



# Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



# September Monthly Newsletter

**Date:** September 2023

☎ 01582 738810

✉ [admin@somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk)



**Issue:** 272

🌐 [www.somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk)



## Head Teacher's Comment

### A cracking start!

Every year, the children here always make a positive start to their learning. But this year's start seems even brighter than usual – the best in my seven years as head teacher of Somerles Junior School. The children have returned full of enthusiasm and confidence and have shown excellent attitude towards their learning and towards each other. Our new pupils in Year 3 have made a good first impression on their teachers and have been eager to learn new things. I have made regular visits to each class and have been impressed by the children's focus and effort. Long may it continue!

### What's new for this year?

This term, we have welcomed new teachers (Mr Maddock in Year 6, Mrs Belizaire in Year 5) and new teaching assistants (Miss Cattermole in Year 3, Miss Pinto in Year 5). As you can see in this newsletter, we have new caterers offering improved school dinners to the children. We have also launched Spanish as our modern foreign language for all year groups. Thanks to the fundraising from our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations last year, we have been preparing for the installation of new outdoor water fountains for the children.

### Supporting our 're-wilding' biodiversity project when you shop this summer!

We are coming towards the end of our time as a Co-op Community Partner. There is just a month left to help us raise funds for our next eco project when you shop at local Co-op stores. Our project is to 're-wild' part of our field, planting trees and wildflowers to promote biodiversity and wildlife.

Our share of the Co-op Community Fund depends on how many of you nominate us as your local cause as Co-op members. As a member, you can raise funds for our project every time you buy Co-op brand products. Please select us as your local cause - visit [coop.co.uk/membership](http://coop.co.uk/membership) (or use the app from the QR code).

Co-op rewards app



### Year 6 results

This week, we received our confirmed Key Stage 2 results for 2023. It was good to see that, at 60%, the proportion of our children achieving the expected standard in all subjects (Reading, Writing and Maths) was slightly higher than the national average of 59%. The proportion of our children (13%) achieving 'greater depth' in all these subjects was also higher than the national rate (8%). You can see more details on the next page.

After a great start, I am looking forward very much to seeing the children's progress and achievements in all areas of school life this year! Mr Hunt



**Inside:** New school dinners   New classes   Sports Day   Park trips  
SATs results   Pupil survey results   Music performances ...

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



## School briefing for parents and carers

### New School Dinners

Aspens Services, our new caterers, have begun serving their tasty, colourful and healthy school meals from their new menu. We recommend that children give these new meals a try - children can book school dinners on a daily basis at morning registration. You can check the menu with your child via our [website](#). See more on page 5.



### Eating our own produce

Last summer, we ate beetroot, courgette and carrots from our Golden Garden. This term we have tasted home-grown sweetcorn from our crop that grew tall over the summer from seeds that the children planted



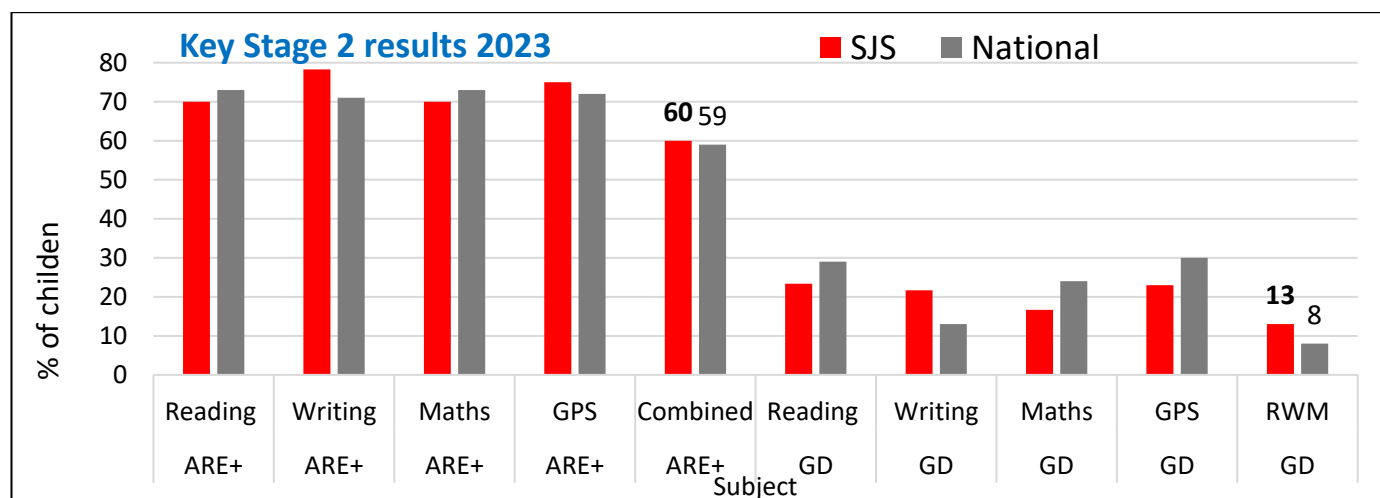
### Coming up in this half term (There will be a fuller calendar sent out later this month)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Week of 25 <sup>th</sup> September   | Donations for Harvest Assembly food bank            |
| • Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September | 4 Orion class assembly - parents and carers invited |
| • Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September  | Year 5 trip to Hindu Mandir                         |
| • Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October       | Harvest Assembly                                    |
| • Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October   | 6P class assembly - parents and carers invited      |
| • Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October      | Individual photographs. Smart uniform please!       |
| • Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October      | Parents evening - onsite (3:45pm - 5:45pm)          |
| • Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October   | Parents evening - onsite (6:00pm - 7:45pm)          |

