



November Monthly Newsletter

Date: November 2021

Issue: 254

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Head Teacher's Comment

October was a busy month for Somerles pupils as you can see inside this newsletter. With sports events for all year groups, field trips, clubs, School Council interviews and the launch of our new Eco-Schools initiative, there was lots for children to be involved in outside of the classroom.

Throughout November, children will be focussing on their studies now that they are well settled into their classes. Then December will bring a wealth of fun activities and performances as we enter our Festive Fortnight. Details of our plans for this are on the next page.

Sadly, in October we also experienced a rise in Covid cases. A cluster of cases in Year 4 counted as an 'outbreak' and I liaised with the local public health team to find ways to reduce our cases. Regrettably, this meant the cancellation of swimming and some other activities. To ensure that the children remain healthy and that school activities continue, please continue to help us by testing your child for coronavirus twice a week and by keeping your child at home if they are unwell until you have the results of their PCR test.

Mr Hunt



Inside this newsletter:

Tag rugby tournaments Football matches School Council interviews
Eco Schools launch Visit from Sally Clubs – sewing & sports
Geography field trip Healthy dinners Awards Calendar



School briefing



Coming up in November

Friday 19 November: **Children in Need day** (Children can wear non-uniform day for a donation of £1)

(Maths Week has been rearranged to January)

A full list of school events for the current school year can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Outdoor Classroom and Shelter Appeal



Our Outdoor Classroom is currently under construction. This was financed with a £5,000 grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation and with £3,800 from the Co-op as a Community Partner.

We are grateful to all local Co-op shoppers who selected us as their community partner.

We are pleased to announce that we are continuing this partnership with the Co-op as we have been selected for their new set of local causes.

Over the next year, we are partnering with Co-op to create a garden on our site for growing fruit and vegetables for the children to eat. We will run a club to tend to it regularly and invite parents to work with their children. This will form part of our Eco Schools developments.



If you are a Co-op shopper, please consider getting a Co-op membership account and choosing us as your community partner. The project will then receive 2p for each £1 that you spend in Co-op stores when you use your Co-op card. (You will also receive discounts from your shopping.)

Christmas plans - Festive Fortnight

During the last two weeks of term - 6th to 17th December - we will have a number of Christmas events. So far these will include:

- Year 3's video nativity play
- Year 5's video Christmas performance
- Various video music performances
- Tuesday 7th December: Year 5 & 6 walk to Queen Elizabeth School to see their pantomime, "Snow White and the Seven Other Dwarves"
- Tuesday 7th December: Christmas Dress-Up Day (in aid of Save the Children), Christmas Dinner and the Santa Dash
- Friday 17th December: Festive Friday - dress up in clothes for a class party (in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital)
- Friday 17th December: term ends for all children at 1:10 or 1:15pm.
- During this time there will be a Christmas card post box where children can post cards to other classes
- We will also have Mr Finch's festive trolley for donations of food or gifts for families in need.



Queen's 70th Jubilee Holiday

Please note that both **Somerles Junior School** and **Somerles Infant School** will be closed on Friday 3rd December to mark the Queen's 70th Jubilee.

The junior children will be learning about the Queen's reign in our assemblies on Monday 29th November.



Healthy Eating

In our parent and carer survey, some parents raised questions about our school dinner menus - for example, why school dinners could include items like pizza and chocolate cake but packed lunches could not. The difference is due to the way that our caterers prepare school dinner items on site, compared to how processed food is prepared commercially.

Here, Caterlink provide further information:

Caterlink produces menus in line with the School Food Standards in order to ensure that all meals are nutritionally balanced, and that children are getting the energy and nutrients they require.

The desserts offered play an important role in ensuring that the children are getting enough energy from their lunchtime meal, to sustain them throughout the school afternoon. Children have high energy requirements for their size, in order to maintain body functions, be active and grow.

Whilst it is a national problem that children are consuming too many free sugars, it is important to recognise that sugar is part of a balanced diet. Caterlink are working hard to reduce the amount of free sugars in our dessert recipes, and have not only achieved but exceeded the government sugar reduction programme, with an average of only 4.5g of sugar in our desserts across the Autumn term (the government recommendation is 6.5g or lower). We have removed high sugar items off the menu, and used fresh and dried fruit to sweeten desserts instead of sugar.

