



# Somerville Federation

**Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School**

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**Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber**

## **Update from Somerville Federation: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will know after many months of hearing about Covid-19 that the three main symptoms of COVID-19 are a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of smell or taste. If you experience any of these symptoms you should self-isolate and get tested.

However, it has become apparent that this virus can present in all kinds of ways and there is now a wider set of symptoms which some people have also been testing positive with.

They include:

- Diarrhoea
- A persistent headache
- Fever and chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

Many of these symptoms could be caused by other “usual” viruses but at this time Wirral’s Director of Public Health is urging residents, adults or children, to get a Covid-19 test if they are showing any of the wider symptoms of the virus. You must arrange to get a test at one of Wirral’s symptoms-only testing sites. You can book a symptoms-only test at a mobile testing centres via [www.wirral.gov.uk/test](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/test)

Wirral’s infection rates have fallen since we went into lockdown in early January, but they are still high, and we all need to do everything we can to further reduce the numbers and stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community. This will help to ensure people are not spreading the virus without knowing.

The test centres are getting results quickly now and if the test is negative your child can return to school as soon as they are well. Don’t forget that if your child has diarrhoea or has been vomiting, they should not return to school until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

There is no need to be overly anxious if your child does get one of the wider symptoms – it is far more likely to be a normal childhood illness than Covid but we want you to check. Better safe than sorry!

Thank you to everyone for all the care you are taking to protect our school community – the infection numbers are falling and we hope that these extra precautions will help this.

### **Warm clothing.**

Whilst we await the warmer weather please remember at both schools to send your child in with warm clothing. During the day we have to ensure classrooms are well ventilated and at times the temperature in the rooms can dip for a short period of time. The children are noticing that it is colder especially after being outside if they also don’t have suitable coats, hats and gloves. Please try to remember to send your child to school in warm clothing, their full uniform at the Primary School and a warm coat.

## World Book Day – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

This year is a bit different with us celebrating World Book Day from home. However, we will still be sending a powerful and positive message about books and reading. The day will be filled with reading activities and, of course, we will still be having our 'creative character' competition. We are inviting the children to transform themselves into their favourite book character for the day, but we do not want you to make non-essential visits to buy costumes. You may have an old costume at home to wear, or create your own costume e.g. you could make a cape out of a blanket or a pillow case. You could use face paint to transform into the character or make a hat or mask. Each class will be choosing their most creative character so please send your photos into school on Seesaw or Evidence Me. We are still waiting for the £1 book tokens to arrive into school, but we will keep you updated on this so that we can distribute them in a Covid safe manner when they do arrive.



## Parent Pay

Please go online and check your Parent Pay account over the half term break to ensure that your account details are correct and that you remain either in balance or in credit. If you have any difficulties with this please contact the school office. Also if your balance is in debt and you have difficulty in paying please get in touch with the school office as soon as possible. Mrs Lewis in the school office will be able to help you, we also don't want anyone worrying about money difficulties during this challenging time, we are here to help you!

## Stay at Home.

As the weather starts to improve slightly next week and Spring begins in just over 4 weeks time please remember to continue to follow the guidance. Continue to **stay home** this applies to your child as well as yourself. Staying local for yours and your family's daily exercise.

## 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](mailto: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.

“Aiming High Together”

## Contacting the school.

Please email your year group teachers if you need any information regarding home learning etc or the school offices for anything else. [F2Year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:F2Year@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) or [YearX@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk) or [schooloffice@somervillenursery.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@somervillenursery.wirral.sch.uk).

**Please avoid sending emails in the half term break as they will not be responded to.**

## Remote learning, devices and working from home.

We have now given out devices to every child at the Primary School who requested a device and we have no child on the device waiting list. All children who needed a Wi-Fi hub now has one.

Please remember to continue to check for updates on home learning on EvidenceMe, Seesaw or our twitter feeds as we return to remote learning from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

We want to hear from you to understand how the remote learning has been working for our children. This will help us to know if we need to change anything for after the half term and moving forward. There are only 6 questions to answer and an opportunity to write a comment at the end. We have already had 91 responses so far and some of the comments from parents are already being considered to understand how we can improve things for after half term, especially comments around supporting your child's anxiety around the work being set and the amount of work. I'd particularly like to know what's going well, what challenges you face and what you'd like to improve in relation to Internet connectivity, Access to computer/ iPad etc, Use of Seesaw, twitter and EvidenceMe.

**[+++CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE OUR REMOTE LEARNING SURVEY HERE+++](#)**

## Free School Meal Vouchers and hampers

Free school meal vouchers will resume being issued on the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. I have sent a text earlier this week to alert all those whose first FSM voucher codes from January are about to expire. There were about 15 parents whose vouchers will expire either during the half term break (18<sup>th</sup> February 2021) or shortly afterward. Please remember that all voucher codes only have a one month expiry date when they have been issued by the government.

We have been in touch with the local authority to provide hampers and activity packs to all our FSM families during the February half term break. We trust that you will receive them at some point during the break as you have during the Christmas break. Unfortunately we are not involved in this aspect of provision and only supply details to the local authority on your behalf.

If you think you should be getting free school meals for your child here is the link <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/> If you need help doing this please either contact the school office or send your details (your date of birth and your national insurance number) into the school office and as long as we have your permission we can apply for you.

Please remember we are here for you. If after the half term break you are struggling with anything please get in touch and we will do our utmost to support you. If you need food items, hygiene items, support with remote learning, help with Free School Meals or anything else please get in touch. You have all been doing your very best since January with the many challenges you have had to face and we thank you for your supportive comments of the school staff. Comments from the remote learning survey will also be passed onto school staff after the half term break.

Look after your family over this half term break and continue to keep safe!



Mr M J Forber  
Executive Headteacher