



Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

17th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It is now 4 weeks since we were asked to close the school on 20th March 2020 as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and as you all know by now the current lockdown measures have been extended for a further 3 weeks. I trust that you are keeping safe and that all members of your family are all well.

Childcare Provision.

This week we have seen a regular number of children of between 16 and 20 children each day at the school for childcare. We are asking those parents who require childcare each week to keep us informed of their childcare requirements by completing the google form which we send out usually on a Wednesday and to complete it by Friday evening at the latest. This will ensure that we have enough staff each week on the rota to look after the children and also so that we don't unnecessarily have too many staff in school. We had double the number of children on Tuesday arrive for childcare than the number who had told us that they wanted childcare and this obviously caused issues on the day and required additional staff to support.

Working from home.

No school? With a new TV channel, podcasts, videos, and lessons each day online, we've got you covered. Beginning Monday at 9:00. BBC iPlayer has organised daily lessons on their website and through their App iPlayer. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Staff have been setting work to support your child at home using an online software called Seesaw. A guide on how to access Seesaw is attached in this letter will be sent out on email with this letter. This guide will also be uploaded to our working from home page on our federation website. From Monday you will be able to email your child's year group teachers to request usernames and passwords to access the website. Foundation 2 children will continue to use Evidence Me and not the Seesaw software as this is a real positive and would not wish to change this at present. Please always remember that we are not expecting parents and carers to teach the children. Just do your best in supporting your child, you can't be expected to replace school.



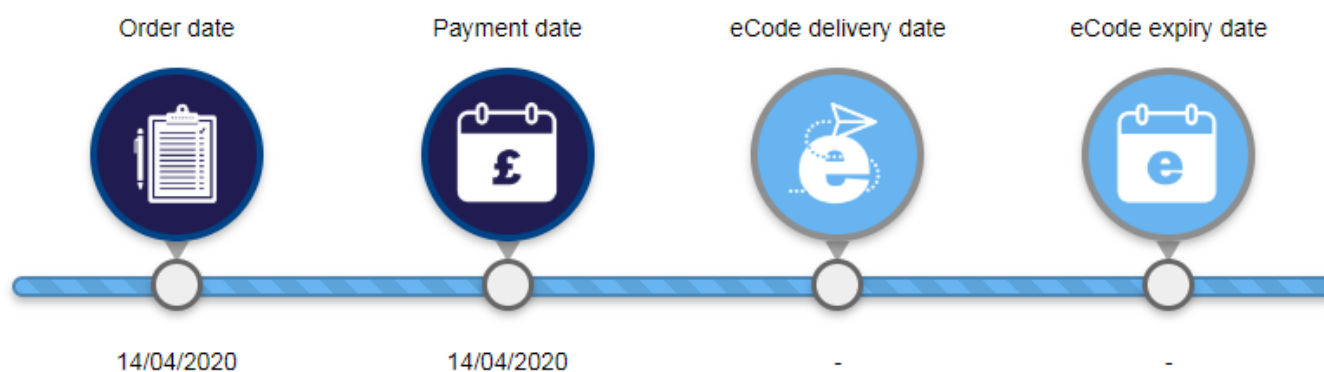
The school website is currently available for you to view but unfortunately the website provider has stopped us from uploading any new information until after the weekend when they will have completed necessary maintenance on the system. Therefore this letter and further updates may not be available until they have completed this maintenance.

Free School Meal Vouchers.

On Tuesday I ordered the vouchers from Edenred, the government provider of free school meal vouchers. After spending the day again trying to order from their very busy site I eventually managed to get their site to accept my order of the vouchers at 8.45pm. I managed to order 212 children's free school meal vouchers for the Primary School to compensate anyone who had not had the full £3 a day

so far and also those parents who had not had a voucher at all. I also managed to order 12 children's free school meal vouchers for the Nursery School who had not received any vouchers at all yet. Unfortunately vouchers for 18 children from the Primary School and 1 child from the Nursery School could not be ordered on Tuesday as I had still not received their email addresses from their parents even after requesting the information several times. If you know your child is eligible and currently registered for free school meals please email the school office with your up to date email address, without this we can't order your vouchers. schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk However if you have received this letter by email, then we definitely have your up to date email address. If you did not receive this letter by email and are reading it instead from the website you may need to check your email address the school holds for you is correct.

After thinking everything was in place and sorted regarding these orders I had an email from a parent asking where her voucher was this caused me some concern and this morning I checked where the order from Edenred was up to (see below), to make sure that you had all received your vouchers. The result was that their system still has not sent the (ecode) vouchers out to anyone at the school. I have since emailed Edenred, the government provider and the local authority to complain that you have not had your vouchers and how unacceptable this is, I have not yet received a response but will update you as soon as I hear anything back from them. I do know that they are struggling to cope with the orders from all schools nationally and this is being reported on various news websites and newspapers. However this is not my concern, my concern is making sure that you have the vouchers that can support you and your family to provide lunches for your children. Rest assured, I will continue to contact them over the weekend to ensure that this is resolved as soon as possible.



Copied from Edenred website on 17.04.2020 at 17.00

A reminder that if your circumstances have recently changed or you did not realise that your child was not registered for free school meals please click on this link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/> and apply for free school meals for your child. We will then get vouchers out to you as soon as this is possible and the government system starts working.

With regards

Mr Forber
Executive Headteacher