### Somerles Juniors School Key Stage 2 results 2023

Our Year 6 children worked hard to do their best in their national Key Stage 2 assessments - tests for Reading, Maths, Grammar and Spelling, along with teacher assessments in Writing. When they collected their results from Mr Hunt in July, they were very proud of their achievements and the progress they had made.

The government have now published national figures for these results and we are pleased to see that our standards for achieving the 'expected standard' in all of Reading, Writing and Maths combined, were slightly higher than the national figure.



"ARE+" means that these children achieved the 'age related expectations' (or higher)

"GD" means that these children achieved 'greater depth' in the standard.



# Highlights from the new term

## Starting our new classes

The children enjoyed getting used to their new classes, taking on the challenge of harder work.

### Year 3



### Year 4



### Year 5



### Year 6



## Parent Learners

On the afternoons of our two 'Open Classroom' events, groups of Year 3 parents and carers attended Reading workshops led by our English leader, Mrs Quintana. They learned about our individual reading scheme (Accelerated Reader - AR) and our class reading comprehension scheme (Destination Reader - DR).



## Sunny September

After six weeks away, the children enjoyed free time with their friends again while the sun shone brightly.



## School Dinners

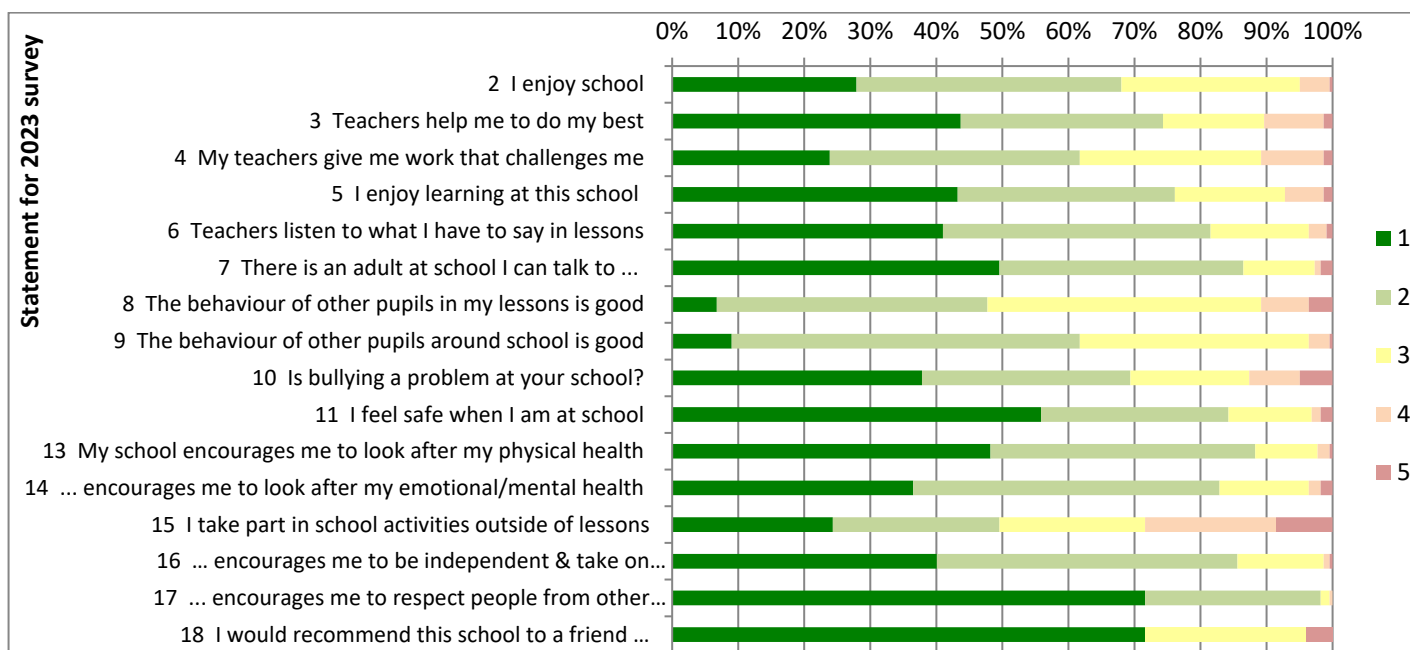
The children have been trying out the healthy meals from our new caterers, Aspens. You can find out more about what goes into school dinners on the [lunches page](#) of our website.





