

# Somerville Nursery School

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SOMERVILLE FEDERATION

Newsletter – September 2024

## Now taking applications for January & Easter 2025



### Welcome to the Autumn Term

Following the summer break, it has been wonderful to see our returning children again and to welcome lots of new children. The children are settling well and are eager to explore and get to know the environment; build new relationships; and learn new routines and skills.

### Please Be On Time

Please make sure your child arrives on time ready for their session and that you are prompt picking them up at the end of the session.

Please note that staff have their lunch from 12 - 12:30pm and staff meetings to attend from 3.30 p.m.

**Please note that the gates are open approximately 15 minutes ahead of pick-up times. You must inform your child's teacher or the school office if you need to collect your child outside of these times i.e. for an appointment.**

### Dates

We will close for the half-term on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October & return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Note: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October is an INSET day and school will be closed to children.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October -School flu nasal vaccines  
17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Nov Road safety week

### Change of Clothes

Please provide a bag with spare clothes for your child that can be kept in school (include socks). Even if your child does not have toileting accidents we still need a spare set for general accidents e.g. falling in a puddle!

For those children who are not yet toilet trained, please remember to put spare nappies and wipes in their bags. **Please ensure that all items of clothing and their bag are labelled clearly with your child's name.**

### Supporting independence

In order to support your child as they become independent, please consider what they are wearing to Nursery. **We would strongly recommend that children wear jogging pants with an elasticated waist** as they can more readily manage these when accessing the toilets and changing facilities. We would also ask that children do not come to Nursery in shoes with laces. Many thanks for your support.



### Website

[www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk/](http://www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk/)  
**Please check the website regularly, the latest information can be found here.**



You can also access information on our Facebook page. Look out for information about a new Instagram account!

### Themes/Interests for this half term

Our main focus for this half term will be settling children into nursery and focusing on the Prime Areas of learning. These are: Personal, Social & Emotional Development; Communication and Language; and Physical Development. As the term progresses staff will tune into children's interests and plan activities to extend their learning.

### School Office Hours

The office is staffed between 8:30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. each day. Tel: 0151 638 1567

**Please join us in welcoming Mr J Foote, who is our new office admin.**

### Forms and permission slips

If you have been asked to complete any forms or permission slips, please return these to us as soon as possible as it is important that our records are kept up to date. Thank you

### Health & Safety

Please DO NOT allow your child/ren to access the Forest School areas or the playground equipment when you are on the nursery site - these areas are only for use with trained nursery staff.



### Keeping us up-to-date

Please inform the school office if your contact details / emergency contacts and / or pick-up list, have changed. It is important that we are able to contact you in case of emergencies.



### Lunches

If your child attends nursery for full day sessions please check whether they are entitled to Free School Meals. **Apply for Free School Meals... it's quick and easy using the online form at: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>**

If your child has packed lunches please make sure their lunch box and drink bottle are clearly labelled with their name. For safety reasons, please do not put your child's lunch in a plastic bag.

Healthy lunches: please note that fizzy drinks, chocolate and sweets should NOT be provided. A good example of a healthy lunch might be:

- a sandwich, wrap or pot of pasta,
- a piece or pot of fruit
- a yogurt
- a carton of juice /water



**We aim to be a nut-free setting and would appreciate your support with this.**

### Miscellaneous

Please note that children DO NOT need water bottles in nursery. They have access to water throughout their session. In general we ask that you do not send your child into nursery with toys and other items from home as this can lead to distress if these items are forgotten or go missing. Please do speak to staff if your child has a comforter and they will advise you how best to proceed.



### Fruit and snacks

Children are provided with a healthy snack at each session. This can be a selection of fruit, crackers, plain biscuits, cheese, breadsticks, fruit bread etc. and a drink of milk or water. **It is becoming increasingly difficult to fund fresh fruit for children. We ask for a small donation of £1 per week.** Pay weekly or every half term via your child's class teacher or at the office.

