



Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



November Monthly Newsletter

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☎ 01582 738810

✉ admin@somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk

🌐 www.somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk



Head Teacher's Comment

The children settled in very well in the first half term and made a very good start to their new classes. We are now well into the second half term and they are maintaining that good start.

I hope you enjoy looking through the pictures and reports in this newsletter so that you can see what the children have been up to!

Mr Hunt

Coming up in November and December *(There is a full calendar on the final pages.)*

- Mon 20 November Year 4 trip to hat district and Wardown museum
- Wed 22 November 6 Andromeda class assembly 9:00am - 6A parents and carers invited
- 23 - 28 November Book fair in school (in the 'hut')
 - Year 3 Thursday 23rd November 3:25pm - 3:45pm
 - Year 4 Friday 24th November 3:25pm - 3:45pm
 - Year 5 & 6 Monday 28th November 3:25pm - 3:45pm
- Thur 30 November Year 4 hat making morning - parents and carers invited (9am - 11:00am)
- Fri 1 December Children's Christmas post box in Reception - all envelopes to have name & class
- Fri 1 December Festive trolley for donations of food items for families in need
- **Wed 6 December** Year 3 play (children arrive 6:00pm for 6:30pm performance)
- Thur 7 Dec Year 5/6 children at QES Panto
- **Tue 12 December** Year 6 music performance (2:40pm)
- Wed 13 December Christmas dinner, Santa Dash and Christmas Jumper Dress-Up Day (£1 donation in aid of Save the Children)
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- **Fri 15 December** Year 4 music afternoon performance (2:40pm)
- **Fri 15 December** Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
- Mon 18 December Last day for Christmas cards, donations for trolley and party food.
- Tue 19 December Treat-day Tuesday non uniform (optional donation to Great Ormond St Hospital)
- Tue 19 December School finishes at 3:20pm

Inside: Sports (Rugby, Athletics, Football, Futsal)

Harvest Celebration Scarecrow Festival Riki Cycle Model Railway Club

School Council Interviews Stammering Awareness Cake Sale

Outdoor Learning House Forum Awards... + Updated Calendar

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



School briefing for parents and carers

Keeping our school entrance safe

The area around our school entrance is naturally very busy at the start and end of the school day. Like you, we are very keen to ensure that this area is safe for children arriving at and leaving the school.

Many parents have expressed concerns about dangerous parking around the entrance that leaves it a congested and unsafe place for children and families. We have also received complaints regarding this issue from local road users.

Mr Scott (Head of Someries Infants) and Mr Hunt met recently with members from Luton's highways and road safety teams to raise the issues with them.

They were keen for us to reinforce the following points:

Walking to school

The more children that walk to school, the fewer cars there will be around school. Walking helps contribute to your child's daily exercise and it helps build good walking habits in them from a young age, so they choose to walk more when they can. Walking with your child also gives you time to talk things over with them and you may find that they are more open to talking about their school activities as you walk.

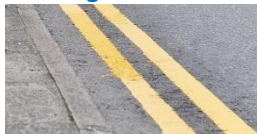
Cross safely - use the underpass

Although it takes more time, it is safer to cross busy Wigmore Lane by the zebra crossing further down the road or by using the underpass opposite school.

Parking away from school

With the families of around 500 children using the school site at the start and end of the day, the area will always be busy, and there is not enough space for parents to park near the entrance. Instead, if you need to drive your child to school, we recommend parking some distance away and walking with your child for the rest of the way.

Parking rules outside the front of school



On double yellow lines there is no parking allowed 'at any time'. Therefore, you should not park or wait on the double lines outside school (unless you are displaying a Blue Badge).



On the areas with zig-zag lines there is strictly no parking or dropping off for all cars.

This includes the school entrance itself.



Please be considerate when parking in local roads. Residents have complained of some parents blocking their drives or walking in the road with children, preventing the residents from leaving for work or to take their own children to school. This is particularly in the Someries Hill, Seaford Close and nearby Wigmore Lane areas.

A big **thank you** to families that already help make the entrance area safe!

