



Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



October Monthly Newsletter

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Head Teacher's Comment

After their positive start to the term, the children have continued their good work and have adjusted well to their new year groups and the higher level of challenge in their learning. They have also enjoyed the first trips and events of the school year. The highlight was the 4-day Year 6 residential trip to a PGL centre on the east coast. The children responded very well to the challenges of the activities and it was nice to get good feedback from the instructors on how cooperative and respectful the children were. We are very grateful to Mrs Barton and her staff team for enabling the children to have this wonderful experience.

A number of children overcame their fears and realised that they can do more than they had thought possible. We hope that they will apply this new confidence to the challenges they will face with their learning and assessments this year. You can see photos of them in action on pages 3 and 4.

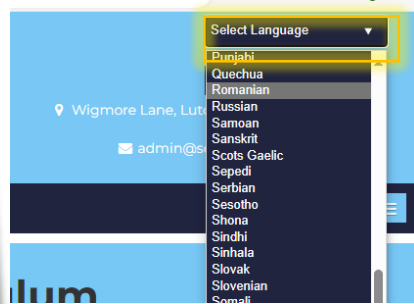
It was also good to see that with an attendance of 97.7% for the first three weeks of term, we began the year where we left off – top of the attendance league for Luton. 97% is a good target for attendance for each pupil and so it is wonderful that most children are meeting this target so far.

We look forward to seeing you at the parents evening events next week, Mr Hunt



Translation apps

If someone in your family, or another parent or carer that you know of, struggles with reading school documents in English, then we recommend the use of "Google Translate" on your smartphone or tablet (on both Android and Apple devices.) This will allow you to translate documents to a chosen language via the camera on your device.



Our website also has a translation function at the top of the page.

← Desktop version

Mobile version →



Inside: Sports reports Hindu temple trip Scavenger Hunt
Year 6 residential trip Dance Stage filming updated calendar ...

Get the news faster on Facebook or Instagram!



School briefing for parents and carers

Nut-free zone

We have a number of children with nut allergies in the school and for some of these children, their allergy can be life-threatening. To avoid these children being harmed by contact with nut products at lunchtimes, we ask that, if your child has a packed lunch, you do not include any peanut or nut products. Thank you.



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

- Mon 16 October School photographer on site - individual photographs & junior sibling photographs. Smart full uniform or smart PE kit please
- Mon 16 October Parents evening - onsite (3:45-5:45pm)
- Wed 18 October Parents evening - onsite (6:00-7:45pm)
- Fri 20 October Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
- Mon 23 to Fri 27 October Half term holiday
- w/c 30 October Online second-hand uniform sale
- Tue 31 October Closing date for high school applications for Year 6
- Wed 8 November Year 3 'blue for a loo' day (for a contribution)
- Wed 8 November 4 Aquila class assembly 9:00am - 4A parents and carers invited
- w/c 13 November Maths Week
- Tue 14 Nov **New** Year 3 maths week parent event - parents and carers invited (9:15-10:30am)
- Wed 15 Nov **New** Year 5 maths week parent event - parents and carers invited (9:15-10:30am)
- Thur 16 Nov **New** Year 6 maths week parent event - parents and carers invited (9:15-10:30am)
- Fri 17 November Flu immunisations for all year groups
- Fri 17 November Children in need (non-uniform day - sports themed if PE day - for £1 donation)
- Fri 17 November Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
- w/c 20 November Book fair in school this week (days to be confirmed)
- Mon 20 November Year 4 trip to hat district and Wardown museum (costs to be advised)
- Wed 22 November 6 Andromeda class assembly 9:00am - 6A parents and carers invited
- Thur 30 November Year 4 hat making morning - parents and carers invited (9am - 11:30am)

Uniform reminder

The standard of the children's uniform has been excellent this year. We would like to remind you that shorts and jogging bottoms for PE days must be **plain black**. Items with logos, brand names, stripes or other designs do not conform to our uniform and so should not be worn in school.

School PE kit (PE days)



A large number of fleeces, coats and jumpers are left on the field or in the hall or corridors each day. If the items have a name in them, we can return them to their owner. We advise parents and carers to label all items of clothing - and re-label them when the name starts to fade!

Bike and scooter security

It is great to see the number of children who now walk, cycle and scoot to school. This contributes to their healthy lifestyle and means that they arrive at school with alert minds, ready to learn.



There are bike racks at the front of school (near the library steps) and outside the Year 3 classrooms (near the door to Lyra class). Bikes and scooters are usually safe here. However, we cannot accept responsibility for items left on site and they are left at the owner's risk - *please do not leave items on the school site overnight.*

Highlights from September

Year 4 Geography fieldwork

Each year group does fieldwork as part of their learning in Geography. For this school year, Year 4 were the first group to develop their field work skills, taking their clipboards and trundle wheels around the local area.



Year 4 Music – pBones!

If you ventured into Year 4 on a Friday afternoon you would be greeted by some very colourful noise! We have refreshed our music curriculum and they are the first to learn to play pBones, colourful plastic trombones!



