



Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



March Monthly Newsletter

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Head Teacher's Comment

The children seem to be making the most of life at Somerles. As you can see in this edition, which contains highlights from January and February, they have been involved in a wide range of activities from sports, concerts and clubs to visits and trips and our second House Forum. I am always pleased to see the children's enthusiasm for these additional activities. I was also pleased to see, when I observed all the classes at work this term, how positively they engage in their regular learning.

For me, a particular highlight of the Somerles year is the Young Voices concert. This year I was very proud of our choir's part in this amazing event. It was our largest Young Voices choir ever and they represented us brilliantly!

Translation apps



If someone in your family, or another school parent or carer that you know of, struggles with reading school documents in English, then we recommend the use of "Google Translate" on your smartphone or tablet (available on both Android and Apple devices.) This will allow you to translate documents to a chosen language via the camera on your device.



Meal price change

You will be aware of the recent rises in food costs. Despite these pressures, we have avoided raising our school meal prices for over a year (the last change was a 2% rise in January 2022), but we cannot continue subsidising school lunches from our main school budget. This means that we will be raising prices by 9% from £2.20 to £2.40 from the start of the summer term. Prices remain unchanged for the rest of this term up to the Easter Holidays.

We have worked with our caterers this year to improve the standard of food offered and, for this price, children have a choice of two main meals or jacket potatoes and a choice of fruit or dessert.

If any family is struggling financially, an application can be made to apply for free school meals/pupil premium by clicking on this link: [online application form](#) and you will be notified if your child is eligible.

Mr Hunt



Get the news faster on
[Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)!



Inside: Sports: football, basketball, multisports Clubs Class assemblies Church visit
Young Voices House Forum Awards Updated calendar Skip Beatz Bridges ...

School briefing for parents and carers

Interested in working in schools? - Volunteering opportunities

Recently, we have trained a number of parent volunteers to support children in school by listening to them read. If you are interested gaining experience of work in schools for a future career, or would just like to help out, we would welcome more volunteers. We will give you training in your role and we ensure that all volunteers undergo safeguarding checks and a safeguarding induction before you begin working with children.

If you would like to volunteer, please email us at admin@someriejuniorschool.co.uk or contact Mrs Dudley in the school office.



Coming up in March (events for parents and carers in blue)

- Thurs 2 March World Book Day (dress as a book character)
- Wed 8 March 9am: 3 Lyra class assembly - 3L parents and carers invited
- Fri 10 Mar Non-uniform day - in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale
- w/c 13 March Science Week
- Mon 13 Mar Mothers day gift sale at morning break (£2 or £5 in named envelope)
- Tues 14 March Year 5 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
- Wed 15 March Year 3 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
- Wed 15 March **New event** Year 5 K'NEX Challenge
- Thurs 16 March Year 4 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
- Fri 17 March Year 6 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
- 20 & 22 March Parents evenings
 - Monday 3:45pm-5:45pm
 - Wednesday 6:00pm-7:45pm
- Mon 20 Mar **New event** Year 3 fruit salad making - children to bring a named plastic container
- Wed 29 March Year 4 play (6:00pm children arrive for a 6:30pm performance)

Please see full calendar at the end of this newsletter

Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces. Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school, we have ensured that a member of our staff, Mr Finch, known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the children in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this scheme is extremely beneficial for all those involved. It has already helped us support a number of children and their families.

Mr Hunt

Luton

OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.



Eco Committee Battery Recycling

Our Eco Committee would like to let you know that they have set up a battery recycling point inside the school entrance.

Our school families can bring in used batteries for recycling and drop them in the special collector.



Highlights from January & February

January RE Week

Year 3 Visit to St Francis Church

Early in the New Year, Year 3 classes visited nearby St Francis' Church as part of their RE studies. They walked there to have a look around the building and to ask the vicar, Reverend Josias, questions about being a Christian priest.



The children looked around the pulpit, baptistry and altar table. They got to try out the pipe organ and learned about the unique artwork. Josias got some of them to act out a baptism - something they had learned about in lessons back in school.



Year 4 Shabbat meal and guest speaker

The day after Year 3 visited the local church, Year 4 received a visit from Mr Green, chairman of the local synagogue. He spoke to the children about some of the traditions of Judaism, especially Shabbat meals. Later in the week, the children organised their own Shabbat meal to enjoy together.



Skip Beatz Day

On 12th January, we were privileged to host a visit from Pete Thompson of Skip Beatz fame. Pete is a local man who is a five time skipping world record holder. In assembly, he amazed us with his skipping ninja show and then talked to us about how he had taught himself skipping tricks and practised until he became a skipping champion.