Pupil premium funding – reduced cost trips and uniform + tuition and support for your child

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. The school gets an extra £1,455 for every pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money makes a real difference to the experience we offer these children, providing funds for learning and emotional support, free after school clubs, reduced costs for trips and a set of free uniform - as well as free hot meals every day. (Please note that your child does not need to have school dinners to receive the other benefits.)

Is my child eligible for these funds? Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit or Working Tax Credit run-on
- Child Tax Credit (if you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of up to £16,190)
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

If you would like this support for your child, click on this link: [online application form](#) to find out if your child is eligible.

Highlights from October

Learning Outdoors

Classes made use of the unseasonably warm October weather to take their learning outside.

4 Aquila

Aquila class used our outdoor classroom for a lesson where they were planning key ideas for writing.



4 Orion

This class were seeking inspiration for a piece of writing from the point of view of a dog. To get a good understanding of that point of view, they acted out what it must be like to be a dog!



Model Railway Club

Last year, Mr Robinson started a new model railway club and the club members set up the initial layout. This term, the work has continued and the club members have been adding more scenery to the layout.



Special assemblies

In October, we had a number of special assemblies.

Harvest Celebration

We would like to thank our Someries Juniors families for all the donations for the Stopsley food bank. These were collected after our annual Harvest Assembly on 2nd October. This assembly was led by Jo White, families minister from Stopsley Baptist Church. She spoke to the children about the importance of being thankful - and some volunteers acted out a Bible story that illustrated this.



Riki Cycle - recycling performance

The Riki Cycle theatre performance came to our school the following week. Riki and his puppet friends taught the children about a number of ways they could look after the environment including saving water, using the correct bin for each type of rubbish and avoiding fast fashion.



Stammering Awareness

The following week, it was Mr Robinson's turn to lead a special assembly. He spoke to the lower phase children about stammering and what they can do to help a child who might stammer - and what not to do.



Scarecrow Festival

This year, we took part in the STRAW (Stopsley to Putteridge, Round Green and Wigmore) Scarecrow Festival. Our gardening club made two scarecrows for the event and these guarded our vegetable garden. Co-op invited the children to take part in a scarecrow art competition and provided family hampers of food as prizes for the winner in each year. They were so impressed with the entries that they added an extra prize!



School Council Interviews

Before half term, we ran our selection process for new house council representatives. A number of children in each class put themselves forward for the role and gave a presentation to their classmates on why they would be a good choice for their councillor. The children in each class then elected two candidates to go forward to the next stage. For this stage, the candidates from each class were interviewed by head pupil team who, after deliberating carefully, appointed one of the two candidates from each class to be the class council rep.

The head pupils took their responsibility very seriously and found it hard to decide who to select from each class. One of the head pupils said that giving the bad news to candidates that were not selected was one of the hardest things they had done!



The new councillors were presented with their badges in assembly. Congratulations to our council reps!

The new council is: 3L Macy, 3D Amelia, 4O Alessia, 4A Malek, 5H Jamie, 5P Inaaya, 6A Ugo, 6P Harry

House Forum 1 - 31st October - Planets

From time to time, children work in house groups rather than their normal classes. For a 'house forum', they work with the other children in their phase from the same house. For our first forum of the year, children were asked to 'design a planet' in groups, after first learning some facts about their own house planet.



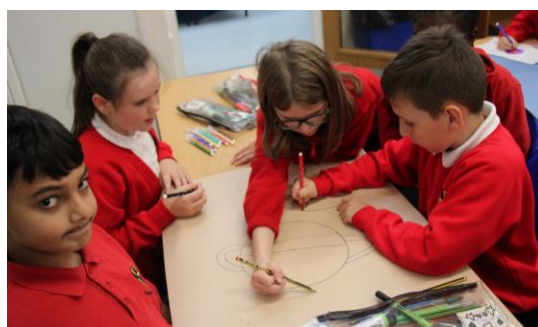
Saturn House



Venus House



Mars House



Jupiter House



A few of the planets from each house are now on display in our hall.