In line with the School Food Standards, Caterlink provide at least two desserts each week that are made up of 50% fruit or vegetables, helping children to achieve their 5 a day. Milk based desserts are provided a couple of times per week. Milk based desserts offer high levels of calcium, for strong bones and teeth. Furthermore, the desserts contain high levels of other essential nutrients that children require, such as iron and zinc, both of which are important for good health and development.

Caterlink don't use any chocolate or confectionary within the desserts, in line with the School Food Standards. Our chocolate desserts only use cocoa powder, which is high in iron.

Caterlink's Sugar Reduction Programme – 4 Years On

We have reached the end of our 4th year of the sugar reduction project, and we can proudly say we have maintained our **67% reduction** in sugar throughout the year!

Thanks to Caterlink's fantastic teams, we have continued to **reformulate recipes** and **remove high-sugar ingredients** and products from our menus.

We actively **encourage more fresh fruit** across all menus and are committed to continue to reduce free sugars throughout.

Any child eating in a Caterlink primary school can be sure that they are having healthy lunches which contain **33% less free sugars on average than the government recommendations**.

Our Head of Nutrition is **Sugar Smart's Primary School Ambassador** in recognition of the great work we have achieved and the fact that we are leaders in sugar reduction for schools.

"Working with the Caterlink team on reducing sugar across menus has helped us gain insights into what's possible across the school catering sector. The reductions achieved have also helped local Sugar Smart Campaigns reach their campaign and overall healthy lifestyle goals." (SugarSmart)

SUGAR SMART



67% reduction in sugar since the start of the programme

Before the programme began, the average sugar in our primary school lunches was
13.6g
of free sugars

Children's Food Trust Guidelines state a maximum of
6.5g
of free sugars per lunch in primary schools

Free sugar average per lunch in our primary schools for the 4th year is
4.4g

On average there is only a **teaspoon** of sugar in our school lunches!



Even with the pandemic affecting school meal numbers, we have **removed 885,040kg of sugar** across the business in the 4 years since we began the programme – the same weight as 148 tyrannosaurus rex or as 6 million bananas!



caterlink
feeding the imagination

Highlights from October

New School Council

As a team, the head pupils interviewed candidates for the role of school council representative for each class. These candidates - two from each class - had been elected by their classmates. The head boys and girls now sought to work out which one would do the best job on the pupil council. Supported by Miss Perini and Mrs Whiting, the head pupil team took their job very seriously and fulfilled their responsibility very well, making some tough decisions.



We would like to commend all the children who stood for school council rep for their class as this requires courage and determination. We would like to thank the head pupil team for the dedicated and thoughtful way in which they undertook their responsibilities.

Here is the newly elected school council:



3 Draco: Alex
4 Aquila: Sophia-Rose
5 Hercules: Phoenix
6 Andromeda: Jessica A

3 Lyra: Aiden
4 Orion: Isla D
5 Perseus: Joe
6 Pegasus: Lily M



Good try Mr Prue -
better luck next
time!



Eco-Committee - Eco Schools launch

Our second pupil body, the Eco-Committee have been working on improving our recycling around school. They are doing this as part of our new bid to earn an Eco Schools Green Flag. This status is to 'acknowledge, reward and celebrate the ecological achievements of young people.' We will continue our work on this throughout the year, under the leadership of the Eco-Committee.

At their assembly on October 22nd, the Eco-Committee launched the vision for the Eco-Schools plan. They also showed children how to improve our recycling.



Guest assembly - Pastor Dave and Sally

On 18th October, the children enjoyed the return of Pastor Dave Sunman and his puppet Sally. Dave is pastor of Ramridge Baptist Church and came to visit Year 3 to help them with their RE work on Christianity. While he was here, he and Sally took assemblies for each year group.



Fieldwork Trip

Year 4 Geography - local area survey

Each year, every class will complete some Geography fieldwork. Armed with pencils, clipboards and trundle wheels, Year 4 children went out last month to survey the area around the school. They measured distances, drew maps and studied the land use in our local area.



Pupil Premium Funding - free school meals, free clubs & uniform, 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 quickly online: [online application form](#), providing your contact details and National Insurance number. (We only use this information to complete the Pupil Premium eligibility check.

Our office manager, Mrs Dudley, will be happy to help.

Sport 1

Boys football

After a year with no fixtures, the boys have enjoyed playing competitive games again.

Somerles Juniors v Ramridge Primary - 1 October



The team got off to a strong start in their group by beating neighbours Ramridge 4-0. After a frustrating start, the boys began to string some passes together before half time, which led to great chances for Spencer and Grayson to score but it was not to be on this occasion - the score at half time was 0-0.



