



October Monthly Newsletter

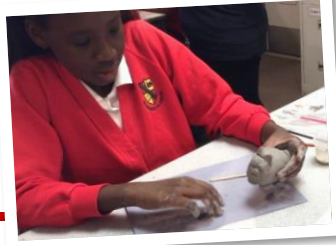
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Head Teacher's Comment

It has been great to be (nearly) back to normal this term: children are enjoying more freedom on the playground with access to more exercise equipment; Year 6 prefects have been able to carry out their jobs of taking registers and milk to classes, selling snacks or helping in the office; sports fixtures have returned; and it has been wonderful to hear the sound of children singing again!

Over the last two weeks, I have visited every class to observe the teaching and learning. I have been impressed to see that, in every class, the children have been focussed and keen to learn, cooperating with their teachers and with each other.

As restrictions have lifted, we have dared to plan a wider range of events and activities for the children – including a residential trip for Year 6. We hope that we will be able to go ahead with all these events. Please see the calendar at the end of this newsletter and keep this for reference. *Mr Hunt*

Help us protect children and their learning from Covid

At a meeting with the local public health director in September, we heard how some Luton schools have suffered class closures this term due to Covid outbreaks. We wish to avoid this happening here.

At the meeting, he described how symptoms for children were different from the 'classic' symptoms and he listed these coronavirus symptoms from local children:

- vomiting
- sore throat
- headache

We ask that if your child is ill with any symptoms, you first get a PCR test and await for a negative result before sending them to school.

Similarly, if someone in your household tests positive, we ask you not to send your child into school until they have first received a negative result from a PCR test. If this test is negative, your child may then attend school but should take daily (lateral flow) tests until 10 days have passed from when the positive case was identified.



New Staff



Mrs Ayaz

In order to provide extra support to help children address any gaps in learning caused by the Covid lockdowns, we have boosted our learning support team for this year by taking on two new teaching assistant apprentices. We have been delighted to welcome Mrs Ayaz and Mrs Moran to the team. Although these are training posts, both members of staff bring to their role a wealth of experience of working with children and this has enabled them to make an immediate impact on the classes that they are supporting.



Mrs Moran



Inside this newsletter: Harvest Festival Learning High School Visit Clubs Cross Country Success

School briefing

Parking in local areas:

Please be considerate when parking. We have had complaints from our neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking by a small number of parents.

Please do not park in the neighbouring flats' parking bays, double-park, or park on the kerb because this disrupts deliveries, carers, etc. from accessing the flats.



Bikes and scooters

To avoid injury to smaller children, please do not allow your children to ride bikes or scooters on school premises. Thank you.



Uniform - little details

The children's uniform has been excellent so far. We are keen to ensure that all children keep our dress code and wish to remind you that any hair bands should be discreet and in school colours (red/black) and that all shorts and jogging bottoms for PE should be **plain black** with no logos or stripes etc.



Red/black, discreet



+



+



+

Black only



or



Plain, unbranded items only

A number of younger children have been coming in with taped earrings. Children will need to remove earrings before PE lessons. If a child is not able to remove them alone, then parents should remove them before sending their child to school on PE days rather than taping them.

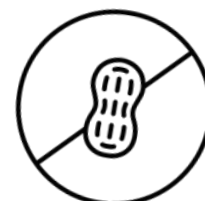
High School applications

Families of Year 6 children have received information on how to apply for a high school place. Mrs Dudley, our office manager, can offer support with this process if you are unsure.

The closing date for high school applications is 31 October 2021

Protecting our vulnerable children - a nut-free school

We have a number of children with significant nut allergies and contact with nut products could be life-threatening for them. To protect these children, we are a nut-free school - please ensure that your child's break time snacks and packed lunches contain no nuts or peanut butter, Nutella etc.



If sending in sweets for birthdays, please do not send in any that contain nuts. (We also advise that you choose items that are suitable for vegetarians so that more of your child's class can share in the celebration.)

Outdoor Classroom and Shelter Appeal

Our Outdoor Classroom is currently being built. This is funded mostly by a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation and our link with Co-op as a Community Partner.

If you shop at the Co-op, you can help us raise funds to furnish the structure by nominating us as your 'community partner':

membership.coop.co.uk/causes/43438



Is your child missing some uniform?
Many un-named items are in left in school.