During the day, each class had a skipping lesson from Pete. Some children learned to skip for the first time, while others developed their skills and learned new tricks.



Blues for Loos

Year 3 raised £97 for toilet twinning projects through their Blues for Loos day and from sales of their nativity play programmes.



Year 4 Pop-up Rainforest Café

For a family event this term, children in Year 4 applied some of their learning from their Brazil topic to create a Pop-up Rainforest Café. They made their own empanadas to sell on the day.



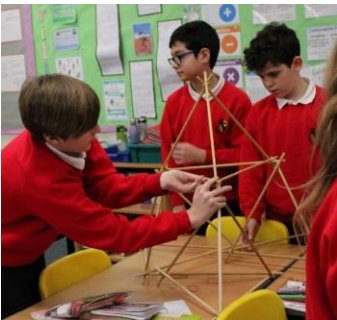
QES panto

Year 5 and 6 children enjoyed a visit to Queen Elizabeth School's Robin Hood panto. It was a great show and we enjoyed seeing some ex-Somerles children in the cast.



Bridge building

In design and technology lessons, Year 6 children had been learning about bridge construction. On 27th January, each class had a half day architecture workshop where the children worked to create some real structures. Starting with a few sticks and rubber bands each, the children built pyramid structures. They then combined these in teams to create bridge spans. The structures that they made were tested and found to be very strong.



Somerles Clubs

Model Railway Club

Our model railway clubbers have been working hard to add new items to their layout including buildings and landscape features.



Cheerleading Club

Our cheerleaders have been developing their teamwork and coordination to create pyramids



House Forum 2 - 22nd February

We recently held our second house forum of the year. In this event, children work with others from their house, rather than their usual class.

The theme for this forum was debating. The lower school houses debated whether Goldilocks was a criminal. The upper phase houses debated whether football players are overpaid.

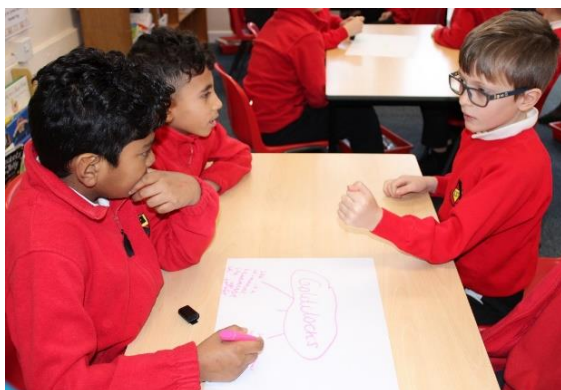
The children looked at points on each side of the debate and drew up strong arguments in favour of their chosen viewpoints.



Venus House



Saturn House



Mars House



Jupiter House



Sport I

Girls Football

Local competition - 10th January

After several postponements, the girls team *finally* got to take part in some afternoon fixtures. On 10th January, they played two matches against local competition at a neighbouring high school.



Team report

The girls football team went to QES and played in a tournament against many schools. We lost 1-0 to one of the schools but we kept on going no matter what. Then we had to have a 20 minute break and practised our passing and running.

We then played against another team which we won 1-0. Brooke B scored and all the other girls on the team kept on fighting for the ball. Then it was time to leave.

Brooke

Area competition - 2nd February

The girls took part in another tournament in February, this time against tough opposition from the wider Bedfordshire area.



Our team played in an under 11 football tournament. We came 5th out of our group. We think we played very well. We co-operated well and worked as a team.

We played against Etonbury and they won 3-2. The next school we played was Parklea and we won 4-1. In that game we co-operated very well. Then, we played Fulbrook and they won 7-1.

We also played Denbigh and they won 3-1. Although we lost, we still think we tried our hardest and Ava scored, she did very well. The last team we played was Scot and they won 8-0. We were very disappointed but still congratulated the other team.

Cerys and Bella

Skipping

After being inspired by the Skipbeatz day, many children have been working on their skipping skills both at home and in school.



Sport II

Basketball

Our mixed Year 6 basketball team went to Luton Sixth Form College to take part in a town-wide basketball event. They played a number of games in quick succession - and returned looking very tired after all their efforts!



Rapid Fire Cricket

A team of Year 3 children, some of whom were new to the sport, took part in an indoor cricket event against other schools at Inspire on 8th February. In this 'rapid fire' event they develop their batting and fielding skills - and kept fit running between the wickets!



Cross Country

The Year 6 pupils pictured here are being put through their paces during the trials for a big cross country event at Stockwood Park. The runners who were selected for the team performed well in the event on 12th January. Lucy from our team was the fastest Year 6 runner in the Year 6 & 7 girls race!



