

Tuesday 25th January 2022

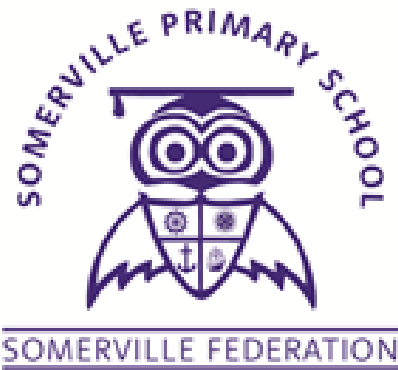
Somerville News

Website: www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk

E-mail: schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk

Phone: 0151 638 5074

AIMING HIGH TOGETHER



RESPECT FOR SCHOOL STAFF

A very big thank you to our parents and carers for your support of staff since we returned to school this school year. **We would like to thank the very large majority of our parents who are always extremely supportive and thankful for the work of our staff.** Staff that go above and beyond on a daily basis to meet the needs of our children and support our families in numerous ways.

All Somerville staff are passionate about the education and support they provide our children and this continues to be our number one priority. We know that you as parents and carers are also passionate about the education your child receives at Somerville. This is why we are open to discuss any concerns you have so that these can be resolved quickly. We expect all concerns to be raised in a calm, considered and caring way. It is with much regret that we have to state, that unfortunately some concerns are not raised in an appropriate manner and instead we continue to experience from a very small minority of parents, a number of aggressive incidents. Some staff for instance have recently been subjected to being shouted at in the office area, on the playground, on the telephone and even emails with inappropriate tones or threatening behaviour. We know that many of you reading this will be shocked to hear that such incidents happen at Somerville.

We just wanted to remind all parents and carers that this behaviour from a small minority will not be tolerated. Our staff have every right to be treated with respect and courtesy. We can and will, if necessary, pursue a number of options if such incidents continue to take place including; stopping a parent from entering the school grounds to reporting incidents to the Police. Where the matter is referred to the Police the matter could result in a prosecution and fine.

We hope moving forward that the situation for this small number of parents improves.

Staff in both of our schools go above and beyond to support the children in their care. We respect the right of our staff to feel safe and secure in their professional working environment. Educating your child is a partnership between the child, yourselves and the school. We continue to work closely together with our parents and families to ensure the best outcomes for all our children. We ask that you continue to work with us. The quality of education we provide at Somerville continues to be accredited by numerous awarding bodies. We leave no stone unturned to ensure the best for all Somerville children and their families.

School Staffing Shortages

We continue to remain open to all pupils in school and have not yet had to resort to closing classes or year groups. However as a consequence of the Omicron variant, isolation guidance and other staff illness we have had staff shortages last week of more than 30% of school staff and continue to have staff shortages this week. Supply staff used to cover absent teachers and support staff are almost non-existent due to all schools locally and nationally being in the same position. You therefore may notice at times other staff from within the school covering your child's class or supporting your child whilst we try to maintain on site teaching. Thank you for bearing with us during this difficult period of school staff shortages. We will do everything we can to ensure children continue to be educated on site in school and hope that staffing levels improve over the coming days.

Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 2nd
February**

Year 1 Chester Zoo visit

Friday 18th February

Year 3 trip to Chester Zoo

**Monday 21st - Friday
25th February**

Half term

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day

Thursday 31st March

Year 4 trip to Chester

**Monday 11th April -
Friday 22nd April**

School closed for Easter
holidays

Monday 25th April

School reopens to pupils

Monday 2nd May

Bank holiday Monday -
school closed

**Monday 9th May - Friday
13th May**

SATs week for Y6
children.

SCHOOL OFFICE

The school office staff would like to remind parents and carers:

- Only one family in the school office at a time.
- The need for punctuality:

School starts for all children at the Primary School at 08.55am,

all children should be in school before this time. At 8.55am the school gates are closed to secure the premises.

- Children need to be in on time (before 5 to 9) and entering via their classroom door NOT the school office.

Apply for Free School Meals...

it's quick and easy using the online form at:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>

I am writing to request that you complete the online eligibility form **even if you are not currently eligible**. Paper copies of this form are also available from the school office. The information you provide will be used to check whether you are **or have ever been** entitled to Free School Meals. It will also mean if your circumstances change -even for just one day- it will automatically identify your eligibility.

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at Somerville Federation BUT YOU MUST APPLY!

Look at the benefits:

- A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
- Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.
- Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium, worth approximately £1,320 a year. This could mean more than £9,000 in extra resources for your child whilst they are at Somerville.

Do you qualify?

Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- 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 State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you don't want your child to have a free school meal they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify, and are registered, the school still gets the extra money.