Sport I

Tag Rugby

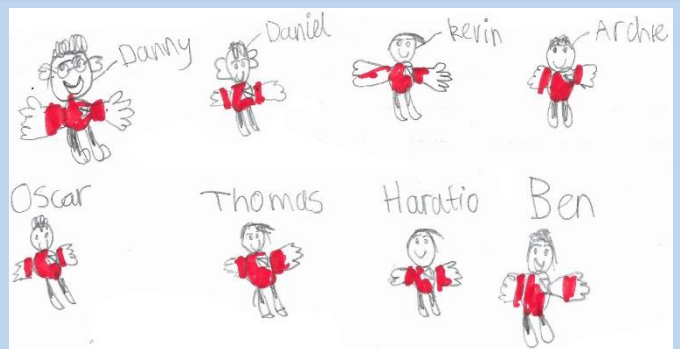
A group of our boys from Years 3 and 4 went to Luton Rugby Club on 6th October to take part in a town tag rugby event with teams from other schools



Team report: The people that took part were Haratio, Archie, Kevin, Danny, Daniel, Ben and Thomas. We played 9 games in total. We won 3 and lost 6. We did fantastic team work such as passing, tries and Haratio was our team captain.

We played some games in the morning and more games in the afternoon. We received a colourful green bag at the end.

We all had great fun!



Boys Football

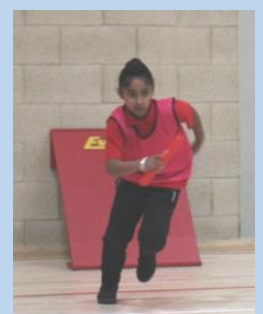
On 12th October, our boys team played another after-school game. This time, they played host to St Joseph's Primary School and this closely fought game ended in a draw.



Upper School Sports Hall Athletics

Our indoor athletes took part in an event on 18th October at Inspire Sports Village. They competed in a range of track and field events such as:

- Chest push
- Obstacle relay
- Under/over relay
- Long, vertical and triple jumps.
- Javelin



Sport II

Boys Futsal

Some more of our Year 5 and 6 boys footballers took part in a futsal event in Luton on 19th October. Futsal is a version of indoor football with additional rules. It has a smaller, harder, lower-bounce ball than football and the surface, ball and rules favour ball control and passing in small spaces.



Event report: We went to 6th form college to play futsal, that is a 5-on-5 game of indoor football. Some of the differences in rules to normal football are: you cannot go over head height and you cannot slide tackle.

10 schools attended. The matches were 10 minutes long. All of the schools were very good. Our team played really good together and encouraged each other. We lost our first match 4-0, but we tried our best.

On our second game we lost 4-0 again, against Beech Hill. Our team kept trying their best and enjoyed playing all the teams. Jack and Jai did some amazing saves. I enjoyed playing on pitch and we met new people. Miss Awan was really proud of us.

Harry 6P



(The girls futsal tournament was due to take place in November)

Fundraising -

Cake Sale

One of our Year 6 children sadly lost a member of their close family and he wanted to do something positive in their memory. So, he and some friends baked cakes which they sold to children in Year 6 on the last day of the first half term. The children enjoyed the cakes and helped raise £72.05 towards the child's chosen charity, Islamic Relief.



October Awards

Values Role Models

Value	2 October	9 October	31 October
Aspiration	Ruby 3L, Amaan 6P	Harry 6P, Faith 6A	Zayaam 3L, Tarunikaa 5H
Cooperation		Eliza M 3L	
Kindness	Kason 3D, Rory 4A	Kevin G 4A	Arfan 5H, Ewan 4A
Respect	Ruby 5P, Cayci, Oliver E 5H		Darius 3L
Responsibility		Paige 5H, Jihane 6A	Jack 3L, Emma 3D



Golden Table Winners

These are the winners of places at the weekly Golden Table. (Each winner brings a friend)

3 October Upper Phase

Y5: Haris, Sienna
Y6: Jessica, Miley



10 October Lower Phase

Y3: Darius, Kason
Y4: Spencer, Zakaria



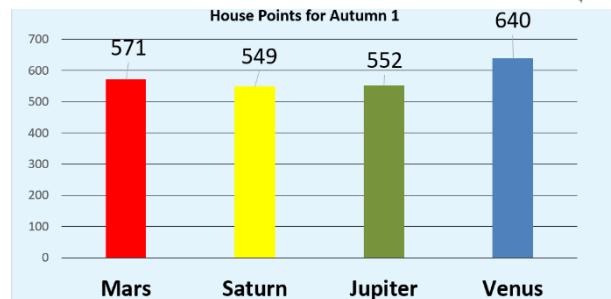
19 October Upper Phase

Y5: Aoibheann, Cerys
Y6: Darya, Thomas



House Points

Venus house had the most house points for last half term and so their flag is now flying over the school field.



