



SIMS Newsletter



April 2021

Issue 16

SIMS Spring Upgrade

Assessment

It is now possible for a class teacher to add User Defined Fields (UDFs) to an Assessment marksheet as Additional Student Columns. It is also possible for an Assessment Co-ordinator to add UDFs to a template as Additional Student Information columns.

The DfE and the Standards and Testing Agency (STA) announced in January 2021 that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) National Curriculum Assessments and Tests could not continue as intended. The following assessments, scheduled between April and July 2021, have been cancelled:

- KS1 Teacher Assessments and Tests
- KS2 Teacher Assessments and Tests
- Phonics Screening Check
- All other statutory trialling

Due to the cancellation of the Summer 2020 collection for the Year 1 Phonics Check because of COVID-19, an additional CTF export type named **Phonics Test Results (for Autumn Term 2020 Screening Check only)** was provided to enable schools to make the return for the new Year 1 Phonics Check in Autumn 2020. This has been renamed **Phonics Test Results (For Summer Term 2021 Retake Screening Check only)** for the Summer 2021 Year 2 Phonics Check.

Attendance

In consultation with the DfE, a range of subcodes have been introduced for session marks **I (Illness)** and **X (Non-compulsory school age or COVID-19 related)** to enable schools to record additional information regarding a pupil's absence.

- To record a subcode for a single pupil, right-click a cell where an I or X mark has been recorded and select **Enter Subcode** from the pop-up menu.
- To record subcodes for multiple pupils, highlight the required I or X marks, right-click one of the highlighted cells and select **Enter Subcode** from the pop-up menu. Please note that highlighted cells must include only I marks or only X marks; it is not possible to apply subcodes in bulk where a combination of I and X marks have been highlighted. This feature works in a similar way to recording comments and minutes late for multiple pupils.

Special Points of Interest:

- **School Census** is on Thursday **20th May 2021**
- Our phone number is: 01895 717701
- You can email the Sims Team at support@simsforschools.com
- Sims Courses for the Summer Term are now available to view/book online via www.simsforschools.com or <https://schoolshrcooperative.co.uk>
- The SIMS User Group Meeting for Summer Term will be held via Teams on Thursday 1st July at 2:30—4:00pm—all welcome.

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FMS Spring Upgrade

Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR)

All the CFR reports have been updated to display the correct financial year. Additional income rows have been provided for I18 - Income from additional grants for schools, as follows:

- I18a - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- I18b - DfE grant scheme for exceptional costs due to COVID-19
- I18c - Other COVID-19 related grants
- I18d - Additional grant for schools.

On upgrade, any ledger codes previously mapped to I18 are mapped automatically to I18d for 2020/21.

Additionally, all validations have been updated in line with recent DfE specification updates.

National Insurance 2021/2022

National Insurance calculations have been updated to reflect recent changes by HMRC

Summer School Census 2021

Summer School Census — Thursday 20th May 2021

If pupils in years R, 1 and 2 are not attending school on the School Census Summer 2021 census day, schools can now select an alternative date for reporting of school dinners taken between **05/04/2021** and **31/07/2021**.

In Special schools, this is also applicable to pupils aged between 4 and 6 who are not following the National Curriculum and pupils born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2016 inclusive.

The **Other** lookup value in the **Exclusion Reason** lookup type has been set to inactive because from September 2020 onwards, it should not be recorded.

General Updates

SimsforSchools Service

The SimsforSchools team will continue to work from home until further notice. As coronavirus restrictions are lifted this will be reviewed and we will advise our customers of any changes.

Recruitment

We are in the process of recruiting an additional member for the team and will advise when this process is complete.

*Sims
Training
Courses for
Summer term
are now
available to
view /book at
www.*

*simsforschools.
com*

or

*https://
schoolshrcoop
erative.co.uk*

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