Somerles began the second half much more positively and were rewarded for their attacking play with Spencer scoring from close range. This boosted the boys' confidence and two further goals quickly followed. The first was from skipper Jordi who turned home from close range and the second was from Adam who finished off a fast counter-attacking move. Shortly before the full time whistle, the tricky Bobby finished emphatically to give Somerles a 4-0 victory. An excellent start to the season for the boys.

Somerles Juniors v Downside Primary - 5 October



Buoyed by their success over nearby school Ramridge, Somerles made a fast start against Downside and created a number of chances before Rashid and Spencer scored two quick-fire goals.

After a comfortable first half, Somerles were under pressure for the majority of the second half. Downside had numerous efforts, calling shot-stopper Victor into action multiple times. Somerles resistance was broken when a Downside player curled the ball into the far corner. Downside had a great opportunity to equalise but heroic defending

from skipper Jordi prevented the ball from going in and Somerles counter attacked. Speedy winger Adam finished off the move to restore Somerles' two-goal lead. 3-1.



We would like to thank Mr Prue for organising these games and coaching the team. (Girls fixtures will follow this half term)



School Clubs

Last week, we featured Cheerleading Club and Football Club. Here are two more of our clubs.

Sewing Club

Upper school Sewing Club has been meeting in the library. Here they worked on cross-stitching.



Multisports

There is a Multisport Club for lower phase and another for upper phase. Each club is run by a coach from Think Sport. Here, the upper phase club are enjoying an improvised game of 'matball'.



Sport 2

Tag Rugby Tournaments

Our lower phase sports events began with these tournaments at local rugby clubs.

Year 3 & 4 Boys - 14 October



Boys Rugby

We went on a VIP coach that had footstalls, heating and headrests. We reached Stockwood Rugby Training Park, First of all, we did practice. After that, we were split into two teams, then we went to play rugby in our two split teams. We got 5 losses and 5 wins. After, we went to eat lunch - it was really good. After lunch, we played some teams. We felt tired and after we ran with Miss Awan around the field. After that, we went back to school on the bus.

Year 3 & 4 Girls - 15 October

Rugby was incredibly amazing! We played three games: we played Bulldog, Still and Tag Rugby. The first game was Bulldog. It was fun, you had to play like this: at first, you had to have three people and the taggers had to grab your tag on your belt.

We had to run four laps up and down a small hill. We went against Wigmore School, we had to swap around because they never played tag rugby before.

Every 10 minutes we had a 2-minute water break. We got to have snacks and drinks. At the end, we got medals.

We went on a luxury coach to Luton Rugby Club.

WE GOT MEDALS!

Darby, Sehaj and Lilac-Rose



Sport 3

Indoor athletics

Inspire Sports Hall, 20 October

27 pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented Someries junior school at the Sports Hall Athletics competition before the half term holiday. It was fantastic to see so many pupils compete in a range of events, such as standing long jump, obstacle relay, soft javelin throw and vertical jump.

There were 10 schools that took part in the morning competition and our pupils demonstrated great sportsmanship and respect as they represented the school brilliantly. It was particularly pleasing to see Year 5 pupils compete against Year 6 pupils from other schools and stand up to the challenge.



Although we did not qualify for the Luton Finals, everybody tried their best and there were some standout performances: Anmolpreet and Madu scored highest in their rounds of soft javelin and chest-pass respectively and Someries came first in some of the relays throughout the morning.

Overall, it was a great experience for our pupils and they are very much looking forward to representing the school again in the near future. *Mr Prue*



October Awards

Attendance

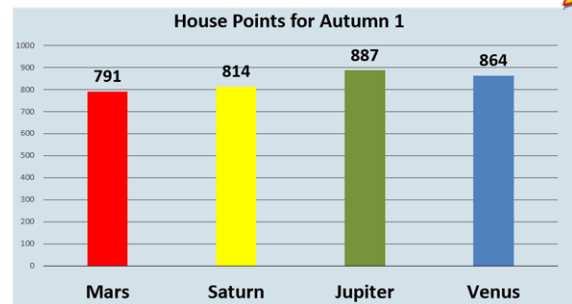


4th to 14th October:

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



House points



Values Role Models

October 5:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Scarlett 4A, Harry 6P
Cooperation	Callum S 6P
Kindness	Brooke B 5H
Responsibility	Rosie 3D, Jai 4L, Matthew 4A, Jude 4O, Callum D 5P, Annshay 6A, Mia P 6P

October 12:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Isla P 4A, Millie 4O, Lilly M 6P
Cooperation	Arthur 5P, Daniel 6P
Respect	Jamie L 3L, Jayden-James 6P
Responsibility	Muhammad Ali 4A, Spencer 5P
Tolerance	Sehaj 4O

Sports Awards

Year 6

Grayson - for showing great responsibility by setting up equipment in lessons and taking a leading role in team games by using his cognitive ability and communication.