### Attendance

If your child is absent from school for any reason, we ask that you **contact the nursery school office** before 9.00 a.m. on the first day of absence for morning children, and before 12.30 p.m. for afternoon children. You can do this by:

Phone - 0151 638 1567

#### **School Matters!**



### Parent / Carer meeting room

In response to feedback, we now have a dedicated parent/carer meeting room. This room will provide a space where you can meet with professionals (by arrangement) but also where you can access:

- second-hand uniforms (jumpers & cardigans)
- library loans (children)
- lost property
- information leaflets

More information to follow!



### Polite Request

Please do not use phones on school grounds and be mindful of the language used around the nursery. Please be polite and respectful at all times.

### Applying for a place at Primary School

Although it may seem like your child has only just settled in F1, it's time to plan for their place at primary school!

If your child was born between 01/09/2020 & 31/08/2021, they will be due to start school in September 2025. You will need to make an application for a school place by January 15th 2025. Look out for more information soon.



### Evidence Me

Please make sure that you are set up on 'Evidence Me'. The 'Parent Share' feature in Evidence Me enables you to view information and keep up to date on what's happening in nursery! Should you have any difficulties accessing Evidence Me, please contact us and we will be happy to help.

**Please note we do not provide regular observations / photo uploads. This is to ensure that staff can focus on high quality interactions with your child, scaffolding and supporting their development. However, you will receive confirmation of your child's key person and termly photo journals.** Of course, we love to hear about your child's learning experiences at home via Evidence Me – please continue to send these through. **Please note that any communication about health and well-being should continue to be addressed by phone, email or in person.**



Please access Family Toolbox for advice and information about family life in Wirral:  
<https://familytoolbox.co.uk/>



# FREE SESSIONS

The HENRY course is to support Parents and Carers to give their children the best start in life!

Take a look at the HENRY website to find out more.

The course will cover the topics listed below

Thursday 26th September – Behaviour and Sleep

Thursday 3rd October - Fussy Eating and Oral Health

Thursday 10th October – Behaviour and Sleep

Thursday 17th October – Fussy Eating and Oral Health

All sessions will be run from 9:30am-11am

at

**Somerville Nursery School**

Please contact Seacombe Family Hub to book onto a session or for any queries.

0151 666 3506



## Partners in Learning

You are your child's first and most enduring educators. You can make a crucial difference to your child's outcomes! As such we are keen to ensure that we work in effective partnership with you. To support this collaborative approach we will:

- Identify your child's key worker, who will be your main point of contact
- Share details of our curriculum, core stories & rhymes with you.
- Share weekly updates about what learning has taken place in your child's class, for example: what activities have taken place; key vocabulary used; and how you can support continued learning at home
- Hold training and development sessions to support you and your child e.g. HENRY course; Stay & Play sessions; workshops etc.
- Provide termly individual photo journals with identified next steps
- Offer termly parent meetings

**The first of our parent workshops will take place as follows:**



Butterfly class (F1) – 'Sharing a story'. Come into class at pick up time and enjoy one of our core stories. Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September:  
Morning children 11.30am. Afternoon / all day children 3.00pm



Caterpillar class (2s) – 'What's on the spoon' Come into class at pick up time and enjoy one of our favourite nursery rhyme activities. Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September: morning children 11.30am. Afternoon children 3.00pm



## **Why is good punctuality and attendance important?**

Regular routines for young children enhance their sense of security and can also help to foster good habits for children's later life. Research shows that children with good attendance are at an advantage in later life and:

- find it easier to make and maintain friendships
- are more likely to gain good qualifications
- earn higher wages
- have a higher chance of being employed
- have higher self-esteem

Poor attendance and punctuality, even at the earliest age, can affect achievement in later life. Establishing good habits from the start helps children to settle more quickly into new settings and routines.

## **Strategies to encourage good attendance & punctuality:**

- Have regular bedtime and morning routines
- Prepare for the morning routine by packing your child's bag the night before and setting out clothes
- Talk together about all the fun your child will have at nursery
- Arrange routine medical appointments, outings and holidays for times when your child does not attend nursery, wherever possible
- Talk to your child's key person if you have any concerns or anxieties
- Work with your child to develop healthy hygiene practices.

If you are facing difficulties getting your child to nursery, it is important to discuss this with us at your earliest opportunity.  
We are here to help!