Sport IV

Year 4 Multisports

After the half term break, eight Year 4 children competed for the school at a multisports event.



Team report

On Wednesday 22nd February, we went to Inspire for a multisports event and there were 12 other schools from all over Luton. We played lots of different games like table tennis, archery, badminton and jumping. The people who came with me were Aischa, Jamie, Michael, Rosie, Haris, Sanatpreet and Dhriti. I enjoyed jumping because it shows how far I can jump and because it makes you healthy. The hardest was the running race because I am not good at running fast. Jamie was good at running and also Sanatpreet. Aischa and I were good at table tennis. Dhriti, Rosie and Haris were good at archery. Dhriti and I were good at athletics. I improved most at table tennis. My friends and I got a lot of stickers and a gold medal. We took a picture at the end with our medals.

Although we did not win, we still had lots of fun. The medals looked so shiny so people said we had done a really good job.

By Shafana.



Somerics Clubs II

Multisports Club

Our multisport club members get to enjoy a wide range of sports - including gymnastics.



Performances

Young Voices Concert - Wembley Arena 7th February

For this year's Young Voices concert at Wembley Arena in London, we took our largest choir to such an event with 38 children taking part. They formed part of a choir of over 5200 children from schools around the south east of England - including 1000 from Luton schools.

The children spent an afternoon rehearsing with the professional musicians, getting their singing - and dancing! - just right. In the evening, a sell-out crowd of family fans watched them take part in a spectacular event. As well as the children's choir, there was a professional dance group (Urban Strides), a violinist (Anna Phoebe), a famous singer (Heather Small of M People) and the Beatbox Collective. The children had an amazing time and we were very impressed by their conduct and performance at the event. They did us and their families proud!



We would like to thank Miss Duffy for organising our involvement and Mrs Moran, Miss Duffy, Ms Adjei, Mrs Berrah, Mr Hunt and Mrs Fromo for accompanying and supporting our choir.

[You can get a taste of the event here: www.facebook.com/YVConcerts/videos/891146198751962]

Year 6 Percussion

The December Year 6 music performance was postponed due to snow and so the event took place in January. One class performed on djembe drums whilst the other class performed with drumsticks, using their sticks and chairs to make some wonderful rhythms. It was a noisy and joyous performance!



If you would like your child to have instrument lessons to develop their talents further, please contact the Luton Music Service on 01582 538200

5H assembly

Hercules class performed our first class assembly of the year on 18th January. They taught us many of the facts that they had learned about the planets of the solar system. It was good to see a number of performances from the class's musicians on guitar, piano and euphonium. Another highlight was an astounding gym performance from some of the girls who impressed us with their tricks and flips.



5P assembly

When it came to the turn of Perseus class, they used a Gogglebox theme to introduce their learning. They focussed on their Egypt project and gave us a demonstration on how to mummify a body!

There were musical items on violin and cello, singing and dancing and a Chase-style quiz.



January & February Awards

Values Role Models

Value	10 Jan	17 Jan	31 Jan	21 Feb	28 Feb
Aspiration	Elizabeth 6A	Jake 3D Hamza 5H Rory & Elizabeth 6A	Mia S 5P Rashid & Rylee F 6P	Mansirat K 6A Sophie B 6A	Malek M 3D Miley F 5H
Cooperation	Zain 5H, Riley 6A	Alex 3L	Pranav 3D, Bobby 6P	Olivia B 6P	Spencer 3D
Kindness		Parker 4O	Matilda M 3L	Ankit D 3L	
Respect	Mario 4O	Aakifah 3L, Jahnai 4A	Jorgie 4A, Arthur 6P		Subhan 3L
Responsibility	Connor 3L	Phoenix 6A	Zain 4A, Osman 6A	Subhan A 3L	Khadijah 3L
Tolerance		Omar 4A			

Golden Table Winners

Lower Phase

Y3: Spencer, Daniel, Sarah, Alexandru, Malek, Anna

Y4: Emiliana, Leo, Nawaf, Rose, Shafana, Raheem



Upper phase

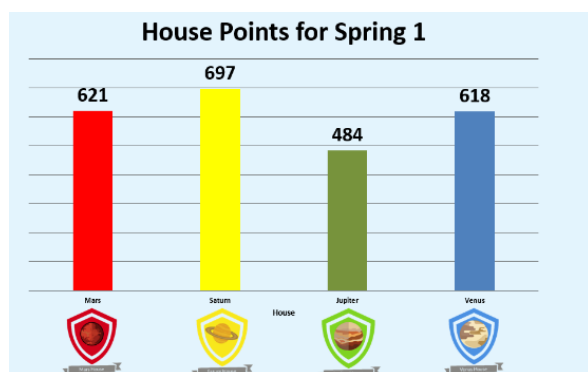
Y5: Joseph, Ugo, Gurveer, Zara, Taleigha, Rio, Maria, Jake F

Y6: Holly, Bobby, Declan, Ava, Oliver, Arthur, Osman, Callum



House Point Competition

At Christmas, Venus house had finished just ahead of Saturn house. When we counted the points at the end of last half term, it was Saturn who were the winners.



