

# Somerville News

Website: [www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk](http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk)

E-mail: [schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk)

Phone: 0151 638 5074

**AIMING HIGH TOGETHER**



## SMART WATCHES AND PHONES

After the Christmas break, we have noticed a significant increase in a number of our children wearing smart watches in school.

We know that mobile phones/smart watches can be a valuable and important resource for our children; we frequently discuss safe use of these devices, both in general and as part of our online safety lessons.

Despite the obvious distraction that these devices can pose, smart watches are internet, recording and camera enabled and therefore present the same concerns as mobile phones in terms of privacy, GDPR and safeguarding. Therefore, they can not be allowed in the main school and in classrooms.

Whilst we fully acknowledge a parent's right to allow their child to bring a phone / smart watch to school if they walk to and from school without adult supervision, Somerville Primary School does not permit pupils bringing smart devices in year groups below Year 5 & 6, as we would not expect these children to be walking to and from school unaccompanied.

When a child needs to bring a phone or watch into school, they must be left in the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day. Devices should be clearly marked so that each pupil and office staff can identify the phone. Parents are advised that Somerville Primary School accepts no liability for the loss or damage to phones or watches which are brought into school or on to the school grounds.

Where a pupil is found by a member of staff during the school day to have a phone or smart watch or using a phone or smart watch, the item will be confiscated from the pupil, handed to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The pupil may collect the phone at the end of the school day. Parents will be informed of inappropriate use and pupil's right to bring a phone / smart watch to school will be withdrawn.

If a pupil is found to have taken photographs or video footage or voice recordings with a phone or smart watch of either other pupils or teachers, this will be regarded as a serious offence and the pupil will receive a consequence in line with the school's Behaviour Policy. If images / sound of other pupils or teachers have been taken, the phone will not be returned to the pupil until the images have been removed by the pupil in the presence of a senior teacher, and the right to bring a phone into school will be withdrawn.

We hope this brings clarity to guidelines around smart devices.

### Dates for you Diary

#### February

##### Friday 17th

School closes for half term.

##### Monday 27th

School reopens to pupils.

#### March

##### Friday 31st

School closes to pupil for Spring break.

#### April

##### Monday 17th

School opens to pupils for summer term.