



Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

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Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

Update from Somerville Federation: 5th February 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

You are all working ever so hard during challenging times trying to support your child with home learning. We recognise that as time goes on the challenge to keep your child in a routine becomes more and more difficult, but we appreciate all you are doing to support them through this difficult period. At times I am sure this will become stressful to keep your child on track with their home learning, so remember to take time out for yourself and each other. The most important factor in this lockdown period is to keep your family safe. You will already be doing this by keeping your child safe at home. The light at the end of the tunnel is also becoming clearer. Use some time away from school work as reward time for the work they have been doing, such as going for a walk, playing in the garden or back yard, baking a cake, doing some art, listen to music together (maybe even have a dance!) or even watching a film as a family. As children's mental health week comes to an end, your child's mental health should remain a priority all year round. There are some ideas on our website to support mental health, to take a look click here. <http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk/page/mental-health/93994>

We also heard the sad news this week of the death of 100 year old Captain Sir Tom. A humble and dedicated man who not only served our country many years ago but more recently in the last lockdown, raising more than £39 million for NHS charities. We have a lot to learn from his dedication and commitment. We have many heroes just like Captain Sir Tom in our own Somerville community; raising funds for charities, working as critical workers and those who sometimes go unnoticed but are supporting some of our most needy families in our community. We thank you all for selfless work.

As we approach our last week before the half term break, please remember to keep up with your work and try to complete it during the school day to ensure that staff can mark the work and give you feedback during school hours. Somerville staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that you have the work you need to try and keep you on track. Whilst also teaching those children in school, marking work, preparing work packs, learning new technology to support you from school. Remember teachers have families and their own family commitments too and so any work not completed during school hours or by Friday may not be marked. The number of children joining our google meets or completing their work is now starting to wane, please do your best to ensure that your child joins in with the work that has been set for them and join the google meets to catch up with everyone in their year group or class at the Primary School.

Our Nursery School staff have been working extremely hard since the beginning of January to support all those children who have returned to school and to settle in our new starters ready for after the Spring break. They have also been working hard to support those children who remain at home. If we can support you further please let us know by sending us an email. If your youngest child will soon be starting Nursery and needs a place please get in touch with the Nursery School to ensure we have their name on our list of new starters. Contact the Nursery school office on schooloffice@somervillenursery.wirral.sch.uk or telephone 0151 638 1567.

Stay at Home.

Not long to go now! Continue to **stay home** this applies to your child as well as yourself. The government advice confirmed again this week that the safest place is to stay at home. Unless your child has a social worker or you are a critical worker, your child must stay at home. We realise this is extremely challenging and stressful for some of you as parents. This is especially the case if your child is anxious and does not easily settle to learning from home. Please just do your best this is all anyone can ask. We must remember the purpose behind the 'stay at home' measure is to keep everyone safe

and reduce the number of families mixing in our community. More children coming to school means more families mixing and potentially spreading the virus. 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.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children Places at the Primary School

We are now at our maximum number of critical worker children in school to ensure the safety of children and staff. Therefore any future requests from critical workers will have to be considered on an individual basis. If you have reserved a place for your child and no longer need it or only need it on set days please get in touch with the year group teachers or the school office so that we can release places for other critical workers who need the place. Email the schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk Please do not hold onto these places unnecessarily. We continue to keep places open for those children with a social worker. If your child has a social worker and your child is not currently attending school please get in touch; we would like your child to attend school.

Contacting the school.

Still, numerous emails which could be dealt with by class teachers are still going to the school office. Please email your year group teachers first and then the school offices for anything. F2Year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk or YearX@somerville.wirral.sch.uk substituting the X for your child's year group 1 2 3 4 5 or 6 schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk or schooloffice@somervillenursery.wirral.sch.uk .

Remote learning, devices and working from home.

At last we have been able to secure a further 33 devices from the DFE this morning, these have been ordered and should arrive in the next 5 days. We have this week been able to issue all devices to everyone who requested one, however if you still need a device or you are struggling with the limited number of devices in your household to share between your family please get in touch.

Free Wi-Fi

Last night I managed to order an additional 10 Wi-Fi hubs for anyone who is struggling to connect to the internet at home. These should be with us in the next few days, if you need a hub get in touch.

Free School Meal Vouchers

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. If you think you need more than this, get in touch!

If you still need to apply for benefits related free school meals here is the link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/> it is really easy and you just need your date of birth and national insurance number. If you think you will not be able to do it on your own please send your details into the school office and as long as we have your permission we can do it on your behalf.

We have reached the end of the fifth week of the current lockdown. Please remember we are here for you. We have a shipment of food items being delivered from our local food bank this coming week. So if you need any food items or anything else please contact either of the school offices and we will do everything we can to support you.

Look after each other and most importantly look after yourself!



Mr M J Forber
Executive Headteacher