



February Monthly Newsletter

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Head Teacher's Comment

Challenging times return

Covid was again the biggest challenge facing the school last month when over 20% of the children tested positive over a period of three weeks. I was very pleased that even though there were no supply teachers available, we were able to keep classes open throughout this time thanks to staff taking on extra duties. I was very grateful for the initiative and dedication that they showed during that difficult period.

The show must go on

Due to the Covid difficulties, some events were curtailed, but as you can see from the reports in this newsletter, school went on almost as productively and cheerfully as usual. Mrs Barton, our Maths Leader, organised an engaging and challenging Maths Week and the children enjoyed using their maths in a range of tasks – physical, artistic and mind-bending!

Some of our Year 6 boys and girls took part in competitive sports events and you can read about their successes in these pages. With (hopefully!) the worst of the Covid spike behind us, we have lots more activities taking place this week and planned for next half term – please check the latest events calendar on the back page.



Mr Hunt



Inside this newsletter:

Maths Week Design & Technology Outdoor Classroom opening Sports latest
RE Week assemblies Trip to Putteridge High School Awards Updated calendar



Get the latest news on our
Facebook or Instagram pages

School briefing for parents and carers

Coming up in February and March (A full calendar is on the last page of this newsletter)

- Tuesday 1 March: **Year 3 fruit salad making + Special kitchen menu: Pancake day**
 - Wed 2 March **Year 5 Hendon museum trip (£11.30)**
 - Thurs 3 March **World Book Day** (dress as a book character) with author visits
 - Week of 7 March **Science Week**
 - Week of 14 March **Year 5 cycle training**
 - Sun 13 - Weds 16 March **Year 6 Residential trip in Suffolk** (on Thurs 17 March, Year 6 start at 10:45am)
 - Friday 18 March **Non-uniform day** - in exchange for donation of gifts for Mothers Day Sale
 - Weds 23/Thu 24 March **Provisional date for parents consultation evening** for Years 3 to 6
 - Thurs 24 March **Mothers Day Sale**
- + February: 5 Perseus and 5 Hercules class assembly videos (recorded for parents & carers)
- + March: 3 Draco class video and Year 4 play (recorded for parents & carers)

Outdoor Classroom and Shelter Opening

Our Outdoor Classroom was officially opened on 19th January by our School Council and Raza, a representative of the Co-op. The project to provide the children with this new facility was mostly financed with a £5,000 grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation and with £3,800 from the Co-op as a Community Partner, meaning that the cost to the school was below £4,000. School Councillors have been giving ideas to Mr Hunt for how it can be kitted out and used. Children have enjoyed using this new area during breaks and lunch times already.



Fostering in Bedfordshire - a message from Nexus Fostering

Nexus Fostering, based in Ampthill, has been making a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children in care since 2002. We currently have 2500 children referred to us each month from the local authorities who are unable to find families so we really need to recruit more foster carers in Bedfordshire and the surrounding area.

Could you foster?

Would you like to find out how you can provide a family home to children in your area? Nexus Fostering is a well-established and highly regarded fostering agency, based in Ampthill, who are urgently seeking full-time foster carers willing to foster older children and siblings. The agency is rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' and places a high premium on the quality of support and care that they provide to every one of the foster carers and, in turn, the children placed with them.

To find out more about becoming a foster carer in Bedfordshire and surrounding areas please call 0800 389 0143 or email foster@nexusfostering.co.uk.

could you
foster?



A message from the NHS

Where should I go if my child is unwell?

As demand for NHS services increases, particularly when services are under considerable pressure, it's important that you and your family are seen and supported by the right service for your health concern.

This linked attached online leaflet '[Help us help you and your family stay well](#)' provides information on finding the right services in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

NHS

Highlights from January

Fun in the sun!

Play times are always more cheerful when the sun shines!



Boring but important – new drains!

If you have had to walk past the Year 4 and 5 classrooms in the past when it is raining, you will know that the path used to flood easily. We have installed new drains along this path.:



