



# Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



## January Monthly Newsletter

**Date:** January 2023

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### Head Teacher's Comment

We hope you have enjoyed a good Christmas time and the children enjoyed their break.

We wish you a Happy New Year and hope that your children enjoy their time in school in 2023!

#### New term – new opportunities

The last half term was a very busy one with our Christmas activities and performances. It was wonderful to host two great Christmas productions in our hall once again, and the children were also pleased to see so many family members turn up to support their music performances.

Some events from last half term that were missed due to the snow and ice will take place this month. There will also be other events with the highlight being a visit from a five times World Record holder for speed skipping.

Now that the children are well settled into their classes, I hope that they will make the most of their learning opportunities to make good progress this term in all their subjects while enjoying all the extras of school life here.

#### Being 50

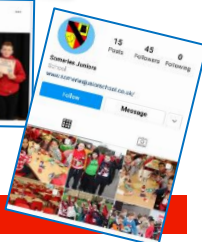
Don't forget that we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a school with our 'Golden Fete' from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Our local MP Rachel Hopkins will open the event, which we hope will be a great day for pupils – past and present – and their families to celebrate their community school. We will be publishing photos from the school's history on our special Facebook page. If you know of any former pupils and staff, please direct them to the page - [www.facebook.com/SomerlesJuniors50](https://www.facebook.com/SomerlesJuniors50) (Like our school Facebook page, you can access this in your browser without being a member of Facebook.)

Mr Hunt



**Inside:** Snow fun   Year 3 nativity play   Year 5 Christmas play  
Music performances - Christmas dinner   Santa Dash   Christmas jumpers

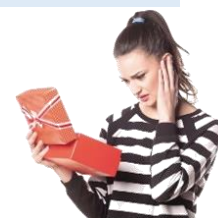
Get the news faster on  
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## School briefing for parents and carers

### Unwanted gifts? - Please keep for Mother's Day and Father's Day sales!

Later in the year, School Council hope to run their annual Mother's Day and Father's Day gift sales from gifts donated for the occasion. These sales raise money for the children to improve their school experience and also provide children with a chance to choose a nicely wrapped gift for someone in their family.



If you received any unwanted gifts that would be suitable for their sales, please save them for those events!

### Coming up in in this half term (events for parents and carers in blue)

- Thurs 12 January Skipbeatz skipping day with world record holder (children to wear PE kit)
- Fri 13 January Year 3 'Wear blue for a loo' (for a contribution)
- Fri 13 Jan **\*New event\*** SATS information workshop for parents and carers (2:15pm)
- Tue 17 Jan **\*New event\*** The Four A's parent workshop 1 (Anxiety, Anger, Autism, ADHD) with Mr Finch and Claire from Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (9am)
- Tue 17 Jan **\*New date\*** Year 6 music afternoon performance (2:45pm)
- Wed 18 January 5 Hercules class assembly - parents and carers invited (9:00am)
- Wed 18 Jan **\*New date\*** Year 5 & 6 to visit Queen Elizabeth School panto
- Wed 18 January Flu immunisations - catch-up (please request a permission form by 6 Jan)
- Tue 24 Jan **\*New event\*** The Four A's parent workshop 2 (Anxiety, Anger, Autism, ADHD) with Mr Finch and Claire from Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (9am)
- Tue 24 January Year 4 pop-up café - parents and carers invited (9:15am)
- Fri 27 January Year 6 bridge building and architecture workshop
- Wed 1 February 5 Perseus class assembly - parents and carers invited (9:00am)
- Fri 3 Feb **\*New event\*** Coffee morning with Claire from CAMHS and Mr Finch (9:00am)
- w/c 6 February Practice SATS for Year 6
- Tue 7 February Safer Internet Day
- Tue 7 February Young Voices (Choir) - Wembley Arena

*Please see full calendar at the end of this newsletter*

### Eco Committee Christmas Jumper Sale

Thank you to our families who donated Christmas jumpers to our Eco sale last term - the items sold out! This meant that we could save families money at Christmas time as well as reducing waste. The proceeds of the sale will go towards the Eco Committee's activities in school.

