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Next User Group Meeting:

Thursday 25th March 2021*

***Via Microsoft Teams**

3

Team and Support Updates...

- Kathleen Bentley who started in September as SIMS First Line Advisor has sadly left the team.
- Working from home until further notice.
- Courses in Spring term will continue taking place over Microsoft Teams.

4

SIMS & FMS Autumn 2020 Update

- Capita released updates on 30th October.
- Due to delay in Year 1 Phonics Assessments.
- Year 1 pupils that moved up to Year 2 will have had Phonics assessments this half term.
- Majority of Primary and Infant schools had been upgraded before December. Most schools upgraded as of today.
- Capita has confirmed that if schools are upgraded, they can still complete the School Workforce Census.
- Updates in SIMS:
 - New CTF Export option for delayed Year 1 Phonics Assessments – Phonics Test Results (for Autumn 2020 Screening Check Only).
 - Ordnance Survey data from January 2020 used in Address Validations in SIMS.
 - Attendance codes 7, 8 and 9 that were available in the Summer release in SIMS will be removed and replaced with I, Y or X. Codes relate to reporting of COVID absences but are not recognised by DfE. If the codes are not removed after the upgrade then there is a patch to remove and replace the codes.

5

Year 2 Phonics Autumn 2020 Assessment

- Due to delay in Year 1 Phonics Assessments in June 2020, Year 1 Phonics Check assessments took place this half term.
- I.e. Year 1 pupils moved up to Year 2 to be assessed.
- Use the Year 1 Phonics Screening Wizard 2020 in SIMS.
- DfE would like to know the date of result. Hence not to back date the results to June 2020.
- Threshold still 32.
- CTF Export option to be used for this assessment – Phonics Test Results (for Autumn 2020 Screening Check Only).
- Any Year 2 pupil that does not meet the threshold at the end of Autumn Term will resit the Phonics Check in June 2021.
- Any Year 3 pupils that moved up from Year 2 and were meant to resit in June 2020 will not be required to resit this Autumn or June 2021.

6

Capita ESS Update

- Education Software Services put up for sale by Capita for £500+ million.
- Montagu (Private Equity Firm) interested in purchasing.
- Products within ESS include SIMS, FMS, Discover, SIMS Engagement Products i.e. Parent App.
- Business as usual – From Capita ESS.
- We are in communication with other SIMS Support Units in London and Capita.

7

Changes to School Workforce Census Autumn 2020

- Collection Dates:
 - Census Date: 05/11/2020
 - Staff Absence Collection: 01/09/2019 to 31/08/2020
 - Staff Continuous Contracts: 01/09/2019 to 05/11/2020
- Separate category is now used to determine which data items are reported for Leadership Non-Teacher staff (SWC Post of Leadership - Non Teacher).
- SWC Post of Leadership – Non Teacher are no longer included in the Other Support Staff category. Leadership Non-Teachers has been included in the report criteria header of a number of the SWC reports.
- Additional Payment category and the Additional Payment Amount is no longer collected for Other Support Staff.
- QTS, QTLS, EYTS are now collected for Other Contracted Support Staff who have an SWC Post of Advisory Teachers.

8

SIMS Primary

- Still in development – still not ready for SIMSforSchools supported schools.
- Currently there is no full GDPR functionality*, Dinner Money, Design Reports.
- Capita appear to focus more on Teaching users.
- Capita currently prioritising 3rd party integration. Groupcall and Wonde are on track to be integrated with SIMS Primary.
- Complex reports not in vision – export required fields into Excel then filter or link with Power BI.
- *GDPR – Can delete pieces of data. Cannot bulk delete data. On roadmap to be included.
- So far Capita SIMS has only 40 schools using SIMS Primary live.

9

SIMS Finance Update

- Capita looking into cloud based FMS or slimmed down version of SIMS Finance.
- SIMS Finance is geared to MATs (multi academy trusts).
- Hence not suitable for LA Maintained Schools.

10