

Is nursery open for all children?

When a new National Lockdown was announced by the government at the beginning of January, it was announced that all Early Years settings (below F2) would remain fully open. Parents were contacted immediately and asked to complete a Google Form to indicate whether their child would be taking up their place at nursery. Thus, although we are 'fully open' at Somerville Nursery School, some parents have elected not to send their children into school and have decided that the safest place for their child is at home. We are supportive of these families and their decision to keep their children at home and it has enabled us to put some staff on a rota, with some home working taking place. When working from home staff are able to plan for learning opportunities, both for in the classroom and for children who are staying at home.

Are we accepting new admissions?

Parents / Carers are welcome to submit applications to nursery. Applications will be accepted where provision is available and settling in sessions will be organised with parents. Where parents want to secure a place at nursery but do not wish to send their child in at this time, this can also be arranged.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

Whilst home learning is not ideal for Early Years children, our intention is to support parents as they provide learning opportunities for their children at home, focusing predominately on the prime areas of learning (Communication & Language; Physical Development; and Personal Social & Emotional Development), whilst also acknowledging that the priority at this time is keeping children safe and happy. Some families are supporting children of varying ages, from birth to early adulthood and we recognise that this poses a significant challenge for parents.

What should I expect from remote education?

We aim to teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, adaptations may be necessary due to access to resources, environmental factors etc.

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

Most home learning ideas will be shared using your individual 'Evidence Me' account. You can access this using the Evidence Me app or via the server. See the link below for more information:

<http://help.evidence.me/evidence-me-help-for-parents/>

You can also access home learning for F1 children via the F1 Twitter page below

<https://twitter.com/SomervilleNurs2>

There are also learning updates available on the nursery website, with links to videos and other websites to support parents:

<http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk/page/home-learning-for-nursery-children/65552>

For our youngest children staff are now uploading videos to support their learning.

<http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk/page/bumblebee-caterpillar-learning-videos/92625>

Should you have difficulties accessing any of the above content, please contact us at the nursery, either by phone [0151 638 1567] or email [schooloffice@somervillenursery.wirral.sch.uk]

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We have carried out an online survey and telephone audit of all families to ensure that they are able to access online learning, using a mobile phone, tablet or computer. If your circumstances have changed, please contact us at school.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

- Recorded teaching and learning videos
- Packs produced by teachers / The Foundation Years Trust
- Books and resources that pupils have at home
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of Early Years topics, including video clips or recordings

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

- We would like you to access the learning opportunities available through the platforms mentioned above and to support your child in taking part in the learning experiences suggested.
- Continue to support your child as they become independent in terms of toileting, dressing, and washing.
- Maintain good routines whilst you are at home to ensure that your child is happy and healthy.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

We would love to hear about the learning that your child is taking part in at home. Please upload photos, videos and notes about what you have been doing on to Evidence Me. Your child's key person will respond and may offer ideas on next steps in learning and development.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils on an individual basis. If your child has been referred to the Speech and Language service, they will still access assessment and support, albeit virtually via phone or video-link.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils are attending nursery during lockdown but have to self-isolate they can continue to access learning through the routes outlined above.

How else are we supporting children who are not attending nursery?

In addition to the measures outlined above, staff are available to answer queries and offer support. Please contact nursery via the usual channels, outlining your query, and we will get back in touch with you as soon as possible.

Please find below links to useful websites and documents in relation to child development and learning in the Early Years:

<https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/>

Speech and Language

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/early-years/>

Language development

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf The Early Years Curriculum

***We look forward to the time when we see everyone back in Nursery.
Meanwhile please continue to follow Public Health guidance and 'Stay Safe'***