### Skip Beatz: world record holder Peter Thompson to visit on 12th January

Peter Thompson, who goes by the stage name Skip Beatz, will be visiting us this month. Peter, who is a local man, holds five world records for skipping and has an inspiring story to tell of how he overcame difficulties in his life to achieve his goals. When he has visited the school previously, children have been amazed by his skipping show and encouraged by his life story.

On the day, children will have the opportunity to buy a rope to develop their own skipping skills.



**SKIP BEATZ – WORLD RECORD SPEED SKIPPING!**  
**THE 5 X WORLD RECORD HOLDER!**  
**VISITING SOMERIES JUNIOR 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023!**  
**GET YOUR WORLD RECORD BREAKING SKIPPING ROPE FOR £5!**




**VISIT SKIPBEATZ.COM FOR MORE INFO...**



# Highlights from December

## Somerles Junior School Foodbank: Donations of gifts & food

From Mr Finch

*On behalf of Somerles Junior School, I would like to say a very special thank you to parents, children and staff for their generous ongoing support. The food and gifts that you donated contributed to providing a better Christmas for local families in need at this time.*



*We are grateful for your partnership in helping neighbours in need to access food in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of hungry families, and helps them gather around their tables for a wholesome meal and quality family time.*

*Your donations of presents made Christmas more special than it would otherwise have been for the children that received them. We know that there are very many worthy causes in need of support and very much appreciate that you continue to help vulnerable families in our community. Thanks again.*

## Fun in the Snow

On returning from the snow closures, the children enjoyed a morning break playing in the snow. To avoid wet and cold feet, children needed boots or wellies to enjoy the deep snow on the school field.



## Winter Weather Clothing

It was good to see so many children wrapped up warm and well prepared for the cold weather. If you find that due to current circumstances, you are struggling to get a warm coat or new shoes for your child, please do contact Mr Finch, our family worker, via the school office. He may be able to help with winter coat or school shoes vouchers - or even a hat and gloves.

## Somerles Clubs

### Sewing Club

Last half term, it was Lower School children's turn for Sewing Club. They learned to assemble their own textile Christmas decorations using a number of parts.

Sewing Club is one of the twelve clubs available to children before or after school. You can find the full list on our [website](#).





# Christmas at Someries I

## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day - with a dash of Santa!

December 7<sup>th</sup> was our Christmas Dinner day and we combined this with an option to join in with Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day to help raise money while enjoying some festive fun. The catering team did us proud as they produced a wonderful Christmas feast for the children and staff. There were crackers and drinks on the tables for all the children - both school dinners and packed lunches - and there was Christmas music to help with the festive atmosphere.

To add some healthy exercise to the day, Mr Prue organised a Santa Dash. Each class tried to complete as many laps as possible of a playground circuit in the time they were given. 4 Aquila narrowly beat 6 Andromeda to claim first place in the dash.

Everyone seemed to have a great time and the day raised a total of £155 for the Save the Children!

### Christmas Dinner



### Santa Dash





# Christmas at Someries II

## Christmas Jumper Day





## Christmas at Someries III

### "The Inn-spectors!" - Year 3 Nativity Play

Our current Year 3 children had not been able to perform to audiences in the last two years due to the Covid pandemic, but their lack of experience did not show as they gave two wonderful performances of their nativity play, *The Inn-spectors*. They performed to the rest of the school on the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> December and to their families on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> December. Both performances went well with the children speaking clearly, acting with enthusiasm and singing loudly.

The audiences enjoyed watching the donkey singing the blues and the cool Bethlehem star amongst other fun performances. Our congratulations go to Miss Xygaki, Mrs Ball, Mrs Bredenkamp, Mrs Bloxham, Mr Lewis, Mrs Cox and their helpers and to all the children for such a good production.



