



1 September 2023

Getting ready for the new school year

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you and your children have been enjoying the summer break, despite the variable weather. I am writing with some key information for the start of term which is next Tuesday, 5th September (at 8:45am).

We will be running an 'Open Class' events on Monday 11th and Thursday 15th September where you can drop in after school with your child to look around their new class and meet their teacher. I will send more details next week.

Reminders

Castle Club – wraparound childcare (breakfast and afterschool club) and early drop-off

You can book a place for your child at Castle Club – our wraparound care provider based at the infant school – for the mornings from 7:30am and afterschool until 5:30pm. You can find out more information on their webpage:

somerlesinfants.co.uk/wraparound-care/

Castle Club also offers an early drop-off service which enables families to drop their children off at Castle Club at 8:30am for a fee of £1.50 per day. (Children will be escorted to the junior school in time for registration.)

Water

Children can bring in a named water bottle to drink from in class. This must *only* contain water - no other drinks are allowed.

Children have access to unlimited water in the dining hall at lunch time.

Healthy eating

This term we have new caterers, Aspens, who are looking forward to providing the children with tasty nutritious meals. We recommend that all children try these! Your child can opt for school dinners on a daily basis. The three week rolling menu is on the school website and in the display board in the canteen.

Please refer to our [healthy eating policy](#) before preparing a packed lunch or snack for your child.

Some children may wish to bring in a small healthy snack to eat at break time. This snack should be named and may *only* be either a cereal bar (without nuts) or fruit/vegetables. Other snacks are not permitted. (If you provide your child with a cereal bar, please select a healthy option as these can vary considerably in terms of sugar and fat content.)

Please do not send your child into school with any other type of snack. If a child's snack does not meet our guidelines, they will not be able to eat it during break time. (If this happens, the snack will be returned to parents with a slip explaining why it was not allowed and suggesting alternatives.)

Please note that packed lunches must not include a drink – all children have water provided in the dining hall.

Uniform

Our uniform remains unchanged and we expect all children to be in full school uniform (Please see the end of this letter for a reminder of our uniform). Last year, the children's standard of uniform was excellent and we hope to see this continue. (We will let you know PE days for each class at the end of this week.)

If you need to get items of uniform, please contact our supplier: Ricky's Fashions, 71-72 Market Hall, The Mall, Luton, LU1 2TB (open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am to 4:00pm): email - ployal2012@gmail.com, phone - 07476 205255 or 01582 456609. Please do not leave your purchases to the last minute as they are very busy at this time of year!

Labelling: Please **label** all items of your child's uniform and their coat so that we can return it to them if they leave it around school (which happens a lot!). Please re-label any items where the labelling has faded.

Trainers suitable for outdoor use: children sometimes do PE lessons on the playground when it is wet or are out at break time on PE days when there is drizzle or light rain, so when purchasing trainers for your child, please ensure that they are suitable for outdoor wear in British weather. Some mesh style trainers may leave children with soggy socks, which we hope to avoid.

If you discover that your child has grown out of their uniform over the summer, but it is still in good condition, please donate clean items to our Eco Committee (via the school office) as they will be holding a used uniform sale later in the term.

PE days

These are the days when your child will need to come to school in PE (and remove any earrings):

Class	PE Days	Class	PE Days
3L	Mondays + Thursdays	5H	Mondays + Wednesdays
3D	Tuesdays + Thursdays	5P	Wednesdays + Thursdays
4O	Tuesdays* + Fridays	6A	Mondays and Tuesdays
4A	Tuesdays* + Fridays	6P	Mondays and Tuesdays

(*Year 4 **swimming** lessons start on Tuesday 12th September)

Timings for the September start

Term starts for all children on **Tuesday 5th September**.

Start and end times:

Pupils may arrive from 8:40am. School starts for all pupils at 8:45am. Pupils arriving after this time may be marked as 'late' in the register. It is important for children to be in on time to help them settle well for the day and to hear notices and plans for the day.

Please note that no children should be on site unattended before 8:35am as there are still vehicles, including delivery vans, moving in the car park at this time. (After 8:35am the carpark gates are locked to make it safe for families to access the school site.)

In the morning, Year 3 children can be dropped off in the area outside their classroom.

Year 4, 5 and 6 can be brought on to the school site and can then make their own way through the side gates to class. This avoids congested paths around school and makes it safer for the children to access their classroom. It also helps them feel more independent.

For the first two weeks, parents of Year 4 and Year 5 children can watch their children go in to class safely from the path between the infant and junior schools.

For each class, there is a 'collection point' where you can wait for your child to come to you. (See map below if unsure)

Class	Start time	Arrive on or after	Drop off point	End	Collection point
3L	8:45	8:40	Classroom	3:20	Year 3 quad
3D	8:45	8:40	Classroom	3:20	Year 3 quad
4O	8:45	8:40	In front of school	3:20	Playground above Y4
4A	8:45	8:40	In front of school	3:20	Playground above Y4
5H	8:45	8:40	In front of school	3:20	Ramp outside Y5
5P	8:45	8:40	In front of school	3:20	Car park
6A	8:45	8:40	In front of school	3:20	Outside study
6P	8:45	8:40	In front of school	3:20	Steps by the library

Please remember:

- At the end of the day, please wait in your child's class collection point so that their teacher will spot you and send them out to you. (Please do not wait at the classroom door.)
- Please leave the site promptly, thank you
- Please inform the School Office (before 3:00pm if possible) if another person is collecting your child from school.
- If you would like your Year 5 or 6 child to walk home by themselves, please complete a permission form (available from the School Office).

Parking near school

With both the Someries schools full, there are many people arriving and departing the site at similar times and we ask that you help us keep the school area safe for all families by respecting road markings and parking considerately.



During last year, I was contacted by local residents and members of the school community who were concerned about the danger posed to people crossing the road by inconsiderate parking near school.

Please can all families observe the following when dropping off or collecting your children:

- Do not park *or drop-off* on the yellow zig-zag lines
- Do not park on the double yellow lines
- When parking in nearby roads, please be considerate of the local residents



We encourage families to walk to and from school as much as possible (or to park a little distance from the school and walk the rest of the way). Thank you if you already do this!



We are looking forward to another successful year of fun and learning with the children at Someries Juniors. (If you have any questions after reading this information, our school office will be open from Monday 4th September.)

Yours sincerely, Mr Hunt

For reference

Collection Points



Uniform

If you are unsure of requirements, here is a reminder:

School uniform (non-PE days)



+ plain black shoes

School PE kit (PE days)



+ trainers suitable for outdoors

Jewellery

- No jewellery should be worn by pupils except for small earring studs and a wrist watch (not a smart watch).
- Children will need to remove earrings before PE lessons. (If a child is not able to remove them alone, then parents should remove them before sending their child to school on PE days.)

Acceptable hair cuts

When children have their hair cut for school, please ensure that it abides by our rules:

- Long hair must be securely tied back. Hair ties should be red or black and discreet.
- Pupils are requested to have suitable hairstyles with natural coloured hair.
- Shaved patterns cut into short hair and patterns in hair, tramlines or checks are not permitted.