

Schools' IT Newsletter

December 2021

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We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our colleagues in schools and academies a very Merry Christmas after what has been another challenging year and we hope that you all enjoy a Happy New Year.

Best wishes

SCC IT Service

Please note that the IT Service Desk will be closing at 4pm on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve



Customising the SIMS home page to support your role

SIMS

For all users who are new to SIMS or for those who wish to refresh themselves around shortcuts available within SIMS

Register to watch this on-demand webinar via

[Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://www.gotowebinar.com)

This 30 minute webinar covers

- Customising the SIMS homepage
 - Navigating menu routes
- Key report to help support your role in school



SIMS and FMS 2021 Autumn Release

We are pleased to inform you that the Autumn 2021 upgrades for SIMS. net and FMS have been released and can now be applied via SOLUS3.

Please be aware that if your SOLUS3 is set to upgrade automatically, SIMS, FMS and Discover will have upgraded at 18:00 on the 18/11/21. If SIMS is not on version 7.202 and FMS are not on version 6.202, SOLUS3 has not upgraded SIMS and/or FMS.

Please find the SIMS and FMS release notes that include details the new features:

SIMS and FMS release notes:

SIMS Primary

http://sims.eadidom.com/Downloads//Documentation/SIMS_Autumn_2021_Primary.pdf

SIMS Secondary

http://sims.eadidom.com/Downloads//Documentation/SIMS_Autumn_2021_Secondary.pdf

FMS

http://sims.eadidom.com/Downloads//Documentation/FMS_Autumn_2021.pdf

This will upgrade SIMS. net to version 7.202 and FMS to 6.202.

Please be aware they are no new base lookups in the release.

Guidance on how to upgrade your system can be found:

http://sims.eadidom.com/Downloads//Documentation/Deploying_an_Update_or_Patch.pdf

Enhanced SIMS schools

We will be contact any school who buy into Enhanced SIMS to discuss scheduling the release. This will be scheduled in SOLUS3 or a time will be arranged for a member of the SIMS support team to carry out the upgrade via SOLUS3.

Remote Support Academies

We will be contact any academy who buy into Remote Support to discuss scheduling the release. This will be scheduled in SOLUS3 or a time will be arranged for a member of the SIMS support team to carry out the upgrade via SOLUS3.

Please contact the Service Desk with any queries either by email ITServiceDesk@suffolk.gov.uk or by telephone on 01473 265555.

CENSUS DATES FOR 2022

For Head Teachers and administration staff responsible for submitting the termly census returns to the DfE

The logo for SIMS (School Information Management System) is displayed in a black-bordered white box. The word "SIMS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Every school in England has a statutory duty to complete the school census each term.

Please put the following dates in your diaries to ensure your census returns are submitted on time.

Spring census – Thursday 20th January

Summer census – Thursday 19th May

Autumn census – Thursday 6th October (provisional date – not confirmed)

Workforce census – Thursday 3rd November (provisional date – not confirmed)

The census helpline, 01473 260666, will be open the week of each census, from Monday to Thursday 08.30am – 5pm and Friday 08.30am - 4.30pm. All enquiries outside of census week can be logged in the normal way, via the IT Service Desk on 01473 265555.

ESS – CLARITY FOR THE FUTURE

For Local Authority Schools



We understand that LA schools have received a communication with regards to the SIMS Service and clarity for the future.

Suffolk County Council were made aware last week that ESS were intending to communicate directly with schools and expressed our concern at this.

We have been aware that they wish to change the arrangements under which they contract and have been attempting to fully understand the reasons for this and the implications and benefits to schools in Suffolk.

At the moment, Suffolk County Council have a contract in place with ESS until 31st March 2025. We then contract with LA maintained schools on an annual basis. We are aiming to confirm our position with ESS this week, which is likely to include the need for us to conduct a stakeholder engagement exercise with all schools impacted. We also need to complete our due diligence on their proposals. We hope to be in a position to confirm all of this in the next week or so.

HOW TO CONTACT US!

You should continue to raise all standard incidents and service requests via the IT Service Desk on 01473 265555 or via itservicedesk@suffolk.gov.uk, our offices are open 08:30-17:00, Monday-Friday.

We have set up a mailbox for non-standard queries, e.g. enquiring about a new service, please email us at Schoolsitservices@suffolk.gov.uk

