



Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



July Monthly Newsletter

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Head Teacher's Comment

The final term has certainly been a fitting end to a fun and productive year for the children. In this issue you can read about the many trips they have been on and special activities they have enjoyed.

I would like to thank all of you who supported our joyous golden anniversary celebrations and helped us raise significant funds to improve the school environment for the children. A big thanks goes also to Mrs Dudley who co-ordinated our Golden Fete and the large number of staff, governors and volunteers who made it such a success. If you were not able to join us for the event you can read about it on the next page.

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

We are a Co-op Community Partner and you can raise funds for our next eco project when you shop at local stores over the holiday. To help children learn about wildlife conservation, we have a project to re-wild part of our field, planting trees and wildflowers to promote biodiversity to make a home for 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 (or use the app from the QR code).

Co-op rewards app



More awards

We received two awards this week. The first was a School Games Gold award for the amount and variety of sporting events our children engage in and for the importance that we attach to physical activity. The second was the renewing of our Eco-Schools Green Flag award. This recognises our Eco Committee's work in and around school. I would like to thank Mr Prue for taking the lead in developing PE and Sport at Somerles Juniors and Mrs Whiting for leading our eco work – supported by Mrs Kemp and Mr Robinson.



Staff changes and staff award

This week we say goodbye to some members of the staff team. Mrs Moran and Mrs Ayaz have completed their two-year apprenticeships as teaching assistants. Whilst working here, they have had an impact on individual pupils and supported groups of children with their learning. We wish them well for the next stages of their careers.

Mr Prue and Mrs Prasad, having both joined the school as teachers four years ago are leaving this term to begin new posts at other schools. I would like to thank both of them for the care and inspiration that they have provided to the children in their time here and wish them well in their new schools.

This term we celebrated Mrs Healey's long service award for working here for 25 years. (It is actually 28, but awards were delayed during Covid). Many children have benefitted from Mrs Healey's support over the years and she continues to do great work to prepare Year 6 children for SATs and for high school.

I wish you all a great summer, Mr Hunt





Someries Juniors Golden Jubilee

We marked the 50th anniversary of Someries Junior School in style with two big events



Golden Day

On Friday June 23, we marked the anniversary with a 'Golden Day' in school

Golden Assembly

In our assembly, we looked at the history of the school with pictures of children and the school site from the last five decades. We were joined by two former pupils Freddie and Carlon who described their Someries days and how they were inspired during their time here. There was a special 50th school birthday cake.



Once the head boy head girl had blown out the candles, the children were surprised by a staff 'Gold' dance!



Celebrations

Later in the morning we raised the Golden Flag on our new flagpole and enjoyed active celebrations outside. At the end of the day, children enjoyed special cupcakes and received their commemorative badges.



Golden Fete

On Saturday 1st July, we celebrated the occasion with Someries families, both past and present.

Getting ready

In the hall, Mrs Healey and Mrs Fisher created an exhibition of photos and memorabilia from the last fifty years. Artefacts included the original school register, along with a tie worn on the first day and exercise books from one of the first pupils. Outside, numerous stall holders had set up games or sales tables.



Special commemorations

The event opening was marked by Rachel Hopkins MP raising our special flag, accompanied by our head boy and head girl. We also opened our Gabrys Golden Garden. This vegetable garden has been developed by our Eco Committee this year and was funded by the Co-op. It has been named after Mr Gabrys who sadly died in service as head teacher of Someries Juniors in 2001. The garden was opened by his widow, Mrs Margaret Gabrys, who cut the golden ribbon.



Enjoying the event

There was a very large crowd enjoying the activities both on the field and in the school hall - as well as large numbers on school tours to see how the school has changed since their own Someries days. Outside, we were entertained with a range of performances. Former pupil Teona played a set on the saxophone and ex-head girl Kristija sang on stage. Also singing on stage was our choir, with their Abba medley and other numbers and our cheerleaders performed in front of the stage. There was a big crowd for the big raffle. The raffle along with other stalls and events helped raise **£4,550 -thank you!**



Highlights from June & July

Trips

This term has seen a great variety of trips for children in different classes. Here are a few highlights.

St Albans Cathedral

Year 3 started this half term with a visit to St Albans Cathedral where they learned about the Romans and acted out the martyrdom of St Alban. They also made their own mosaic to bring back with them.



RAF Hendon and a World War II education

Year 5 have been learning about World War II in History lessons and they went to the RAF museum at Hendon to view aircraft from that period. As well as military aircraft, they learned about the history of flight.



They also experienced a 1940's style classroom, with lift up desks with ink pots. There, they were taught by a strict teacher and had to take cover under the tables when the air raid siren sounded.



Making Pizza at Putteridge School

Both Year 6 classes had lessons in the Food Technology room in Putteridge High School where they created and baked individual pizzas. They brought home their pizzas in the boxes they had designed.



Visit to Guru Nanak Gurdwara

To support their learning about Sikhism in RE, Year 4 classes visited the new Guru Nanak Gurdwara.