Athletes of the Half Term - Autumn 1

Year 3

Oscar - Oscar demonstrates an excellent attitude and is always willing to help others and his teacher.

Eliza - Always engages enthusiastically in PE and is keen to share her learning with the class.

Year 4

Sarah - For showing great determination and effort in tag rugby.

Riley - For showing good understanding when attacking and defending in tag rugby.

Year 5

Paige - Paige has demonstrated excellent teamwork; she has supported others, communicated well and taken the lead when necessary.

Jack - He is a great athlete, fantastic team player and always participates with enthusiasm and positivity.



Year 6

Yousaf - Yousaf applies himself well in PE, showing great levels of teamwork, communication and ability in our netball lessons. He has represented the school excellently at cross country and for the football team.

Stanley - Stanley has impressed me this term with his excellent teamwork skills in netball. He has good awareness and understanding of how to use his teammates to play effectively. He has demonstrated activities to the class to a high standard.

Somerles Junior School



Calendar of Events 2023-24 (November update)

Events which parents may attend are in blue. If you have questions regarding events then please contact our office.

Please note that further events may be added as these are arranged. Please look out for the updated Calendar in each month's newsletter. You can view the school calendar at our [calendar webpage](#)

2023

Changes are highlighted in red w/c = week commencing

November	
Mon 20 November	Year 4 trip to hat district and Wardown museum
Wed 22 November	6 Andromeda class assembly 9:00am – 6A parents and carers invited
Thur 23 November	Year 3 Book fair after school 3:25pm – 3:45pm
Fri 24 November	Year 4 Book fair after school 3:25pm – 3:45pm
Mon 28 November	Year 5 & 6 Book fair after school 3:25pm – 3:45pm
Thur 30 Nov <i>*New time*</i>	Year 4 hat making morning – parents and carers invited (9am – 11:00am)
December	
Fri 1 December	Christmas post box in Reception– <i>all envelopes to have name & class</i>
Fri 1 December	Festive trolley for donations of food items
Wed 6 December	Year 3 play (children arrive 6:00pm for 6:30pm performance) - parents and carers invited
Thur 7 Dec <i>*New date*</i>	Year 5/6 children at QES Panto
Tue 12 December	Year 6 music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
Wed 13 December	Christmas dinner, Santa Dash and Christmas Jumper Dress-Up Day (£1 donation in aid of <i>Save the Children</i>)
Wed 13 December	Year 5 play (children arrive 6:00pm for 6:30pm performance) - parents and carers invited
Fri 15 December	Year 4 music afternoon performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
Fri 15 December	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
Mon 18 December	Last day for Christmas cards for other classes, donations for trolley and party food.
Tue 19 December	Treat-day Tuesday - non-uniform (optional donation to <i>Great Ormond St Hospital</i>)
Tue 19 December	School finishes at 3:20pm
20 December – 2 January	School holidays

2024

January	
Wed 3 Jan	Training Day – school closed to pupils
Thur 4 January	<i>Term begins</i>
Fri 5 Jan <i>*New date*</i>	Year 4 trip to Gurdwara
w/c 8 January	Year 3 visit to St Francis
Wed 10 January	Year 6 bridge building workshop
Fri 12 January	Year 6 SATs parents information workshop – parents and carers invited (2:30pm)
Mon 15 January	Parents evening – onsite (timings to be confirmed)
Wed 17 January	Parents evening – onsite (timings to be confirmed)
Fri 26 January	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
w/c 29 January	International week
Mon 29 Jan	International week dance workshops – children to wear PE kit all day
Tue 30 Jan	Year 6 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Wed 31 Jan	Year 5 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Thur 1 Feb	Year 3 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 2 Feb	Year 4 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 2 February	Choir trip to Young Voices, Wembley
February	
w/c 5 February	Year 5 bread making at QES
Tue 6 February	Safer internet day
Wed 7 February	5 Hercules class assembly 9:00am – 5H parents and carers invited
w/c 12 February	Practice SATS for Year 6
Thur 15 Feb	Year 4 Pop-up Café – Year 4 parents and carers invited (10am – 11am)
19 – 23 February	Half term holiday
March	
Fri 1 Mar	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale
Tues 5 Mar <i>*New date*</i>	5 Perseus class assembly 9:00am – 5P parents and carers invited

