered for at the Primary School site until further notice.

We will be in touch with you to confirm which phase will be taking place next, with which children we plan to open and when they will be able to return to the Nursery School whilst risk assessing thoroughly the introduction of the next phase. We will endeavour that we give you enough notice so that you can plan ahead.

We have numerous actions to carry out between now and reopening to the children, however I wanted to share with you as many of the proposed plans for the possible reopening to F1 children in Phase 1. This will possibly help you to make a more informed decision of returning your child to Nursery.

- A risk assessment of all areas has been written and shared with the governors and the local authority for the reopening of the Nursery.
- Children of key workers and those who need additional support of other year groups will continue to be accommodated in the childcare provision, however this provision be reviewed

weekly due to limited staff numbers and space available. Key worker children must continue to book in weekly for their childcare provision. Any children not booking in advance will unfortunately be asked to return the following week once they have booked a place due to limited staffing capacity during this return to school phase. Any new requests from key workers for the childcare provision will be considered on a priority basis.

- Children returning to Nursery in the proposed F1 year group will be working in a classroom with two adults and this will be known as a 'bubble' –government term not one that I would choose.
- Children will need to be aware that when they are in their bubble they will not be with all of the children from their class, they may not be in their friendship groups and they may not be with their own class teacher or in their own classroom as this may not be possible.
- Each bubble will not come into contact with children in other bubbles during the school day.
- A bubble will contain no more than 8 children, but on average we envisage a bubble to contain an average of 4 children at the Nursery School.
- Routines will be unfamiliar and more formal than usual, with children having access to limited resources. Children will however, be well cared for and welcomed by the adult who is working with them.
- Children will be supported to follow routines including handwashing and to understand the new expectations in terms of behaviour, including social distancing. Your support in reinforcing this would be much appreciated, leading by example in terms of social distancing e.g. when arriving at nursery. The school behaviour policy will be updated in line with new guidelines, with the aim of reducing any risk to your child and the staff in Nursery.
- Initially, to support children as they adapt to new routines, sessions will be shorter and children will be expected to arrive at Nursery between 9.15 and 9.30am. Children will be expected to be collected from 11.15 to 11.30am. Providing windows of time to arrive and leave will help to ensure that there is minimal adult contact – 2m distancing between adults must be maintained.
- We ask parents and carers politely not to gather at the Nursery gates when arriving or departing as this may prevent other adults and children from entering or leaving the premises.
- Where possible only one adult should accompany children to school, obviously if you have several children this may not be possible on your own and we recognise this.
- Arriving after 9.30am to Nursery will not be acceptable unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Children can wear any suitable clothing (leisure clothing) for Nursery and you may choose to send them in their school uniform (if it still fits!) but we would ask that whatever they wear it should ideally be loose fitting and it must be clean clothes each day to reduce the possible risk of transmission to yourselves and to other children and staff.
- During this phase spare clothes, wipes and nappies should be sent into Nursery on your child's first day of return and will remain in Nursery unless used. Spare clothes should be sent into Nursery on their child's first day of return and will remain in nursery unless used.
- We ask that children do not bring any personal belongings, toys etc. into Nursery, again to reduce the risk for children and staff.
- Soft, wooden toys and soft furnishings have been removed from the nursery classrooms and children will not have access to sand, water or dough at this time. Nursery will be utilising easy to clean resources only.
- Nursery children will continue to spend lots of time outdoors therefore please ensure that they bring a warm coat with them each day. According to the weather, please also consider applying sun cream before school.
- Breaks will be given to the children throughout the session and these will be on a rota basis and in a specific area of the outdoor area to reduce possible contact with other children. Outdoor areas will be split into zones.
- Nursery children will be able to access the toilets next to their classroom. Adults will supervise children on their way to and from the toilets to reduce the possible risk of coming into close contact with other children.
- The Government suggests that social distancing will not be possible within an Early Years settings and we would offer no guarantee that we would be able to keep your children socially distant, despite our best endeavours.
- When collecting children at the end of the session from 11.15 to 11.30am there will be specific zones on the playground for you to wait for you to collect your child.

- If you need to speak to a member of nursery staff this will not be possible at the classroom door to minimise contact. Please instead telephone the Nursery school office to make arrangements for the member of staff to telephone you at a mutually convenient time.
- Families must continue to observe the current social distancing guidance out of school and so must not mix with other households.
- Please note that if anyone in a household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, children must not attend and Nursery should be informed immediately. If children become unwell at Nursery, they will be safely isolated and parents called to pick them up immediately. All staff and pupils in this child's bubble will then be asked to self-isolate for 14 days, pending test results.

I know that many of you will be anxious to get back into a daily routine but many of you will be worried about sending your child back to nursery. Staff at Somerville share your anxieties for their own children and families. Wirral schools will do everything they can to respond to the guidance given by the government but will also be ensuring that we do this safely. If you feel the time is not right for your children to return, that is your choice. Parents will not be penalised in any way for choosing to keep their children at home for a little longer. If you feel the time is not right for your children to return, that is your choice, however when you feel that the time is right all I would ask is that you can notify the Nursery in advance by contacting the Nursery school office so that we can make preparations.

You may have already seen on the news and other media that there are currently disputes between unions, the DFE and the scientific advisors, they will be working at local level and national level to resolve these. Until then, the date of our next phase is not confirmed but nevertheless, I wanted to share what the plans are for children at Somerville so that you can make an informed decision once the government state a definite return date.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school when the Nursery is able to reopen and will be here for when you decide that you feel the time is right for your child to return.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS GOOGLE FORM [CLICK HERE](#). Or type this into your web browser

<https://forms.gle/SVqyQ7YKuF2zefLV8>

With regards

Mr M J Forber

Executive Headteacher