

Somerville News

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AIMING HIGH TOGETHER



PARENTS' EVENING

This is a final reminder to book in for Parents Evening. If you are having difficulty with the app, contact the ladies in the school office who will book your appointment for you. This is your chance as parent / carer to find out how your child is doing at this mid point in the year and for you to ask any questions you may have about your child's education. We look forward to seeing you in school.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL OFFICE IN THE MORNINGS AND LATENESS

The school office has become extremely busy in the mornings. There can be lots of parents in the hallway meaning parents are not able to have those private conversations that they need with the office staff. This is also being made worse by the number of children who are coming to school late. With the numbers of children coming in late it is difficult to ensure they are all signed in. From Monday next week no more than two people will be allowed to be in the office area at any one time. This is for privacy and the safety of our children as parents have been opening the doors and letting people in and out.

You may have to queue outside of the building until the screen is free to sign your children in, if you are late. You need to be on time if you want to avoid this situation.

Unfortunately, we have a growing number of families arriving late. We appreciate there are 'one offs' and occasional exceptional circumstances which may mean a child is in late. However, we do have families who are becoming persistently late.

We need to be clear with parents and carers that **BEING LATE AFFECTS CHILDREN NEGATIVELY BOTH SOCIALLY, ACADEMICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY**. It is really important that the children arrive on time. It is highly disruptive to have late comers to class for the children who have already started their learning. It is disruptive to the office staff who can not get on with the day's admin work. It is disruptive for your child who does not know what they are doing in the lesson as the teacher has started. It is stressful and embarrassing for your child.

School gates close at 8.50am for reception and Key Stage One and at 8.55am for Key Stage 2. All children should be in school before the gates close.

School will be contacting persistently late parents / carers to ensure that the children are not missing out on vital school time as a result of arriving late.

We want to give your child the very best education and we can only do that if they are in school and in on time.

LUNCH DEBT

Please be mindful of lunch balances on Parent Pay. Any issues please contact the school office. If a debt builds up school may need to ask you to bring a packed lunch. Lunch debts mean money is being used from other areas of the budget to pay for the food which has an impact elsewhere in the school.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL – ENTITLEMENT – IMPORTANT

Sometimes, children who are entitled to free school meals choose to bring their own packed lunch into school, as this is their preference. School receives money for all children who are entitled to free school meals that covers not only the cost of the lunch but also adds **significantly more** money into the school budget, this is called **Pupil Premium** money. Covering the cost of the meal is just a small portion of the money we would receive. This is to allow schools to support children entitled to free school meals further by subsidising school trips, putting on extra interventions and catch up groups buying extra resources to support in the classroom, buying spare uniforms to keep in schools etc.

*If your child is in Reception or Key Stage One and you are entitled to free school meals but haven't filled in the form because your child receives the universal meals (or brings their own packed lunch out of choice) **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** still fill in the form. If you have a child in Key Stage Two and feel your circumstances have changed or you are new to the school again the above can apply.*

This will allow us as a school to provide extra resourcing for all our free school meal children that will further support them in their learning. Without the correct money coming into school we are limited as to what we can provide. This will benefit your children hugely! **We can support filling in the form or check your entitlement on your behalf before you fill in the form.** All we need to do this for you is your **National Insurance number**. We want to support your child and give them the best we can but sometimes this is dependent on budget. If everyone who is entitled to these meals in school applies this will significantly positively effect the provision for your children.

Every extra penny we get will make a difference in times of tight budgets!

You may be eligible if you access one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

We can check this for you using an eligibility checker, if you are able to give us your National Insurance number.

How do I know if I am eligible for free school dinners and pupil

How exactly does my filling in the form and being accepted help the school?

At Somerville we get an extra £1310 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real, positive difference to the quality of education we provide.

OTIS BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

If you would like your child to have a place in our breakfast or after school club you will need to register on Ipal. Here is the link to register,

<https://otis.ipalbookings.com/>

To help with your first time uses of iPAL please see these handy videos;

[Youtube - How to make a booking on iPal](#)

[Youtube - How to add a child to your account](#)

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL – 11TH-14TH NOVEMBER 2025

If your child is in Year 5 and you would like them to attend the Year 6 residential on Anglesey the deposit is due for payment by the 14th February, next week. This is to secure their place. We can only book the number of places for the deposits received.



2025 – 2026

Please note that INSET days are subject to change.

Autumn Term 2025	
Open	Monday 1 st Sept – Friday 24 th Oct
Half Term	Monday 27 th Oct – Friday 31 st Oct
Open	Monday 3 rd Nov – Friday 19 th Dec
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22 nd Dec – Friday 2 nd Jan

Spring Term 2026	
Open	Monday 5 th Jan – Friday 13 th Feb
Half Term	Monday 16 th Feb – Friday 20 th Feb
Open	Monday 23 rd Feb – Friday 27 th March
Spring Break	Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April

Summer Term 2026	
Open	Monday 13 th April – Friday 22 nd May
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
Open	Monday 1 st June – Monday 20 th July

190 Pupil days and 5 INSET Days 2025 – 2026

1. Monday 1st Sept 2025
2. Monday 5th Jan 2026
3. Monday 13th April 2026
4. Monday 1st June 2026
5. Monday 20th July 2026

Please note that INSET days are subject to change.

Whole school dates for the diary

Tuesday 11th February Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February
Parents evening - Thursday is late night

Monday 24th February Young Voices Choir
Trip at Co Op Live Manchester Arena

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day -
Optional dress up as character from book

21st March Last week of clubs

Friday 4th April - Last day of term - Spring Term
Report Card out to parents / carers

Reception dates for the diary

Year 1 dates for the diary

Year 2 dates for the diary

Year 3 dates for the diary

Year 4 dates for the diary

Tuesday 25th February - Conway
Castle Trip

5th June Residential - Cheshire

Year 5 dates for the diary

Year 6 dates for the diary

Thursday 27th February - Year 6 SATs
meeting for parents. 3.30 - after school -

Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May -
SATs week