Barton Springs

To support their learning about rivers in Geography, Year 5 classes went on a field trip to Barton Springs.



Kidzania

On 22nd June, Year 6 headed to London where they spent the day at 'Kidzania' a mini-town where children could earn Kidzo credits by working in a range of jobs, from cleaning and deliveries to surgery and firefighting. This experience was aimed at introducing the children to a variety of careers. At the end of their day's work, they could spend the Kidzos that they had earned at the shop.



Willen Lake

To introduce them to a variety of water sports and to help their confidence in open water, Year 6 children had a day on the lake taking part in paddle boarding, raft making and 'katakanuing'.



Other events

Father's Day Sale

Children enjoyed a non-uniform day in exchange for donations to our Fathers' Day sale. The sale, run by our school councillors, was a success and raised £432 towards the School Council fundraising.



Eco Schools Work

Allotment visit

Our Eco Committee visited members of the gardening community at the neighbouring Wigmore Lane Leisure Gardens. The gardeners gave them advice on how to plant and grow fruit and vegetables.



Harvesting vegetables from our Golden Garden

Our gardening club and eco assistants planted a range of crops in our new vegetable garden during the spring and summer months. On Friday 7th July, the gardening club harvested their first produce and this was used in school dinners the following week.



Courgettes, carrots and beetroot in school dinners

Creating a bug hotel for the garden



Year 4 Viking Day

Following the 4 Orion Viking class assembly, both Year 4 classes had a special Viking Day. They dressed up in Viking clothing and learned about various aspects of Viking life, art and craft.



Discos

On Thursday 13th July, we held our annual school discos. The first event of the evening was the Year 3, 4 and 5 disco and then the Year 6 had their leavers disco

Years 3, 4 and 5



Year 6



Performances

Class assemblies

In June, both 4 Aquila and 4 Orion presented their class assemblies to the rest of the school as well as to their parents and carers. The Aquila class assembly featured Ofsted inspectors who came to view the school and were impressed by the children's art, science and other work, as well as some terrific singing and dancing.



The Orion class assembly featured a dream sequence with a bus-load of Vikings - including drummers!



Summer Singing Spectacular

Our choir performed along with 300 children from other Luton Schools at a big event in Stopsley.



Star Warts!

Year 6 wowed their audiences at both the in-school and evening performances of their leavers play, *Star Warts: The Umpire Strikes Back!* The actors performed with enthusiasm and delivered their lines well and there were some great solo performances amid the songs. It was a great way for Year 6 to go out in style!



Sport I

Football

Boys B Team v Wigmore Primary, 18th June

On the 19th June, we had a football match against Wigmore. It was a home game and started with an early goal to Wigmore. Later on, we had a slim chance from the wing. Jenson took the shot and scored an amazing goal to equalise the game.

In the 3rd quarter, they got two goals to gain a good edge. In our last attack, Wissam made a good run to volley it in the left corner. Wigmore had a good shot which hit the cross bar from outside the box, Riley got a good cross by Eisa towards the goal but hit the bar. Mr Prue picked Riley as coach's player of the match. Wissam picked Eisa as Captain's player of the match. *Wissam and Jason.*



Girls football match

The girls team played their final match of the year, playing a close game against Wigmore, drawing 1-1.



Rounders

On 8th June our mixed Year 6 rounders team headed to William Austin Juniors for a tournament.



Sport II

Athletics

Zone Sports

On 15th June, a team of over 40 athletes from all year groups walked to Queen Elizabeth School to take part in the local zone athletics competition against children from other schools in the east of Luton. Eight of our team won their events and qualified to represent the east area at the town finals.



Town Sports

The eight qualifiers from Zone Sports travelled to Stockwood Park on 4th July to take part in the Town Sports athletics finals. Our team did us proud and three children won medals: Danny won Gold in the Year 3 boys 400m race and Maya and Evie won silver in the Year 6 and Year 5 girls 80m sprint races respectively.



Girl's Active Festival

A team of girls from Years 5 and 6 took part in the County Girls' Active Festival in Bedford on 29th June.



Sport III - Sports Week

The week of 10th - 14th July was our annual Sports Week. Each day children received specialist coaching and instruction in an activity that is not normally in our PE curriculum . They also completed a daily mile each day.

Skipping: The first day of Sports Week saw the return of Pete Thompson from Skipbeatz



Dance: On the second day, Lauren from NGYT taught each class some original dance routines



Tennis: Coaches from Daniel Pymont Tennis Coaching taught the children tennis skills.



Fencing: The final new sport - a first for the children at Someries Juniors - was fencing



Daily Mile

Each morning the children were required to walk or run a mile on our athletics track. Many did extra laps, increasing their distance or speed as the week went on.





Somerles Junior School Term Dates

You can view the latest calendar on our website: www.somerlesjuniorschool.co.uk/events-dates/calendar

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.

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

Following year: Term Dates for 2024-25

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

*Term ends on this date at 1:30pm

Online safety information for parents: www.skipseducational.org/safety-net/

Summer holidays – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

School's out for summer!

It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings