

Somerville News

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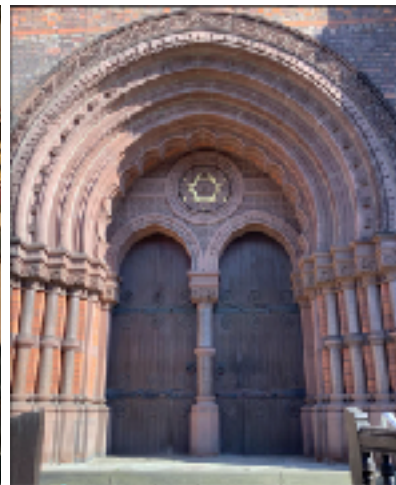
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AIMING HIGH TOGETHER



YEAR 4 TRIP TO THE SYNAGOGUE

On Wednesday, Year 4 went to the Princes Road synagogue in Liverpool. The visit forms part of our Religious Education curriculum and understanding the world we live in. Our tour guide was Mr Cohen, who the children are familiar with as he also visits school to give talks on Judaism and Jewish life to build up our children's understanding of the major world religions. The synagogue is a very beautiful building steeped in local history. The children learned about what every synagogue should have in it and how the Jewish congregation use their synagogue. The trip finished with Mr Cohen singing and playing the guitar for the children. They left begging for 'one more song'. The children were respectful and asked lots of questions and were a credit to the school. Thank you to Mr Cohen for being our guide and to the synagogue for allowing us to visit.



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Last week the attendance team scrutinised attendance and punctuality data for every pupil in school. Some of you may have received initial warning letters, requests for panel meetings, three week notice to improve letters or pre prosecution letters. 96% attendance and above is good. 94 - 95% close monitoring required. 91 - 94 low attendance - actions to improve. 90 - 80 - persistent absentee. Below 80% SEVERE absentee.

Some families have queried the tone of the letters however they are standard and what is required from the local authority. Patterns are evident when looking at data. It is very rare to get d & v more than once a year unless you have medical gastro issues, which can be evidenced through GP and paediatric letters. Some of these children are being followed up and queried. We have children who are ill or have issues on a Thursday night meaning they are absent every Friday. Children tend nationally, not to be ill weekly or biweekly on a Friday only. We have families phoning in sick when we know they are on holiday. If no form has been submitted to school requesting a holiday then the fine will be issued and then it is up to the parent to prove they were not on holiday on those dates. Over the next term if a child is poorly for more than three days and their attendance is below 95%, you may be selected for a home welfare visit if a holiday is suspected, you are a persistent or severe absentee, there is a pattern of absence or repeated illness without supporting medical evidence.

We want to ensure we do the very best for your child however we can only do that if they are in school. Our aim is to ensure they have no gaps in their learning making it difficult for the child to keep up with where they should be for their age.

Should you need support to enable your child to attend or you are struggling to get them in on time then school can request a family support worker to help you in the family home. We can signpost you to other agencies who can help with strategies if bed times or sleep have become difficult. On occasion it could be the parent who is requiring support. We can also signpost for help in this instance too. We aim to support the whole family, not just the child. Please contact Mrs Dowd if you would like some advice or signposting to

We wanted to try to better explain the impact of just one day off. The table below shows the impact of a single day off on a child. On average we do at least five lessons a day in primary school. If for example you have five Fridays off in a year that is 25 lessons your child has missed. In the life of a child this is HUGE. How can they catch up 25 lessons? The mental load on a child who is amassing these HUGE gaps in their learning is massive. It can then present as behavioural problems in both home and school or sleep deprivation because the stress of being so far behind is too great. The child may have a normal to high IQ and be very able but due to the gaps can not keep up. These children can then be mistaken as having SEND and be put on the wrong pathways thus have an extreme impact on their future. Imagine having poor attendance year on year and the impact of that on a pupil?

We also need to look at being late and being picked up early and the number of lessons missed for the child.

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days	ATTENDANCE MATTERS WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN? BE SMART BE THERE! <small>Percentages based on 190 academic days</small>
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day	
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days	
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days	

Minutes late for school or minutes early collection



YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

This year the phonics screening check will take place from the 9th to the 13th June. If you want to know more about the phonics screening check please scan the QR code below.





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

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

9th 13th June - Phonics screening check

Year 2 dates for the diary

Year 3 dates for the diary

8th May - Trip to Kalish Buddhist Centre

Year 4 dates for the diary

5th June **Residential** - Cheshire

Year 5 dates for the diary

Year 6 dates for the diary

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