

SIMS USER GROUP MEETING

Thursday 25th March 2021

AGENDA

- Next User Group Meeting
- Team & Support Updates
- Capita ESS Update
- SIMS & FMS Spring 2021 Update
- SIMS Primary & Cloud Based FMS
- Summer 2021 School Census Changes & Attendance Sub Codes - Carol
- Finance End of Year - Elaine

Next User Group Meeting:

Thursday 1st July 2021*

***Via Microsoft Teams**

Team and Support Updates...

- Working from home until further notice.
- Courses in Summer term will continue taking place over Microsoft Teams.
- Please provide feedback on training received via Microsoft Teams.
- Looking to recruit fourth member of the team over the next term.

Capita ESS Update

- Capita Education Software Services Ltd sold to Montagu.
- New owners took over from 1st February 2021.
- Capita ESS Ltd now renamed to ESS SIMS Ltd.
- Montagu also purchased ParentPay. ESS SIMS Ltd will fall under their ParentPay Group.
- Awaiting to hear from the new owners on the direction they are going to take with SIMS Primary & Cloud Based FMS.
- No end date for SIMS 7.

SIMS & FMS Spring 2021 Update

- Capita released FMS update on 12th March. SIMS release delayed to 16th March.
- Started school upgrades on Monday. To continue until second week into Summer Term.
- Attendance Sub Codes for I and X for COVID related absences. Carol to go through.
- Statutory Assessments and Exams have all been cancelled. But any current Year 2 pupil that did not pass the Phonics in Autumn 2020 will retake Phonics in the Summer.
- New CTF Out option - **Phonics Test Results (For Summer Term 2021 Retake Screening Check only)**.
- Additional resources have been provided for schools who are the early adopters to the new EYFS framework.
- User Defined Fields are available to be selected as Additional Student Columns in Assessment Manager.

SIMS & FMS Spring 2021 Update

Continued...

- 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.
- National Insurance calculations updated to reflect recent changes by HMRC.

SIMS Primary

- Still in development but around 85% complete.
- Currently there is no full GDPR functionality*, Dinner Money.
- No “Design Report” functionality. Instead using Tier based system.
- Tier 4 reports uses Power BI. One time connection required to SIMS Primary.
- Tier 3 reports: Add fields and export to Excel for analysis.
- Tier 2 and 1 are system based reports and general student lists.
- Groupcall and Wonde are now integrated with SIMS Primary.
- Salary projections now working with SIMS Primary...though yet to have a demonstration of this by ESS SIMS!
- Development had slowed due to the sale. Awaiting to hear from new owners on the direction they are going to take.
- So far Capita SIMS has only 50 schools using SIMS Primary live.

Cloud Based FMS

- Capita looking into cloud based FMS or slimmed down version of SIMS Finance.
- Looking to develop a finance solution for LA Maintained Schools.
- Current solution available is Hosted FMS.
- Current development for Cloud based FMS on hold. New owners to provide direction on this.
- SIMS Finance is geared to MATs (multi academy trusts).
- Hence not suitable for LA Maintained Schools.

Changes to Summer 2021 School Census & Attendance Sub Codes

- OVER TO CAROL!

Changes to School Census Summer 2021

Reporting School Dinners Taken on Census Day

Routines | Statutory Returns | School Census - School Dinner Taken

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.

Changes to School Census Summer 2021

De-Activation of the 'Other' Exclusion Reason

Tools | Lookups | Maintain

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.

Changes to School Census Summer 2021

Collection of School Attendance Information

Not applicable to Nursery schools

For schools that use Attendance, data is collected on all categories of school attendance, rather than just absence.

For schools that do not use Attendance, it is possible to record the following information:

- ❑ Total number of sessions attending approved educational activity. **This information was also collected in the School Census Spring 2021 Return**
- ❑ Total number of sessions unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances. **This information was also collected in the School Census Spring 2021 Return**
- ❑ Total number of sessions unable to attend due to Coronavirus. **This information was also collected in the School Census Spring 2021 Return**

ANY QUESTIONS?

AND A MASSIVE THANK YOU 😊

The SIMSforSchools Team would like to thank you for your continued support of our service and we look forward continuing to work and support your schools in the next financial year.

HAVE A LOVELY EASTER BREAK!

Contact Us

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