Please label all
uniform & PE kit!

Highlights from September

Harvest Festival

On 28th September, we enjoyed our traditional harvest festival celebrations. Beforehand, children brought in a large amount of food to be distributed via a local foodbank. On the day, we had harvest assemblies with Jo White, Children & Family Worker from Stopsley Baptist Church. Thank you to our families for your donations!



In the lower phase assembly, children from Years 3 and 4 read out their poems and harvest prayers. They also sang two songs that they had rehearsed in singing assemblies.



In the upper phase assembly, Year 5 and 6 sang the *Harvest Samba* very well despite not having sung it for a very long time. In the assemblies, children made many words from the letters of 'HARVEST' and, as well as being thankful for what they have, they discussed ways to look after our world.



If your family is in need of support or you know of a family in need, Mr Finch our family worker is able to access support for you from our local foodbanks. Please feel free to contact him via the school office and he can arrange support discreetly.

Year 6 High School Lessons at Queen Elizabeth School

Year 6 children and families are currently in the process of choosing a high school and have been visiting the local high schools' open evenings. The children got a taste of high school life on 30th September when they walked to Queen Elizabeth School (formerly Ashcroft High School) for some lessons.

Their first lesson was a pottery lesson where they made 'pinch pot pigs' in the specialist art rooms.



Later, they had a French lesson in the Learning Resource Centre, learning prepositions and greetings. .



New PE Scheme

In the September training days, teachers spent a day learning our new PE scheme. This scheme, 'RealPE', is also used by the infant school. It develops the key abilities children need to be successful within PE and Sport and across the curriculum. It focuses on the core skills of Agility, Balance and Coordination to help every child to develop their ability. The children enjoy it because of the fun activities!



Enjoying learning

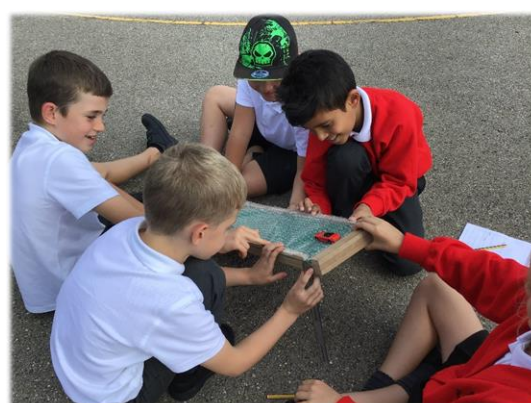
Music

Year 6 have been enjoying their first percussion lessons with Mr Strachan.



Science

In their first lessons, Draco class learned about forces and conducted some experiments outside.



They followed this up by learning about magnets and magnetism



Geography

Year 5 studied the features of a river basin (or drainage basin) - the area of land drained by a river. Then they made 3D drainage basins to show what they had learned.



Science and Art

Orion class combined Science and Art when they made sets of clay teeth! They constructed their models according to what they had learned about human teeth and, once dry, they painted them.



Sport

Cross country – success in every race!

Year 5 and 6 took part cross country races at Lewsey Park. The races were about one mile. In each race there were over 80 runners all together in teams from ten Luton schools. Our teams performed very well and gained lots of medals!

Our thanks go to Mr Prue, Miss Awan and Mr Finch who accompanied the team to the event.



Year 5 girls came 3rd with three runners in the top 20: Ava (8th), Sophie B (12th) and Maja (13th). The other runners in the team were Violet and Olivia.



Year 5 boys were also 3rd with four runners in the top 20: Spencer (10th), Bane (18th), Arthur (19th) and Alisters (20th). Rashid and Lennon also ran well.



The Year 6 boys team came 3rd too! They also had runners in the top 20: Ethan (5th), Charlie (9th) and Max (13th). Jayden-James completed the team.



The Year 6 girls won their race! Kayleigh, our head girl, was the individual winner too! Three other girls finished in the top 20: Anika (4th), Elsa (10th) and Jess (11th). Olivia and Esther were also part of this winning team.



Football Trials

At the end of the first week of term, the boys had their trials for the football team. With fixtures coming up in October, there was tough competition for places in the squad!