Year 6 residential trip

Staying at Bawdsey Manor PGL activity centre

In their third week in Year 6, the children enjoyed an amazing experience at PGL Bawdsey Manor on the Suffolk Coast. They took part in challenging activities that developed their confidence and teamwork. Many children conquered their fears on the activities and they enjoyed free time with friends on the beautiful site. They managed the challenge of living away from home for three nights and enjoyed the great food with three cooked meals a day. There were exciting evening games in the dark, and even a silent disco!



Activities

Here are some of the thirteen outdoor activities that the children took part in.

Canoeing



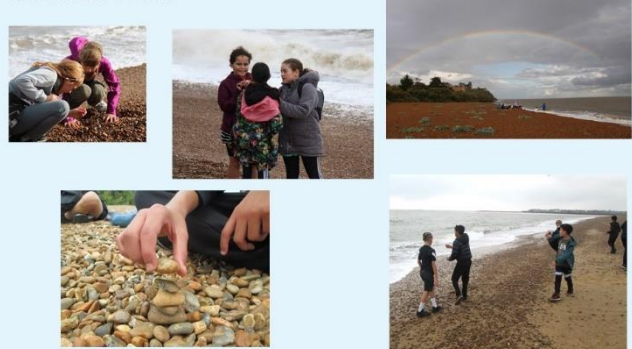
Challenge course



Climbing



Coastal Walk



Giant swing



Survivor



Trapeze – leap of faith



Zip Wire



Buggy Building



Sensory trail



Year 4 Scavenger Hunt

As part of their science topic, *Living things and their habitats*, Year 4 went to different parts of the school site to find out what creatures live here. They found that there were more species in the longer, wilder areas of the site. We plan to complete a 're-wilding' project this year to increase the amount of this type of habitat.



Dance stage case study

Our new dance stage area has proved very successful. The suppliers, Pentagon Play, were keen to record a case study of this project and so the designer, Mark, came to record some of the children on the stage and to interview them about the project. Afterwards, Mark said the children were 'fantastic' and they had been very confident when interviewed. He described them as 'the best I have ever worked with!'



Year 5 RE trip to Luton Mandir



Year 5 trip to the Hindu Temple - Cassie Anne 5H

On Thursday morning, we visited the Hindu Temple. Firstly, we hopped on a large double decker bus and travelled to the Temple. The journey took 30 minutes as there was lots of traffic jams. The traffic was so so slow I thought we would never arrive.

When we finally arrived, the first thing we did was to remove our school shoes and put them into a high shoe rack. The racks were so high, I couldn't put my shoes into rack 19 so I went to rack 20 and put my shoes there. This showed respect for the Hindu place of worship and the Gods.

Once our school shoes were put away, we slowly walked into the huge main hall and sat in front of the beautiful statues of the Gods and Goddesses Lakshmi, Vishnu, Ganesh, Hanuman and more others.

Our host kindly welcomed us to the temple and rang the special bell to tell the Gods we had arrived. Then he slowly explained about the different and unique Hindu Gods and Goddesses and told us facts about being a Hindu. He talked about the fact that the majority of Hindus are vegetarian and never touch meat.

At approximately 10:30am, the Hindu service started. We didn't take part as we didn't know the language they were speaking in. We only observed them. The Hindu leaders slowly prayed to each God and Goddess in turn using special candles. They made shapes using the burning candles and waved them in front of the statues. They also swayed a type of fluffy brush in front of the Gods and Goddesses. They loudly rung the bell several times which made my ears start ringing and they chanted and clapped in time with the music.

After the wonderful service, we were invited to ask curious and sensible questions. I found out that the host's favourite God was Vishnu. After the questions, we had a wonderful opportunity to look at the very beautiful statues of the Gods and Goddesses.

At the very end of the trip, we put our school shoes back on and were kindly offered yummy biscuits. Afterwards, we got back on the coach and returned to school. My favourite part was when we got to see the statues of the Gods and Goddesses because they were so beautiful.

4 Orion class assembly

4 Orion gave the first class assembly of the year. They surprised us by beginning the assembly in Spanish and they continued with a Spanish theme, showing us their art linked to Spain and singing us a song with the Spanish words for numbers.



Sport I

Football trials

In September, Mr Maddock, our new Sports & PE leader, and Mr Freeman, our lead sports coach, ran trials for the boys and girls football teams. Both events saw very high turnouts with so many competing for team places.



Cross Country Meeting

We were very proud of our cross-country runners who took part in the big annual meeting in Lewsey Park. There were over fifty runners in each race and a number of our runners earned medals by finishing in the top twenty in their race. The Year 5 boys team earned bronze medals for finishing in third place.



On Tuesday 26th of September, some Year 5 and 6's went to Lewsey Park. About 17 athletes from Someries participated in a race of 15 hundred metres and nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 17 athletes won a medal.

They all left around 3:10pm to go to the race on the coach. The races started roughly around 6:00pm and we all left Lewsey at 6:45pm to go home.