Athletes of the half term

Year 3

Kaleem - For fantastic effort in PE lessons. Kaleem works hard to improve his performance every lesson by listening carefully to advice.

Anna - For exploring a range of footwork patterns, working collaboratively with her partner and performing the best ball tricks with fantastic control and accuracy.

Year 5

Darby - For always pushing herself to be the best she can be. Darby tries her hardest in all PE lessons and clubs.

Faith - For working collaboratively with her peers and demonstrating skills.

Year 4

Sienna C - Showing great discipline in gymnastics and adept at a variety of gym skills.

Sienna O - For having tremendous focus in all gym lessons and performing to a great standard in all her gym movements.

Year 6

Lucy - For an outstanding performance in the cross country event and for showing good cooperation with others in PE lessons.

Maora - For organising roles and responsibilities within a group, and being patient and supporting others.



Somerles Junior School Calendar of Events 2022-23



Please look out for updates to this list of events which will be published in the monthly newsletter.

Events which parents and carers may attend are in blue.

2023

w/c = week commencing

March	
Wed 8 March	9am: 3 Lyra class assembly – parents and carers invited
Fri 10 Mar	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale
w/c 13 March	Science Week
Mon 13 Mar	Mothers day gift sale at morning break (£2 or £5 in named envelope)
Tues 14 March	Year 5 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
Wed 15 March	Year 3 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
Wed 15 Mar <i>*New event*</i>	Year 5 K'NEX Challenge
Thurs 16 March	Year 4 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
Fri 17 March	Year 6 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am)
Mon 20 March <i>*New Times*</i>	Parents evening – 3:45pm-5:45pm
Mon 20 Mar <i>*New event*</i>	Year 3 fruit salad making – children to bring a named plastic container
Wed 22 March <i>*New Times*</i>	Parents evening – 6:00pm-7:45pm
Wed 29 March	Year 4 play (6:00pm children arrive for a 6:30pm performance)
April	
Mon 3 to Fri 14 April	Easter Holiday
Mon 17 April	Training day – school closed
Tues 18 April	Term begins
Fri 21 April	St Georges Day – scouts/brownies/brigade etc. uniforms may be worn
w/c 24 April	Year 4 Ufton Court trip (cost to follow)
May	
Mon 1 May	Bank holiday – school closed
Mon 8 May	Bank holiday – King's coronation
w/c 8 May	SATS week – no appointments or leave of absence for Year 6
Wed 17 May <i>*New Date*</i>	3 Draco class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am)
w/c 22 May	International week - details to follow
Wed 24 May	4 Orion class assembly - parents & carers invited (9:00am)
w/c 29 May	Half Term (school restarts on Monday 5 June)
June	
Wed 7 June	Class photographs – full uniform required (PE kit in a named bag where appropriate)
Fri 9 June	Non-uniform day in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult male
Wed 14 June	Year 4 Viking Day "A Day in the Dark Ages"
Thur 15 June	Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Fathers' Day - £2 (in named envelope)
Wed 21 June	4 Aquila class assembly - parents & carers invited (9:00am)
Mon 19 June	New Year 3 intake information meeting after school
Mon 19 June (from 2pm)	Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform
Fri 23 June	Years 3-6 reports go home
July	
Sat 1 July	Golden Jubilee Fair for the school community, past and present
Mon 3 July	Parent book looks (a chance to see your child's work) – 3:30pm-4:00pm
Wed 5 July	Year 6 leavers performance (Children arrive 6.00pm for a 6:30pm performance)
Thur 6 July	Move up morning (Infants to Y3; Y3, Y4, Y5 to their new classes; Y6 to high school)
Fri 7 July	Year 5 guitar afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed)
w/c Mon 10 July	Year 6 SATS results go home (date to be confirmed)
w/c Mon 10 July	Sports week including daily mile
Weds 12 July	Year 3 afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed)
Thurs 13 July	Year 4 ukulele afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed)
Fri 14 July	Sports day - parents invited. Times 1:00-3:00pm
Fri 14 July	Family Rounders after school
Thurs 13 July	5:00 - 6:15pm Year 3-5 disco & 7:00-8:30pm Year 6 disco
Tues 18 July	Year 6 drumming afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed)
Fri 21 July	School closes at 1:30pm