Sports Clubs

As we can now mix children from different year groups, we have been able to offer more clubs this term - many of these are sports clubs.

Cheerleading Club

Developing their physical stamina and agility as well as their teamwork and timing, the first members of Cheerleading Club have been completing some challenging activities.



Football Club

Friday after-school Football Club has been popular with both boys and girls in Years 5 and 6.



September Awards

Attendance



6th to 16th September:

Class	Attendance
3D	99.4%
5H	96.9%
5P	95.9%

20th to 30th September:

Class	Attendance
5P	98.0%
4A	97.9%
3D	96.3%



Values Role Models

September 14:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Jack 4A
Cooperation	Sulman 6P
Kindness	Noa 3D, Mario 3L
Responsibility	Xhonson 5P

September 21:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Onyx 5P
Cooperation	Gurveer, Zain 4O
Respect	Olivia 3L
Responsibility	Sameeha, Maora 5P

September 27:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Rodayna 4O, Rory 5H, Vinnie 5P, Charlie 6A, Aastha & Marian 6P
Cooperation	Mateos 3L
Kindness	Paige 3L
Respect	Declan 5H
Responsibility	Alexandra 4A, Leo 4O, Sunny 5P, Jordi 6P



Golden Award Winners

3 Draco: Zachary and Jack

3 Lyra:

Cassie-Anne and Jasmine

4 Aquila: Jeremiah and Faith

4 Orion:

Mercedes and Harry

5 Hercules: Oliver and Osman

5 Perseus:

Bobby and Maja

6 Andromeda: Olivia E and Wassim

6 Pegasus:

Oliver M and Darragh

Pupil Premium Funding - free school meals, free clubs & reduced trip costs

Learning support for your child and financial support for families

This grant provides support for families in the form of free school meals as well as free tuition and discounts on uniforms and trips. If you claim certain benefits then your child may be entitled to receive this help. You can collect a form from the School Office or you can apply online: [online application form](#). Our Family Worker, Mr Finch, or our office manager, Mrs Dudley, will be happy to help.

Half term activities



**2021
OCTOBER HALF-TERM
TENNIS CAMP!**

VENUE 360, LUTON FOR 6-15 YEARS OLD

Mon 25th to Thurs 28th October
9:30am - 3pm Venue 360, Luton

£95 for 4 days
or
£27.50 per day

All equipment and
indoor provision provided



For more information or to book please contact:

Danny Pymont, Head Coach

d.pymont@venue360.net 07947 733703

***All sessions will follow the latest LTA COVID-19 guidelines**

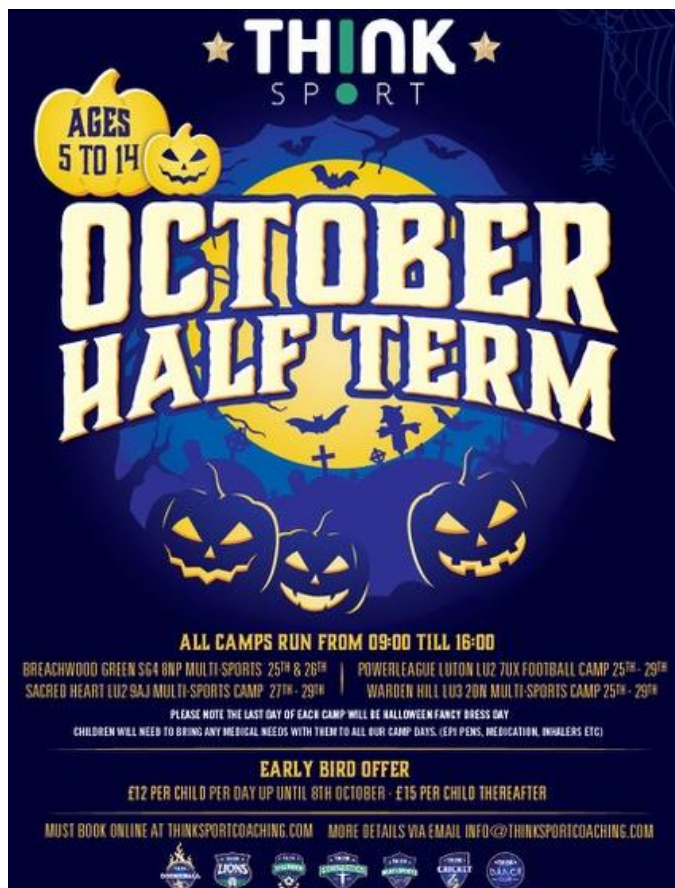
From Active Luton: Swimming 'Crash Courses'



Inspire Luton are running crash courses during October. These will be extra morning swimming lessons for children during the October Half Term. They will be starting on Monday 25th October at Inspire Luton Sports Village.

