



Somerville Federation

Somerville Primary School and Somerville Nursery School

Northbrook Road, Wallasey, Wirral. CH44 9AR

Tel: 0151 638 5074 Fax: 0151 639 1019

schooloffice@somerville.wirral.sch.uk

www.somerville.wirral.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher – Mr M J Forber

22nd June 2020

HOME LEARNING

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

This is just a letter to remind and reassure you that our school has not 'shut down'. Although most children will not be able to physically attend school you will still be able to communicate with senior leaders or teachers via SEESAW, year group email or by e-mailing / phoning the school office which is now manned on a daily basis. If you haven't requested your SEESAW password then please contact school as soon as possible.

As you are aware we have children from all year groups attending school and learning in our key worker groups and we also have children in from Year 6 and Year 1. The children attending school are doing English, maths, phonics and a range of other lessons every day. Class teachers are still setting work for home learning to ensure the children who are not able to attend school still have access and are able to learn at the same rate as the children who are in school.

Home learning has dropped off in recent weeks. We are asking our families to re-engage with this as of Today. This is to give your child the same experiences as those children who are in school, for the last four weeks of the summer term.

It is important that all children still feel CONNECTED to school otherwise returning could be stressful for them. If they engage over the next four weeks with the home learning they will receive feedback from their teacher reigniting the connection, getting them 'keyed' into learning and lessons, familiarisation with subjects ready for transition into their next year group in September.

We do appreciate home learning can be 'tough'. Many of you are working from home and trying to spin many plates, for others the children will rebel against learning at home. Here are some helpful suggestions that staff here at school have tried to implement when we have been working from home, trying to home school our children and dealing again with our own children doing their very best to resist home schooling!

- Don't try to replicate a full school timetable – it won't be possible!

- Have a routine and structure. Having a plan and a predictable routine for the day can be very reassuring. As adults we like to know what is going to happen, and children like this too.

A consistent routine lets everyone be secure about the plans for the day. It is often useful to involve children in creating this routine, so that they feel part of the plan, rather than the plan being imposed on them. You could display the routine using a timeline, or maybe pictures and visuals. Encourage children to develop independence by referring to their own routine/plan themselves.

- Don't worry if the routine isn't perfect – Remember, this isn't a normal situation. If you find that planning and sticking to the routine is causing more stress, friction or conflict, then it's OK to be more 'free-flow'. Perhaps be guided by the activities that children want to do.
- Try to keep work in one place – If children are doing school work or project work at home, try to keep it all in one place so that it doesn't spread out over the house. This can help to maintain a work/home boundary. We know that people live in different circumstances that might mean this isn't always possible, so perhaps there might be other ways to 'signal' the end of working e.g. putting away the work and then enjoying a favourite song or shared dance!
- Supervise children with screens – It is likely that children and young people will be using screens more often over the coming weeks e.g. phones, tablets, gaming consoles and the internet. If this is the case make sure they are supervised. Ensure appropriate content filters are active – the UK Safer Internet Centre offers guidance on setting up parental control. Try to ensure all children have a balanced range of activities each day. Involve children and young people in these discussions so that they feel part of the plan.

Warmest regards,

Nicola Parry

Deputy Headteacher