### Year 5 Christmas Play - "What Christmas means to me"

A week after Year 3 performed their nativity play, it was Year 5's turn to take to the stage with their production of *What Christmas means to me*. The show was a fond reflection on all the different things that Christmas might mean - and even included a mini nativity play!

Preparations were hampered on the week of the show due to the snow closures but this did not prevent the children from giving an excellent performance! Our thanks go to the Year 5 team of Mrs Prasad, Miss Perini, Mrs Whiting, Miss McKie and Mrs Cox who put such a lot of work into the show, as well as all the children who rehearsed so hard to make the show a success.





## Music - End-of-term Performances

Every class at Someries Juniors benefits from weekly lessons from Luton Music Mix. Each child learns on an individual instrument. In December, we witnessed the progress of the children in Years 4 and 5 at their end-of-term concerts. (The Year 6 event was postponed until January 17<sup>th</sup> due to the snow closure.)

### Year 4 Ukulele

A huge number of parents, carers and family members turned up to support Year 4's Christmas musical performance. Led by their music teacher, Mrs Wingate, they recited a number of Christmas tunes on their ukuleles and sang some rousing Christmas tunes - complete with energetic actions! There was also a guitar group performance from children who have weekly guitar tuition lessons in school.



### Year 5 Guitar

Year 5 have progressed from the ukulele to the guitar this year. They have adapted to the new instrument quickly and gave a confident performance to a large number of family members who came to listen to them. Chords were displayed on the screen but most of the children did not need them as they had learned the tunes by heart. They performed a medley of classic Christmas tunes. We are grateful to Mr Knight from Luton Music Mix who has taught them so well.



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



## December Awards

### Values Role Models

December 6<sup>th</sup>:

Value	Role Model Badge Winners
Aspiration	Rory 3D
Kindness	Maddison & Bella-Mae 6P
Responsibility	Samuel 3L

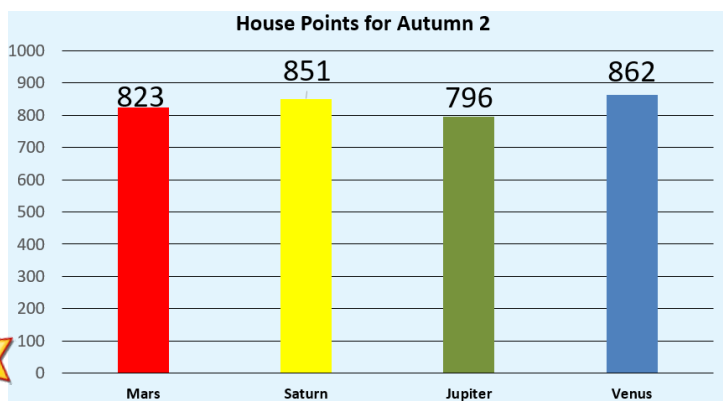
### Golden Table Winners

These winners of places at the weekly Golden Table were drawn from children who were nominated for good manners and living our values at lunch and break times. (Each winner brings a friend to Golden Table.)



### House Point Competition

After a very unusual three-way tie at the end of the Autumn 1 half term, this time there was a clear leader. The house trophy currently bears the blue ribbons of Venus house who finished just ahead of Saturn house.



### Athletes of the Half Term - Autumn 2

#### Year 3

**Rory B** - For showing good technique when dribbling and trapping in hockey.

**Anna** - For showing great perseverance and great improvement during the hockey sessions.

#### Year 4

**Zachary** - Showing great teamwork and attacking and defending skills in hockey.

**Haris** - For having a great attitude towards PE and his hockey lessons.

#### Year 5

**Leo** - Leo shows excellent sportsmanship and works well in a team. He always encourages others and shows all of the school values in PE lessons.

**Jessica** - Jessica is very able and demonstrates good coordination and agility. She can set appropriate targets for herself and works collaboratively with others.