From 25th October to 29th October, lessons will be with Trainee Teachers for the price of £4 per lesson. We will be offering classes with a maximum of 8 Swimmers ranging from stages 1 to 7 and will be 30 minutes per lesson. Any skill or stroke development will be assessed when returning to their normal weekly lessons.

If you are interested and would like to be sent a booking form, please email hydrlearninspire@activeluton.co.uk



**★ THINK ★
SPORT**

AGES 5 TO 14

**OCTOBER
HALF TERM**

ALL CAMPS RUN FROM 09:00 TILL 16:00

BREACHWOOD GREEN SG4 RNP MULTI-SPORTS 25TH & 26TH | POWERLEAGUE LUTON LU2 7UX FOOTBALL CAMP 25TH - 29TH
SACRED HEART LU2 9AJ MULTI-SPORTS CAMP 27TH - 29TH | WARREN HILL LU3 2BN MULTI-SPORTS CAMP 25TH - 29TH

PLEASE NOTE THE LAST DAY OF EACH CAMP WILL BE HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS DAY
CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BRING ANY MEDICAL NEEDS WITH THEM TO ALL OUR CAMP DAYS. (EPI PENS, MEDICATION, INHALERS ETC)

EARLY BIRD OFFER
£12 PER CHILD PER DAY UP UNTIL 8TH OCTOBER - £15 PER CHILD THEREAFTER

MUST BOOK ONLINE AT THINKSPORTCOACHING.COM MORE DETAILS VIA EMAIL INFO@THINKSPORTCOACHING.COM

Somerles Junior School

Calendar of Events 2021-22



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.

Please look out for updates to this list of events which will be published in the monthly newsletter. If you have any questions regarding an event then please contact our school office.

(w/c = week commencing)

2021

Wed 13 & Thur 14 Oct	Online Parents Consultation Evenings for Years 3-6
Wed 13 Oct	School photographer on site – individual photographs & junior sibling photographs. Full uniform please [If your child has PE and you would prefer them to be in full uniform for the photo, please get them to bring their PE kit in a named bag]
Wed 13 Oct	Year 6 science workshop
Mon 25 to Fri 29 Oct	Half term holiday
Sun 31 October	Closing date for receipt of high school applications
November	
w/c 1 November	RE week
w/c 8 November	Maths week
Fri 19 Nov	Children in need (non-uniform day for donation of £1)
December	
Wed 1 December	Christmas post box in Reception for children to post cards to other classes – <i>all envelopes to have name & class</i>
Wed 1 December	Flu immunisations (Provisional)
Fri 3 December	School closed (Queens Platinum Jubilee discretionary closure)
w/c 6 Dec	Year 3 nativity play, Year 4 & Year 5 music performances (recorded for parents & carers)
Tues 7 December	The Young'Uns working with Year 4 as part of 'When Luton Sings' project
Date to be confirmed	Christmas dinner and Christmas Dress-Up Day (£1 donation in aid of Save the Children)
w/c 13 Dec	Year 5 play (recorded for parents & carers) Year 6 music performance (recorded for parents & carers)
Tuesday 14 December	Last day for Christmas cards for other classes, donations for trolley and party food.
Friday 17 December	Festive Friday (optional donation to Great Ormond St Hospital) Term ends at approximately 1.15pm for pupils (with staggered end 1:15pm/1:20pm)
18 December – 4 January	School holidays