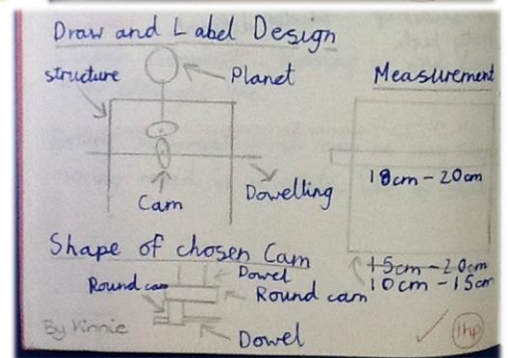
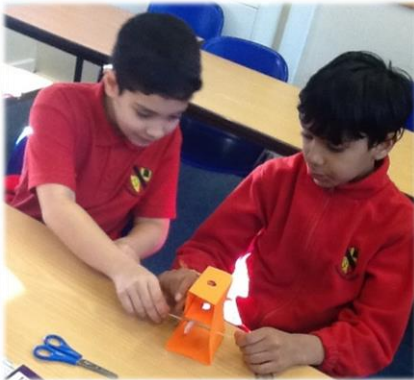
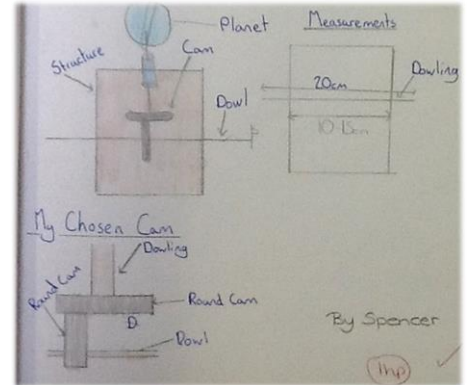
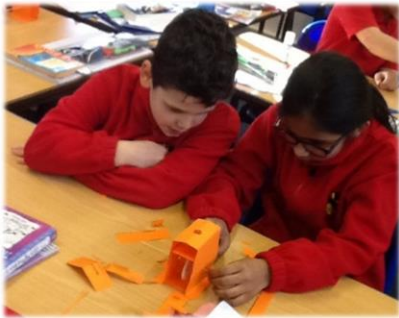
Learning - Focus on Design & Technology

Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve problems within a variety of contexts. In D&T, children acquire a range of knowledge and draw on areas such as mathematics, science, engineering, and art. Pupils learn to become resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. Here are some recent examples.



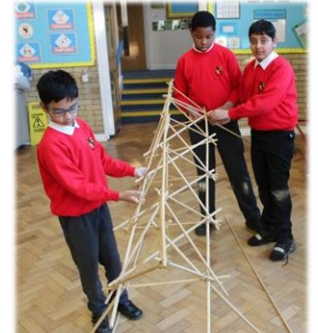
D&T - Year 5 Cams

Children learned about how cams work and then planned their own toy - related to their Science topic of the solar system - and drew up plans on how they would use cams in their design.



D&T - Year 6 Architecture Workshop

In D&T lessons, year 6 have been learning about different types of bridge construction. On Friday 14th January, each Year 6 class had an extended workshop with a visiting expert on bridge building. Starting with nothing but a bunch of sticks, the children created trusses and used these to construct bridges.



D&T - Year 6 Pizza Making at Putteridge High School

One of the aims of Design and Technology is that pupils understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook. Prior to their bridge topic, Year 6 children had been designing pizzas. They followed this up with visits to Putteridge High School where the Food Technology staff taught the children how to prepare their pizzas. The children enjoyed using the excellent cooking facilities and left with the wonderful aroma of freshly baked pizza coming from their individually designed pizza boxes. It was a great experience of high school and we enjoyed meeting some former Someries pupils there. We are very grateful to the staff of Putteridge High School who gave up their time and resources to support our children's learning.



Learning - Science

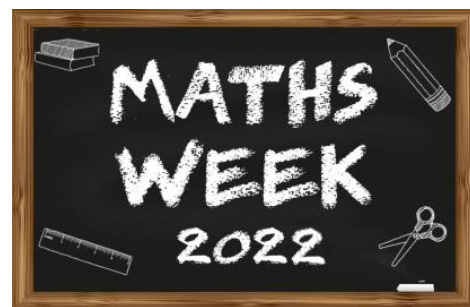
Year 5 have been learning about our solar system. They have studied the planets of the solar system, the phases of the moon, and why we have night and day. Here, the children learned about the relative distances of the different planets from the sun. On the playground, they marked out the distances of each planet from the sun using a scale. Neptune was very far out from the other planets - right at the end of the playground!



Maths Week

Maths Week was held on the week of January 17 with the aim to see the children access and enjoy varied and interesting mathematical experiences to inspire and motivate them.

There was plenty of fun and hands-on activities throughout the week, with the children also participating in discovering Art in Maths. Year 3 created beautiful butterflies with lines of symmetry; Year 4 created geometrical patterns; Year 5 studied and designed tessellations and Year 6 used Curves of Pursuit to create artwork. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm as they saw Art in Maths and ways in which they are connected.

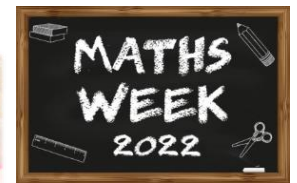


The children also had chances to investigate all sorts of statements - both inside and outside. For example: 'the longest leaves also have the largest surface area', 'silver cars are the most common car colour', 'you would not be able to pick up a bag containing 50,000 paper clips'. They went about these investigations with creativity and it was fantastic to see what evidence they used to reach their conclusions.