Jordi - for demonstrating excellent leadership skills, which led to being appointed captain of the school football team.

Year 5

Jenson - for excellent enthusiasm and effort in PE lessons. Jenson works well as a member of a team and shows great sportsmanship.

Ky-Mani - for fantastic participation in all lessons, great teamwork and role model behaviour.

Year 4

Jihane - for showing an excellent attitude towards PE as she is always looking to improve.

Leo - Showing good game knowledge and understanding.



Year 3

Alex - for working hard to improve his footwork skills and effectively demonstrating to and supporting others.

Olivia - for helping organise roles and responsibilities and guide and support her learning partner through a task.



Golden Award Winners

3 Draco: Nathan and Noa, Leo and Zain

4 Aquila: Yousaf, Sophia-Rose, Isla P and Quinn

5 Hercules: Henry and Phoenix, Jenson and Bane

6 Andromeda: Ollie and Parisa, Sami and Elsa

3 Lyra: Aiden and Mateos, Dzifa and Tarunikaa

4 Orion: Zain and Natayah, Ali and Jessica

5 Perseus: Violet and Cerys, Sunny and Aditty

6 Pegasus: Sahar and Harry, Anita and Sulman



Reading and Times Table Rock Star award winners



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.

Updates since the last version have been highlighted

(w/c = week commencing)

2021

November	
Fri 19 Nov	Children in need (non-uniform day - sports themed if PE day - for donation of £1)
December	
Wed 1 Dec	Christmas post box in Reception for children to post cards to other classes – <i>all envelopes to have name & class</i>
Wed 1 Dec	Flu immunisations (Provisional)
Fri 3 Dec	School closed (Queens Platinum Jubilee discretionary closure)
w/c 6 Dec	Year 3 nativity play (recorded for parents & carers) Year 4 music performance (recorded for parents & carers) Year 5 music performance (recorded for parents & carers)
Tues 7 Dec	The Young'Uns working with Year 4 as part of 'When Luton Sings' project
Tues 7 Dec <i>*New event*</i>	Years 5 & 6 to Queen Elizabeth School (pantomime)
Tues 7 Dec <i>*Updated*</i>	Christmas dinner, Santa Dash 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)
Thurs 16 Dec <i>*New date*</i>	Last day for Christmas cards for other classes, donations for trolley and party food.
Fri 17 Dec	Festive Friday non uniform morning (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)
w/c 17 Jan <i>*New date*</i>	Maths week
Wed 19 Jan <i>*New date*</i>	Maths workshops with the Puzzle Company
Weds 26 Jan	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 21 Feb	RE week
	Half term holiday
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 10:45am <i>*New time*</i>
Friday 18 March	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult female (for 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 (Mothers' Day 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
w/c 18 April	RE week
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 (Fathers' Day is on 19 June)
Mon 20 June	New Year 3 intake information meeting after school
Mon 20 June	Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform
w/c 20 June	Sports week including daily mile
July	
Fri 1 July	Years 3-5 reports go home
Thur 7 July	Move up morning (Infants to Y3; Y3, Y4, Y5 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 Queen's Jubilee Holiday: Friday 3 Dec. End of Term: Friday 17 December*	Spring Term 2022 Start of Term: Wednesday 5 January Half Term Holiday: 14 to 18 February End of Term: Friday 1 April	Summer Term 2022 Start of Term: Wednesday 20 April May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May Half Term Holiday: 30 May to 3 June End of Term: Friday 22 July*
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*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 Start of Term: Monday 5 September Half Term Holiday: 24 to 28 October End of Term: Friday 16 December*	Spring Term 2023 Start of Term: Wednesday 4 January Half Term Holiday: 13 to 17 February End of Term: Friday 31 March	Summer Term 2023 Start of Term: Tuesday 18 April May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1 May Half Term Holiday: 29 May to 2 June End of Term: Friday 21 July*
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*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