2022

January	
Tue 4 Jan	Training Day – <i>school closed to pupils</i>
Wed 5 Jan	<i>Term begins</i>
w/c 5 Jan	RE week
Fri 14 Jan	Year 6 bridge building (Architecture Workshops)
w/c 17 Jan	5 Hercules class video (recorded for parents & carers)
Wednesday 26 January	Young Voices Concert – Birmingham (choir)
w/c 31 Jan	5 Perseus class video (recorded for parents & carers)
February	
w/c 7 Feb	Practice SATS for Year 6
Tue 8 Feb	Safer internet day
w/c 14 Feb	Half term holiday
w/c 21 Feb	RE week
March	
Thurs 3 March	World Book Day (dress as a book character)
w/c 7 March	Science Week
w/c 14 March	Year 5 cycle training
Sun 13 – Weds 16 March	Year 6 Residential trip
Thurs 17 March	Year 6 day starts at 11:30am
Friday 18 March	Non-uniform day in exchange for donation of gift suitable for the Mothers Day Sale
w/c 21 March	Year 5 cycle training

w/c 21 March	3 Draco class video (recorded for parents & carers)
Weds 23 & Thurs 24 March	Provisional date for parents consultation evening for Years 3 to 6
Thurs 24 March	Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Mothers Day (which will be on 27 March)
w/c 28 March	Year 4 play (recorded for parents & carers)
April	
Mon 4 to Mon 18 April	Easter Holiday
Tues 19 April	Training day – school closed
Wed 20 April	<i>Term begins</i>
Fri 22 April	St Georges Day – scouts/brownies/brigade etc. uniforms may be worn
May	
Mon 2 May	Bank holiday
w/c 2 May	3 Lyra class video (recorded for parents & carers)
w/c 9 May	SATS week – no appointments or leave of absence for Year 6
w/c 23 May	4 Orion class video (recorded for parents & carers)
w/c 23 May	International week
w/c 30 May	Half Term
June	
w/c 6 June	RE week
Wed 8 June	Class photographs – full uniform required (PE kit in a named bag)
Thur 9 June	Non-uniform day in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult male
Fri 10 or 24 June	After school: Singing Spectacular (for choir) [Date to be confirmed]
w/c 13 June	4 Aquila class video (recorded for parents & carers)
Thurs 16 June	Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Fathers' Day (which will be on 19 June)
w/c 20 June	Sports week including daily mile
Mon 20 June	New Year 3 intake information meeting after school
Mon 20 June	Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform
July	
Fri 1 July	Years 3-5 reports go home
Thur 7 July	Move up morning (Infants to Y3; Y3,4,5 to their new classes; Y6 to high school)
Fri 8 July	Year 5 guitar music performance (possibly live on site)
Mon 11 July	Sports day
w/c 11 July	Year 6 play (possibly live on site)
Fri 15 July	Year 6 reports go home
Tues 19 July	Year 6 drumming music performance (possibly live on site)
Wed 20 July	Year 3 music performance (possibly live on site)
Thur 21 July	Year 4 ukulele music performance (possibly live on site)
Fri 22 July	School closes at 1:15pm



This year: Term Dates for 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021	Spring Term 2022	Summer Term 2022
Start of Term: Monday 6 September	Start of Term: Wednesday 5 January	Start of Term: Wednesday 20 April
Queen's Jubilee Holiday: Friday 3 Dec.	Half Term Holiday: 14 to 18 February	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May
Half Term Holiday: 25 to 29 October	End of Term: Friday 1 April	Half Term Holiday: 30 May to 3 June
End of Term: Friday 17 December*		End of Term: Friday 22 July*

*The final day of the autumn and summer terms will end at around 1:15pm

Next year: Term Dates for 2022-23

Autumn Term 2022	Spring Term 2023	Summer Term 2023
Start of Term: Monday 5 September	Start of Term: Wednesday 4 January	Start of Term: Tuesday 18 April
Half Term Holiday: 24 to 28 October	Half Term Holiday: 13 to 17 February	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1 May
End of Term: Friday 16 December*	End of Term: Friday 31 March	Half Term Holiday: 29 May to 2 June
		End of Term: Friday 21 July*

*The final day of the autumn and summer terms will end at around 1:15pm

Start and end times (Children should arrive no more than 5 minutes before their start time)

Class	Start time	End	Class	Start time	End	Class	Start time	End	Class	Start time	End
3L	8:40	3:15	4O	8:40	3:15	5H	8:40	3:15	6A	8:40	3:15
3D	8:45	3:20	4A	8:45	3:20	5P	8:45	3:20	6P	8:45	3:20