Wed 6 March	Mothers day gift sale at morning break (£2 or £5 in named envelope)
Thur 7 March	World Book Day (dress as a book character)
Fri 8 March	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
w/c 11 March	Science Week
Tue 12 Mar	Year 3 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Wed 13 Mar	Year 5 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Thur 14 Mar	Year 6 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 15 Mar	Year 4 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
w/c 18 March	Year 3 fruit salad making – children to bring a named plastic container
w/c 18 March	Year 5 bikeability training
w/c 18 March	Year 6 field trip
Wed 20 March	Year 4 play (children arrive 6:00pm for 6:30pm performance) - parents and carers invited
Thur 21 March	Year 3 music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
Wed 27 March	3 Draco class assembly 9:00am – 3D parents and carers invited
Wed 27 March	Year 5 music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
Thur 28 March	Term finishes 3:20pm
29 March – 12 April	Easter holiday
April	
Mon 15 April	<i>Term begins</i>
Tue 23 April	St Georges Day – scouts/brownies/brigade etc. uniforms may be worn
May	
Wed 1 May	3 Lyra class assembly 9:00am – 3L parents and carers invited
Mon 6 May	Bank holiday – school closed
w/c 13 May	SATS week – no appointments or leave of absence for Year 6
13 May <i>*New event*</i>	Year 3 fruit workshop (morning)
Tue 14 May	Year 3 Fairtrade day
Fri 17 May	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
w/c 20 May	Year 4 Raiders and Traders days
w/c 20 May	Year 5 RAF Hendon trip
27 – 31 May	Half term (school restarts on Tuesday 4 June)
June	
3 June	Training Day – school closed to pupils
Tue 4 June	<i>Term begins</i>
w/c 4 June	Year 3 trip to St Albans
w/c 4 June	Online sale of second-hand uniform - order form will be sent to order online
Date tbc (June)	Choir taking part in Singing Spectacular at Stopsley Baptist Church (children from 2:00pm; family & friends invited to the concert at 6:00pm)
Fri 7 June	Non-uniform day in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult male
Thur 13 June	Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Fathers' Day - £2 (in named envelope)
Wed 19 June	Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform (2:00-3:20pm)
Wed 19 June	New Year 3 intake information meeting after school
Wed 26 June	Years 3-6 reports go home
Fri 28 June	Parent coffee morning (9:00am)
July	
Mon 1 July	Book looks (a chance to see your child's work) – 3:30pm-4:00pm - parents & carers invited
Wed 3 July	Year 6 leavers performance (Children arrive 6.00pm for a 6:30pm performance)
Thu 4 July	Move up morning (Infants to Y3; Y3, Y4, Y5 to their new classes; Y6 to high school)
Fri 5 July	Year 4 afternoon music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
	Year 6 SATS results go home (date to be confirmed)
w/c Mon 8 July	Sports week including daily mile
Thu 11 July	Year 3 music performance (2:40pm) - parents and carers invited
Thu 11 July	Disco: 5:00 - 6:15pm Year 3-5 disco & 7:00-8:30pm Year 6 disco
Fri 12 July <i>*New date*</i>	Sports day – parents and carers invited. Provisional timing: 1:00pm-3:00pm
Fri 12 July	Family Rounders after school - parents and carers invited
(Mon 15 July)	(Reserve sports day)
w/c 15 July	End of year park trips (costs and details to be confirmed)
Tues 16 July	Year 6 music performance (2:40pm) - parents and carers invited
Weds 17 July	Year 5 music performance (2:40pm) - parents and carers invited
Fri 19 July	School closes at 1:30pm