#### Year 6

**Eisa** - Always putting the maximum amount of effort into PE lessons.

**Aditya** - For displaying good knowledge and technique in hockey, as well as in the morning table tennis club.

### Reading and Times Table award winners - Autumn 2





## Somerles Junior School Calendar of Events 2022-23



We aim to provide families with information as early as possible and we seek to avoid making changes to scheduled events. However, many events involve outside agencies and they may make changes to dates, times or costs. Additionally, we occasionally receive offers of additional activities or events that we believe would benefit our children, so there may be times when events are arranged at short notice.

*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.** If you have any questions regarding an event then please contact our school office.

**2023**

*w/c = week commencing*

<b>January</b>	
Thurs 12 January	Skipbeatz skipping day with world record holder (all children to wear PE kit)
Fri 13 January	Year 3 'Wear blue for a loo' (for a contribution)
Fri 13 Jan <i>*New event*</i>	SATS information workshop – parents and carers invited (2:15pm)
Tues 17 Jan <i>*New event*</i>	The 4A's parent workshop 1 (Anxiety, Anger, Autism, ADHD) with Mr Finch and Claire from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (9:00am)
Tues 17 Jan <i>*New date*</i>	Year 6 music afternoon performance (2:45pm)
Wed 18 January	5 Hercules class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am)
Wed 18 Jan	Year 5 & 6 to visit Queen Elizabeth School panto
Wed 18 January	Flu immunisations – catch-up date
Tues 24 Jan <i>*New event*</i>	The 4A's parent workshop 2 (Anxiety, Anger, Autism, ADHD) with Mr Finch and Claire from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (9:00am)
Tues 24 January	Year 4 pop-up café – parents and carers invited (9:15am)
Fri 27 January	Year 6 bridge building and architecture workshop
<b>February</b>	
Wed 1 February	5 Perseus class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am)
Fri 3 February	Coffee morning with Claire from CAMHS and Mr Finch (9:00am)
w/c 6 February	Practice SATS for Year 6
Tue 7 February	Safer Internet Day
Tue 7 February	Young Voices (Choir) - Wembley Arena
<b>Mon 13 February</b>	<b>Half term holiday</b>
w/c 20 February	RE week
<b>March</b>	
Thurs 2 March	World Book Day (dress as a book character)
Wed 8 March	9am: 3 Lyra class assembly – parents and carers invited
Fri 10 March	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale
w/c 13 March	Science Week
Mon 13 March	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)
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)
w/c Mon 20 March	Parents evenings – details to follow
Wed 29 March	Year 4 play (6:00pm children arrive for a 6:30pm performance)
<b>April</b>	
<b>Mon 3 to Fri 14 April</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>
<b>Mon 17 April</b>	<b>Training day – school closed</b>
Tues 18 April	<i>Term begins</i>
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)
<b>May</b>	
<b>Mon 1 May</b>	<b>Bank holiday – school closed</b>



Wed 10 May	3 Draco class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am)
Mon 8 May	Bank holiday – King’s coronation
w/c 8 May	SATS week – no appointments or leave of absence for Year 6
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)
<b>June</b>	
w/c 5 June	RE week
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
<b>July</b>	
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

## Term dates

### This year: Term Dates for 2022-23

	<b>Spring Term 2023</b>	<b>Summer Term 2023</b>
	<b>Start of Term:</b> Wednesday 4 January <b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 13 to 17 February <b>End of Term:</b> Friday 31 March	<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 18 April <b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 1 May <b>Coronation Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 8 May <b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 29 May to 2 June <b>End of Term:</b> Friday 21 July (1:30pm)

### Next 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.

<b>Autumn Term 2023</b>	<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	<b>Summer Term 2024</b>
<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 5 September <b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 23 to 27 October <b>End of Term:</b> Tuesday 19 December	<b>Start of Term:</b> Thursday 4 January <b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 19 to 23 February <b>End of Term:</b> Thursday 28 March	<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 16 April <b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 6 May <b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 27 to 31 May <b>End of Term:</b> Friday 19 July (1:30pm)