## Stakeholder feedback – Pupil Survey July 2023

In July, all the children had a chance to let Mr Hunt, the staff and the governors know how they felt about their school by completing a survey. It was good to see that the pupils feel very positive about the school. They also gave us some suggestions on how we improve the Someries Juniors experience.



Key to responses (this varied according to the statement but was usually one of the following):

Response	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
or	All the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	Almost never	Never

The pupils were also asked:

- What makes you feel unsafe at school?
- What do you like about the school?
- What would you like to be improved at the school?

When asked *what they liked about the school* here are some of the positive responses:

"Everything because the teachers are so nice."

"Everybody is kind, we go on nice trips, school lunches are tasty, table prizes are fun, the teachers notice when you are good, teacher assistants help if you are stuck, it is challenging work, swimming is lots of fun, I like the lessons and I like my teachers."

"That everybody is really nice and we have really good after school clubs."

"I like this school because the pupils and teachers are funny, nice, kind and most of all respectful."

"This school also has lots of fun trips and events that happen"

"All of the teachers are really nice. They help you understand things really well."

"This is the best school I have ever been to out of the 2 other schools I have been".

"I like how the teachers are so kind, they help you whenever you're stuck and they are really good at it."

"There's music on sunny days and lots of equipment to use."

"The teachers treat you very well and are always checking to make sure that you're ok and they also like to check if there is anything they can do to help with the situation if there is something wrong."

"I also like it because I got friends and it helps me socialise with other people so I can be wayyyyyy more energetic :)"

The children also gave us feedback on what they thought could be improved and Mr Hunt and the staff will look into how to act on these ideas.



# Highlights from the last week of term 2022-23

## Park Trips

We marked the end of last term with park trips for all year groups, where children could enjoy some outdoor play time together. Years 3 and 4 walked to Haverings while Years 5 and 6 ventured to Cassiobury Park.

### Year 3 and 4 Haverings trips

Year 3 and Year 4 each had a trip to Haverings Activity Centre and Campsite. There, the children played outdoor activities and games together in the eight acres of woodland



### Year 5 and 6 Cassiobury Park trips

For the older children, we arranged an outdoor experience at Cassiobury Park in Watford, where they had free time to play with friends and had a lot of fun in the splash pools!





## Sports Day

After our original Sports Day was postponed due to rain, a reorganised event took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Sadly, with the variable weather and without the availability of the team of high school sports leaders to help us run events, we had to make it a pupil-only event.

Fortunately, the sun shone for the afternoon and pupils were able to take part in eight different sports events before the sprint finals which marked the end of the day.



Waiting to find out whose flag will be flying high!

Jupiter athletes celebrate their win





## Music Performances

At the end of the school year, each year group performed in front of a large audience of their parents and carers to demonstrate the skills they had developed in the course of the year.

*Year 3 music concert*



*Year 4 ukulele concert*



*Year 5 guitar concert*



*Year 6 percussion performance - 'Junkyard Funk'*



## Somerles Junior School Term Dates

We will send out a calendar of events for this year to parents and carers soon.

You can view the latest calendar on our website: [www.somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk/events-dates/calendar](http://www.somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk/events-dates/calendar)



### *This year:* Term Dates for 2023-24

Please plan any trips or holidays to take place during school holidays, as we are not able to authorise leave during term time.

Autumn Term 2023	Spring Term 2024	Summer Term 2024
<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 5 September	<b>Start of Term:</b> Thursday 4 January	<b>Start of Term:</b> Monday 15 April
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 23 to 27 October	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 19 to 23 February	<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 6 May
<b>End of Term:</b> Tuesday 19 December	<b>End of Term:</b> Thursday 28 March	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 27 to 31 May
		<b>Training day</b> school closed: Mon 3 June
		<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 19 July*
		*Summer terms end at 1:30pm

### *Next year:* Term Dates for 2024-25

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
<b>Start of Term:</b> Wednesday 4 September	<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 7 January	<b>Start of Term:</b> Wednesday 23 April
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 28 October – 1 November	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 17 to 21 February	<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 5 May
<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 20 December*	<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 4 April*	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 26 to 30 May
		<b>Training day</b> school closed: Mon 2 June
		<b>End of Term:</b> Tuesday 22 July

\*Term ends on this date at 1:30pm