



Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

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Dear Parents and Carers

This week I received a statement from the Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health which stated that they have considered the phased returning of schools carefully, reviewing the latest available evidence and good practice. Taking this evidence into consideration, it is their view that where Head Teachers have rightly paused to consider if they should expand the number of children coming back to their school, they would support headteachers decision to now progress their plans for a phased return of children. We will therefore be moving forward with our phased reopening plans.

Wider reopening commences.

After pausing our plans last Friday 5th June we are now able to reopen on our next phase for the wider reopening of the school to those **Year 6 who have been allocated a space in one of four teaching bubbles** (these parents have been sent a text message in the last hour). We look forward to welcoming those Year 6 only back from Tuesday 16th June 2020 and then putting into action our next phase of wider opening for Year 1, Foundation 2 and Foundation 1 children.

As you will have heard from the Prime Minister this week, he has stopped his ambition to have other year groups in primary schools back for a month before the end of the Summer term and has given schools flexibility to plan for this if it would be possible and safe to do so. We will be reviewing our risk assessment after each phase and both schools have opened up to a new year group to consider whether wider opening to more year groups would be possible. However our biggest constraints are the space available for each bubble in school and the number of staff available to support both the childcare provision and the bubbles for each year group.

Whilst we will continue to review possible plans it is likely that wider opening for other year groups may not be possible until September at the earliest. I realise that this may be upsetting for those asking the question, 'How soon can my child come back to school?'

We want every child back in school as soon as it is safe to do so and possible under the current guidance. We are missing each and every child. You are all in our thoughts and as soon as it does become possible, rest assured, we will open up both schools more widely.

Year 6 bubbles.

We welcome those Year 6 bubble children back to school on Tuesday 16th June 2020. If your child is in Year 6 and you would like them to return to school and you have not been notified by text today please contact the school office by email. Your child will then be allocated a place for the following week if and when one becomes available. Please remember that places in the bubbles are limited and once the bubbles and rooms are full we will be unable to allocate any further places until the guidance is relaxed or the schools own risk assessment allows this to happen.

Please take a look at this video if you have not seen it already,

<http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk/news/phased-return-of-children-to-school-and-presentation/54094>

Please ensure that you take a look before your child returns to school.

Please do not arrive late for school once your child's bubble returns to school, your child must arrive on time unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

Follow the guidance.

Please continue to follow the guidance in your own families over the coming weeks to ensure that the virus continues to fall in our community.

Childcare provision.

Children in the childcare will continue to be dropped off and picked up from the Poulton Rd Gate adjacent to the school hall. Please drop your child off between 8.45am and 9.00am unless you are a key worker needing to leave for work earlier. Collection time is from 3pm to 3.20pm at the latest unless you are a front line key worker and have after school care. We would like all children in the childcare to attend the whole day from 9.00am to 3.00pm to ensure there is less disruption for them. **With this in mind please drop your child off by 9.00am at the very latest to ensure that the childcare sessions are not disturbed midway through an activity.**

Working from home.

Please continue to utilise the online learning that has been made available to you as well as the working from home webpage on our school website. Don't forget that you can contact your child's year group teachers by email, for example: year1@somerville.wirral.sch.uk Foundation 2 is F2year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk this is the only one that differs slightly in format.

Free School Meal Vouchers.

Vouchers continue to be issued to parents of those children who are eligible for free school meals. However if your child returns to school, for instance some of the Year 6 children in a bubble from 16th June, FSM vouchers will no longer be issued as your child will receive a school packed lunch. We have been informed that free school meal vouchers will not be issued during the summer holidays.

Contacting the school.

As we widen the opening of the school to more children office staff will be working in the school office to answer the telephone and respond to or forward emails. Please do not visit the school office unless you have a prior appointment. No visitors will be allowed in the school. Emails can be sent to the schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk and the school office number is 0151 638 5074. Only in exceptional circumstances should you visit the school office and with a prior appointment.

Look after yourselves and your family!

With regards and we look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible.



Mr M J Forber
Executive Headteacher