



# Somerville Federation

**Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School**

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**Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now into week 8 of our school closure for the majority of our children and I am sure that you will have heard the message from our Prime Minister yesterday evening that schools are being asked to prepare for a possible reopening of schools to specific year groups. The year groups mentioned were Reception (Foundation 2), Year 1 and Year 6. I am sure that whether your child is in one of these year groups or not you will now have your own questions about your child returning to school. At this stage, like you, I have only just seen the announcement and at this stage I am unable to answer the many questions you may have. I am currently waiting to receive more information from the government about what this means for our two schools. However I can reassure you that I have already started to make plans with staff about the possible reopening of the school for certain year groups whatever this looks like. May I take this opportunity to remind parents that in the short-term, nothing has changed and I will provide further information in the coming days and weeks once I am able to do so.

I have waited until today to write my weekly update to you as I was hoping to provide news after the speech on Sunday by the Prime Minister. However the speech and promised guidance provided by the government this afternoon about schools reopening has been very short and what I have written so far in this letter is more than the guidance in the document released by the government. I trust that we will have further guidance specifically for schools in the coming days. We also await further guidance on the reopening of early years settings and what this means for our Nursery School.

In the meantime I plan to send out a google form to all parents to find out your concerns, issues and how you believe that we can best support you and your child moving forward to meet the government's ambition that all Primary School children will be back in school before the end of the summer term. I will also be sending out a google form in the coming days specifically to parents of Year 5 children to find out your thoughts on the proposed residential visit in November 2020.

## **Contacting the school.**

Just a reminder once again that we continue to check answer phone messages daily and any emails. Emails can be sent to the [schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) and these are either forwarded to me or are sent to the business manager if it relates to free school meals as of this week.

## **Childcare Provision.**

Childcare provision for key worker children and those who need additional support will continue whilst we prepare for the opening of the school to Foundation 2, Year 1 and Year 6 children. Childcare will continue once the school opens to these children as well to ensure that our key workers on the frontline can continue with their essential work. If you are a key worker or have been asked to access the childcare provision, please remember to fill in the childcare provision survey prior to 7.00pm on Friday. This week we had five requests that came after this deadline and this meant that additional staff have had to be placed on the rota at short notice.

## **Working from home.**

Please continue to utilise the online learning that has been made available to you. As the school starts to reopen there will obviously be a reduction in the amount made available to you both for those year groups who return to school as well as those year groups not yet returning. This is because more staff will be required in school to ensure that the children socially distance and staff continue to provide childcare. If you have any worries about working from home don't hesitate to email your child's year

group teachers, for example: [year1@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:year1@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) Foundation 2 is [F2year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:F2year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) this is the only one that differs slightly in format.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers.**

A number of parents emailed me yesterday and the school office today asking why the vouchers had not been received yet. This was due to the bank holiday on Friday reducing the working week for the distribution of vouchers in a timely manner by the government. Rest assured that the vouchers have now been sent out to parents and these should be with you in the next 24 hours and always check your junk mail inbox. Our school business manager is now ordering these for you on behalf of both schools as per my instructions and there should therefore be no difference moving forward. You should receive the Free School Meal vouchers on a Monday for the week.

We await to hear from the government about free school meal voucher provision during the half term break, during the Easter break they provided vouchers for all free school meal registered children. However there has been some talk that this will not continue but we wait to hear more on this in the coming days.

I continue to see a number of vouchers which have not been claimed by parents, this is upsetting as I know that the government will reclaim this money if it is not claimed by parents before the expiry date. Please do your best to make sure that you have claimed what is rightfully your family's.

- Any difficulties regarding error codes or vouchers not arriving please email Edenred direct on [freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com)

If you wish to apply for free school meals here is the link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>

As always, I will keep you informed and appreciate your ongoing messages of support and appreciation for how we have tried to support you and your child during this difficult time. Once I know more information relating to all the different aspects of restarting school for these specific year group mentioned by the Prime Minister and for all other year groups I will be in touch.

Look after yourselves and stay alert!

With regards and best wishes to you all,



Mr M J Forber  
Executive Headteacher