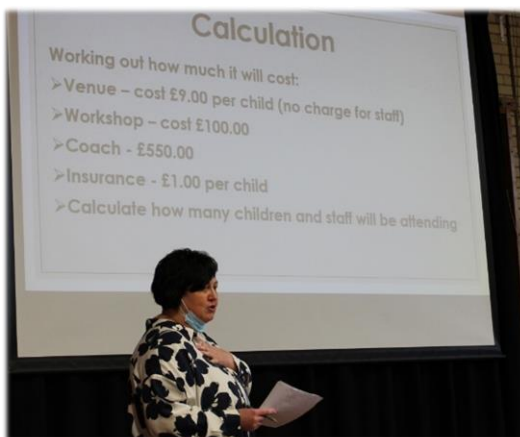
The Problem Solving Company

The highlight of the week was certainly when The Problem Solving Company joined us for a day of challenging puzzles that encouraged lively and fun discussion and activity. The puzzles ranged in difficulty, and even the adults found them challenging and fun!



Maths-in-Action assembly

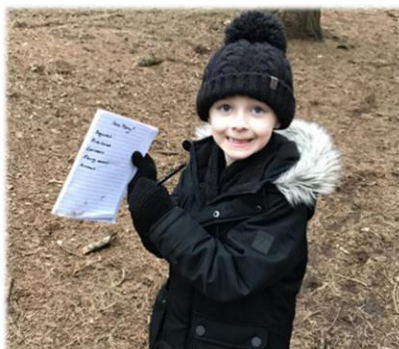
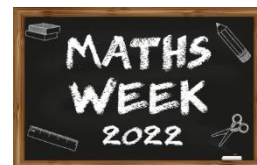
Finishing off the week, we had the privilege of having some adults connected to Someries come and talk to the children about how they use Maths in their jobs. The children heard from a product designer, bridge engineer, firefighter, and a trip organiser. It was inspiring to listen to how Maths is used in everyday life and an encouragement to the children to have a Growth Mindset and always try their best during their lessons.



The children thoroughly enjoyed the week - becoming more confident and resilient when attacking mathematical problems, creative in using Maths in a variety of situations, and encouraged to see beyond the classroom to the possibilities available to them in the future. *Mrs Barton, Maths Leader*

Family Maths

As part of Maths Week, a special family homework was set with a choice of tasks that involved maths such as baking, surveying and designing games. This is just a small selection of your photos, that we really enjoyed looking at. It was fantastic to see the number of different ways families managed to have fun with maths!



Top 3 - Fastest Rollercoaster				
Park	Ride Name	Image	Top Speed	Henry Rating
	Stealth		80mph	👍 👍 👍 👍 👍
	The Big One		74mph	👍 👍 👍 👍 👍
	Oblivion		68mph	👍 👍 👍 👍 👍



RE week assemblies

RE Week

During RE week children learn about the beliefs of a range of religions. They also considered some of life's big questions to help them develop their own spirituality. On 24 January, each year group held an assembly to share their learning, with poems, prayers and artwork.

Year 3

Year 3 children shared their versions of a grace, their Kenning poems and their artwork to illustrate the Christian concept of the trinity.



Years 4 and 5 showed some of their artwork and read some of their writing inspired by their RE learning.

Year 4

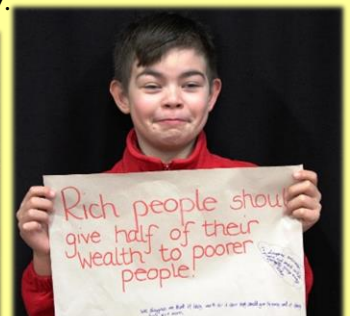


Year 5



Year 6

In Year 6, RE lessons were focused on the theme of Poverty and Justice and how this might relate to faiths. They looked at what both religious and non-religious charities do to fight poverty.



Sport

Sporting events were hit by the recent staffing shortages in schools across Luton due to very high Covid case numbers. However, we did have two very successful events last month.

Sports Hall Athletics - 13th January

Our Year 6 runners took part in an elite cross country event at Stockwood park for Year 6 and Year 7 athletes. We are proud of all our runners and we are delighted that Kayleigh won the Year 6 & 7 girls race!



The most surprising however came from Lower Junior Kayleigh still a primary student at Someries school. Praise for Kayleigh's performance in the local press



Cross Country Report

On the 13th January 2022, Someries Junior School went to a Cross Country competition at Stockwood Park. The competition was against Year 6 and Year 7 all across Luton Schools which all of us thought would be a challenge. Someries Junior School is always up for a challenge.

Down below you will see a list of the names from the people who competed in the Cross Country Competition.

