



Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

Update from Somerville Federation: 29th January 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers

We heard this week our Prime Minister confirm in the Houses of Parliament that schools will not reopen fully until the 8th March 2021 at the earliest. We understand that this is needed due to the rate of infection and current death rate within our community and across the United Kingdom. We thank you all for your patience whilst we wait further information on full reopening of the Primary School. Our Nursery School remains open and we thank those parents who have informed us that they will be keeping their child at home to reduce numbers in the Nursery School. We know this is a challenging time for everyone.

At the Primary School we look forward to seeing our Year 2 Critical Worker and Vulnerable children bubble return to school on Monday after they and our Year 1 bubble had to isolate as a consequence of 2 positive cases in the school. We have had a further positive case in breakfast club this week but none of the other children or other adults are affected as a consequence of the social distance and other mitigations we have in place in breakfast club. All children's parents who were in attendance in the 48 hours prior to the positive case have been notified as a precautionary measure only.

At the Nursery School there are two current positive cases but no children or adults are affected because the positive cases were not present in the Nursery School in the week prior to becoming positive.

All staff at the Nursery School and Primary School are testing themselves for COVID at home twice a week to ensure that we are able to keep our Somerville families and our own families safe.

If your child becomes poorly, has symptoms or if there are COVID infections in the family household please ensure your child also has a COVID test and that you inform either of our schools of the outcome of the test as soon as possible. If your child is COVID positive you can easily report this on the home page of the Federation website. This will help us to protect all of our families who send their children to school.

Stay at Home.

Continue to **stay home** this applies to your child as well as yourself. If you are a critical worker and another adult is at home then your child does not need to come to school, keep your child safe at home to reduce the number of families mixing in the classroom. ***Home continues to be the safest place for everyone at the moment.***

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children Places at the Primary School

We have now reached our limit for critical workers in nearly all year groups at the Nursery and Primary School and are unable to allocate any further places at this present time due to the number of children and adults on the both school sites at any one time. If you have contacted us recently for a place due to you becoming a critical worker you will be contacted when a place becomes available.

We will also be contacting Critical Worker parents next week who have reserved a place for their child but have not been attending. This will enable us to free places for those who may still require them. If

you no longer need a place and you have organised alternative childcare then please email the schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk Please do not hold onto these places unnecessarily.

Contacting the school.

In the first instance if you need to speak to a class teacher at the Primary School or if you have an issue with anything relating to online learning please email your child's year group teachers. A number of emails are being sent to the school offices which then have to be forward to the relevant member of staff.

For anything else please email the school office at schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk or schooloffice@somervillenursery.wirral.sch.uk .

Remote learning, devices and working from home.

We have now issued a Chromebook to everyone who requested one and is in Key Stage 2. We now have a small list of children who still require an iPad and are still waiting to be able to order these. We have had a small donation of tablets which we will be able to distribute next week to those still waiting. I continue to be in touch with the DFE every day to express my frustrations that we have still not been given enough devices to support our children who are learning from home with limited response.

Free Wi-Fi

Please get in touch if you need one of the free BT wifi codes or Vodafone 30gb data sim cards and we will get these to you.

Free School Meal Vouchers

A second week of Free School Meal Vouchers have now been issued. Please check your emails and your JUNK folder to ensure that you get your voucher code.

Please note that the voucher codes are only eligible for one month. You need to redeem your code as soon as possible to ensure that you do not lose out. Go to www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk to redeem your 16 digit voucher code.

Free school meal vouchers will continue to be issued to all benefits related free school meal eligible children weekly but not during half term. During half term hampers will be delivered to all benefits related eligible children by the local authority as took place during the Christmas break.

If you did not realise that your child was not registered for benefits related free school meals because you thought they automatically got a free school lunch anyway please click on this link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/> and apply for free school meals for your child. You will then start receiving vouchers during the lockdown period.

Meals for those children in school

If you pay for your child's school lunches, your child can have a school lunch at a cost of £2.30 a day. You will be charged via parent pay for every meal your child takes when in school.

Children's Mental Health Week

Our children have had to deal with a lot over the last 12 months and next week is **Children's Mental Health Week**. Children's Mental Health Week assembly – with BAFTA Kids and Oak National Academy will be available to all schools and families at 9am on Monday 1 February – and will feature pupils and well-known faces discussing the theme of Children's Mental Health Week, as well as ways

that children and young people can get involved at home. It will be hosted by Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell and CBBC Presenter and Place2Be Champion Rhys Stephenson. As the majority of pupils are now at home, the assembly will provide an easy way to bring the nation's children together (virtually) with a positive message about the power of creative self-expression. Famous faces and contributors will also be taking part live from their homes

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Express Yourself**. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creativity. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that make you feel good.

On Wednesday we are hoping for everyone to take part in Inside Out Day. We are encouraging the children in school and at home to wear 1 item of clothing inside out. Staff will be joining in as well and we would love to encourage parents to join in too. We're encouraging this as a reminder to be kind always, as you never know how someone is feeling inside.

Live Webinars from Now and Beyond on Inside Out Day are hosting a series of live webinars for parents, teachers and teenagers. Guest speakers include Dr Dickon Bevington, Dr Bajaj, Monisha Jefcut from Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, BBC Broadcaster and Journalist Kate Silverton, Katie Thistleton, Dr Radha and more. <https://nowandbeyond.org.uk/live-events>

We are now at the end of our fourth week of the current lockdown. If you need any support at home or are in need of any food items please contact the school and we will do everything we can to support you.

Keep safe everyone and remember to share your feelings with others in the family.

Be kind to everyone as you never know just how they are feeling inside!



Mr M J Forber
Executive Headteacher