A massive 'congratulations' to the Year 5 boys who came in 3rd. Also, a big thank for the others who participated and tried their hardest to win. I think that we were one of the best schools because there were lots of medal winners from our school - also because none of us got upset because we didn't win, we were kind to others and were happy.

Sport II

Year 3 and 4 Multisports

Our team of young multisporters headed to Inspire on 27th September for an event where they competed against teams from local schools in a range of different sporting activities.



Boys Football v Sacred Heart Primary School

Our boys team played their first match of the season against Sacred Heart, a team who beat us by a high score last year. This year, it was a tightly fought game and the first half ended 0-0. After the break, Sacred Heart took the lead and had a number of chances to add more goals but strong defending and goalkeeping kept them out. Leo scored an equaliser at the back post and our team then took the lead with a winner from



September Awards

Golden Book of Excellence

In our foyer, we keep a Golden Book with examples of excellent work from each year group. Children may be nominated for the book by their teachers for work that is particularly good or for making an excellent improvement. These children present their work to Mr Hunt and their photo is added to the book.



Values Role Models

Value	26 September
Aspiration	Ava A 3L
Cooperation	Ben B 4A
Kindness	Saima, Erin, Anika 3D Bilal 5H
Respect	Ethan 3L, Elena 4A
Responsibility	Danny 4O, George 5H
Tolerance	Alexandru 4O



Golden Table Winners

These are the winners of places at the weekly Golden Table - picked 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)

Lower Phase

Y3: Sophia, Kassandra, Thomas, Joseph, Y4: Emilia, Frankie, Kasra, Ankit

Upper phase

Y5: Cassie, Leyla, Y6: Lily, Jasmine





Calendar of Events 2023-24 (October update)

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, and so there may be times when events are arranged at short notice.

Wherever possible, the school funds enrichment events and activities from our annual budget and we ask for parental contributions for far fewer events than many schools. For bigger trips and activities, we need to ask for parental contributions and can only proceed with these activities if we receive sufficient contributions. We thank parents and carers for their support with this.

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](#)

Changes are highlighted in red w/c = week commencing

2023

October	
Mon 16 October	School photographer on site – individual photographs & junior sibling photographs. Smart full uniform or smart PE kit please
Mon 16 October	Parents evening – onsite (3:45-5:45pm)
Wed 18 October	Parents evening – onsite (6:00-7:45pm)
Fri 20 October	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
Mon 23 to Fri 27 October	Half term holiday
w/c 30 October	RE week
w/c 30 October	Online second hand uniform sale
Tue 31 October	Closing date for receipt of high school applications for Year 6
November	
Wed 8 November	Year 3 'blue for a loo' day (for a contribution)
Wed 8 November	4 Aquila class assembly 9:00am – 4A parents and carers invited
w/c 13 November	Maths Week
Tue 14 Nov <i>*New event*</i>	Year 3 maths week parent event – parents and carers invited (9:15-10:30am)
Wed 15 Nov <i>*New event*</i>	Year 5 maths week parent event – parents and carers invited (9:15-10:30am)
Thur 16 Nov <i>*New event*</i>	Year 6 maths week parent event – parents and carers invited (9:15-10:30am)
Fri 17 November	Flu immunisations for all year groups
Fri 17 November	Children in need (non-uniform day - sports themed if PE day - for donation of £1)
Fri 17 November	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
w/c 20 November	Book fair in school this week (days to be confirmed)
Mon 20 November	Year 4 trip to hat district and Wardown museum (costs to be advised)
Wed 22 November	6 Andromeda class assembly 9:00am – 6A parents and carers invited
Thur 30 November	Year 4 hat making morning – parents and carers invited (9am – 11:30am)
December	
Fri 1 December	Christmas post box in Reception for children to post cards to other classes – <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
Tue 12 December	Year 6 music performance – parents & 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 Great Ormond St Hospital)
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>
w/c 4 Jan	RE week including 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 <i>*New event*</i>	International week dance workshops – children to wear PE kit all day
Tue 30 Jan <i>*New event*</i>	Year 6 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Wed 31 Jan <i>*New event*</i>	Year 5 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Thur 1 Feb <i>*New event*</i>	Year 3 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 2 Feb <i>*New event*</i>	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 <i>*New time*</i>	Year 4 Pop-up Café – Year 4 parents and carers invited (10am – 11am)
19 – 23 February	Half term holiday
w/c 26 February	RE week
Wed 28 February	5 Perseus class assembly 9:00am – 5P parents and carers invited
March	
Fri 1 Mar	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale
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 <i>*New event*</i>	Year 3 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Wed 13 Mar <i>*New event*</i>	Year 5 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Thur 14 Mar <i>*New event*</i>	Year 6 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 15 Mar <i>*New event*</i>	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>
w/c 15 April	RE week
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
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	RE week
w/c 4 June	Online sale of second-hand uniform - order form will be sent to order online (subject to availability)
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	Parent book looks (a chance to see your child's work) – 3:30pm-4:00pm - parents and carers invited
Wed 3 July	Year 6 leavers performance (Children arrive 6.00pm for a 6:30pm performance) - parents and carers invited
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

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
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

Next 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