6A: Anika – 12th, Reece – 48th, Kayleigh – 1st, Elsa – 13th, Charlie C – 47th

6P: Esther – 21st, Ethan – 13th

The results speak for themselves; we all represented Someries Junior School at a high level and for me personally this was a great achievement

I am now off to the Cross Country Competition on 9th February 2022. Kayleigh

Girls Football Tournament - 11th January

Our girls team took part in a tournament at Queen Elizabeth School against a number of Luton Schools. Two years ago, our girls team had dominated the previous tournament and this year's team carried on the strong girls football tradition at Someries: they won all of their five games and were tournament champions!



Our results:

- River bank v Someries 0-2
- Leagrave v Someries 0-2
- Beach hill v Someries 0-6
- St Joseph's v Someries 1-3

Our Team:

Jessica D, Jessica A, Jessica S, Anika, Paris, Esther, Kayleigh, Olivia.



Tournament Report

River Bank v Someries - The first match - by Anika

This was our first time playing a game with the Someries girls football team so some of us were slightly nervous. We started off well and after the half time whistle blew, Jessica A had scored our first goal.

In our first match, Esther was our goalie, Anika and Paris were our defenders, Olivia, Jessica S and Jessica D were our midfielders and Jessica A was our striker.

Beach Hill v Someries Girls - by Olivia E

We walked to Queen Elizabeth's astro pitches in the rain, we were all freezing before we even arrived. After winning all our previous matches we went into Beach Hill v Someries feeling confident and it paid off.

Jessica A scored two of the goals, Jessica D scored one, Olivia scored one, Esther scored one, last of all Jessica S scored one.

It was now bitter and we were all getting cold and wanting to go back. With it now being 6-0 we all relaxed more and tried to enjoy the game knowing we were in the lead.

Someries vs St Josephs - The final - by Paris

After we had our three matches, we approached another school who hadn't lost a match. This was going to be our most challenging game. As they made their way to us, we were preparing our positions for our final game. We started our match and after a lot of defending, St Josephs scored their first goal. It was half time and we became very nervous. But, after some time we scored our first goal by Jessica D. which made it 1-1. Then our second goal was scored by Jessica A.

Olivia then got hurt and had to be subbed. After a few more minutes, Jessica S scored our final goal for Someries. Then the game finished at 3-1 to Someries.

January Awards

Attendance

5th - 13th January:

Class	Attendance
4O	94.5%
4A	92.9%
3L	92.4%

17th - 27th January:

Class	Attendance
5P	92.4 %
3D & 5H	90.6 %

Values Role Models

January 11:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Emma 6A
Kindness	Cerys 3D
Responsibility	Bobby 5P, Kayleigh 6A

January 25:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Madu & Anita 6P
Kindness	George 3L
Responsibility	Ben 5P

January 18:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Lucy 5H, Xhonson & Alfie 5P, Olivia 6A
Cooperation	Natayah 4O
Kindness	Quinn 4O, Maja 5P
Respect	Jorgie 3D, Ugo 4A
Responsibility	Thomas 4O, Sheldon 5P



Golden Award Winners

3 Draco: Corey & Tiana, Aleena & Chris

4 Aquila: Mia & Rian, Alexandra & Rio

5 Hercules: Sanehpreet & Adiyan, Mansirat & Leo

6 Andromeda: Anika & Layla, Kayleigh & Osi

3 Lyra: Jamie & Mario, Jai & Paige

4 Orion: Amillie & Millie, Darby & Dhillon

5 Perseus: Vinnie & Sameeha, Joe & Lennon

6 Pegasus: Darragh & Arsha, Victor & Mia R

Golden Table Winners

In January, we launched our Golden Table to celebrate children's good manners and living our values at lunch times. Children can be nominated by a member of staff for their lunch and break time conduct and every week, two winners in each class are drawn from the collected nominations. The winners are first for lunch and sit at the Golden Table with Mr Hunt, Miss Awan or Mr Finch. We had three sets of winners in January:





Somerles Junior School Updated Calendar of Events 2021-22

2022

March	
Tues 1 March <i>*New event*</i>	Year 3 fruit salad making (children to bring container with a lid)
Tues 1 March <i>*New event*</i>	Special kitchen menu: Pancake day
Wed 2 March <i>*New event*</i>	Year 5 Hendon museum trip (Cost: £11.30)
Thurs 3 March	World Book Day (dress as a book character) with author visits (No cost to parents) Special <i>World Book Day</i> kitchen menu
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
Friday 18 March	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts for Mothers Day Sale
w/c 21 March	3 Draco class video (recorded for parents & carers)
Weds 23 & Thur 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
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
Wed 18 May <i>*New date*</i>	Young Voices choir concert
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	
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 Fathers Day Sale
Fri 10 <i>*New date*</i>	After school: Singing Spectacular for choir
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

Next year: Term Dates for 2022-23

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 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
* autumn and summer terms end at 1:15pm		End of Term: Friday 21 July*