



March Monthly Newsletter

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Head Teacher's Comment

Getting back to normal (again!)

The Omicron Covid wave continued to plague us during the first part of February, when many children were off school. I was pleased to see that, towards the end of the month, things got much better. By the last Friday of the month, our attendance was back up to 98.3%. We have been able to reintroduce phase assemblies, trips and activities and this half term will see children involved in lots of events such as Science Week, World Book Day, Mother's Day Sale, and (for Year 5) Bikeability. We will be entering a number of teams for different sports events and Year 6 children will have their residential outdoor activity trip on the Suffolk coast.

Great progress in learning

Our Year 6 children have sat a number of sets of 'mock SATs' over the last year. These give them a chance to practise the types of test that they will sit in May, and their scores in the different sets of papers help them to see their progress from term to term. In the February set of mock tests, the current Year 6 outperformed previous years in their results for this time of year. Given that this year group lost so much time to lockdowns in Years 4 and 5, these results were a great testament to the hard work of the children and the support of their teachers since they have been back in school. I have set them the realistic challenge of getting our best results ever in May – they seem eager to rise to the challenge!

Mr Hunt



Inside this newsletter:

Recycling scheme Learning -at home and in school Sports latest
Safer Internet Day Awards Updated calendar



Get the latest news on our Facebook or Instagram pages

School briefing for parents and carers

Coming up in this half term (A full calendar is on the last page of this newsletter)

- 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 Mother's Day
- Weds 23/Thu 24 March **Parents consultation evening** for Years 3 to 6 (via video call)
- Thursday 24 March **Mother's Day Gift Sale**
- Tuesday 29 March **Online safety talks for all year groups from local police**
- Friday 1 April **Term ends (at normal times)**
+ 3 Draco class video and Year 4 play (recorded for parents & carers)



Non-uniform day Friday 18th March + Purchase-a-gift day Thursday 24th March



The school will be holding a 'purchase-a-gift' sale in time for Mother's Day (which will be Sunday 27th March). Children will be able to select an item, which will be gift wrapped, for them to take home. There will be a wide selection of items on sale, priced at either £5 or £2.

To collect items for this sale we will hold a **non-uniform day on Friday 18th March** in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult female. Children are asked to donate any unwanted and unused items suitable for an adult female, e.g. an unwanted gift, toiletries, giftsets, perfumes, candles, chocolates, scarves, mugs, soaps, gloves, etc. You are welcome to donate more than one item!



Thursday 24th March, children are asked to bring some money **in a named envelope** to select and purchase a gift [loose change please, no notes!]. Items will be on sale at morning break.

A plea from local neighbours

We have been contacted by a number of local residents who are concerned about the danger posed to people crossing the road by inconsiderate parking near school.



Please can we ask that all families observe the following when dropping off or collecting their children:

- Do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines
- Do not park on the double yellow lines
- When parking in nearby roads, please be considerate of the needs of local residents



We encourage families to walk to and from school as much as possible (or to park a little distance from the school and walk the rest of the way).

A big thank you to families that already do this!



Highlights from February

New recycling scheme

Last term, our Eco Committee launched our improved recycling scheme. As well as encouraging us all to use the recycling bins more effectively, they introduced a new scheme for recycling items that could not previously be recycled. We have joined Bic's Terracycle project for recycling pens and whiteboard markers. These used to end up in landfill waste. At the end of last half term, they collected the special boxes from each class and bagged the waste plastic for collection.



Learning at home

Some children were confined to home while they isolated having tested positive for Covid. This did not stop their learning as they continued to connect with their teachers via Google Classroom. Teachers were impressed with work that the children submitted.



Boring but important: new car park surface

For a while now, we have been searching for a way to resurface our deteriorating and crumbling car park. We were pleased to secure £20,000 in funding for this from the local council this year, and over the February half term, the new car park surface and markings were installed.



[illegible]

RE Week

Year 3

A collage of six children's drawings. The top row features three drawings: a dark, abstract scene with a bright light source; a landscape with a central mountain, crosses on the sides, and a grid-like pattern; and a scene with a blue mountain, a green hill with a rainbow, and a black hill with a cross. The bottom row features three drawings: a landscape with three green hills, each topped with a cross, and a body of water; a scene with a sun, clouds, a mountain, and several small figures; and a scene with a blue sky, a pink hill, and a large cross.

"How to make the world a better place"



Sport

Despite the Covid problems in February, we still managed to send pupils to three local sports events.

Elite Cross Country - 9th February

Kayleigh had won the Year 6 & 7 Luton cross country race so she was selected to take part in the Under 13 county event in Ampthill. She ran very well beating many older girls. Well done Kayleigh!



Cross Country Report

On Wednesday 9th February, I went to Ampthill Park to run for the county. There was over 85 people running in the race and I came 15th out of 85 people. It was harder than the Stockwood Park run because it was a longer distance, there were hills and it was muddy making it more likely to slip. It was tough but I kept on pushing myself to try and get into the top 12. I am still proud of myself even though I came 15th. Kayleigh

Girls Football Tournament number 2 - 8th February

Our girls team took part in another competition at Queen Elizabeth School where they were runners up. They were unbeaten and only just lost the final - on penalties. Well done team!



Tournament Report

We were very confident throughout the tournament and we only tied to one team.

The girls football team had won all of their matches and scored a lot of goals. Jessica A, Jessica S, Jessica D and Anika all scored at least once in the tournament.

We had gotten to the finals and we were going to play the team that won all of their tournament games too. They were a strong team and some of their players played for football academies. The game ended up being a tie, so we had to take penalties. Out of the three girls that took the penalties, only one, Olivia, scored, therefore, we had lost.

Our team played very well and we kept strong throughout the whole final match but unfortunately lost in penalties. We all still got a medal for getting to the finals. It was very fun and we all enjoyed it.

Sport

Basketball tournament - 10th February

Our Year 6 basketball team represented Someries at an event at Luton Sixth Form College.



Basketball Report

On Wednesday 9th of February, Year 6s had an amazing basketball tournament with eye-widening matches.

On that day, I was quite excited and nervous, I think that the others who went also felt the same way and the excited feeling explained it all as, at the end of the day, it was extremely fun. My favourite match was against Bushmead as it was very interesting because there were really good players at that school so it was competitive.

Although we did not win them all, we played really well and ended by shaking hands politely. It was a really fun time there and I think that everyone that went there also thought that it was a fabulous time.

Anmolpreet

Athletes of the half term - Spring I

Year 6

Callum - For working collaboratively with others and offering constructive feedback in gymnastics.

Kayleigh - For outstanding achievement in Cross Country by qualifying to represent the county. This is a reward for her hard work and dedication to her fitness and willingness to improve.

Year 5

Sheldon - For outstanding effort and excellent attitude in PE. Sheldon is always willing to have a go and never gives up - especially in kabaddi.

Amarachi - For outstanding effort and attitude in every single PE lesson. Amarachi puts 100% effort in and will have a try at anything she is asked to do. She also shows excellent sportsmanship.

Year 4

Miley & Lacie - For excelling in gymnastics.

Year 3

Cassie-Anne - For being able to maintain her balance while moving her body and walking along different apparatus including different challenges using a variety of equipment.

Noa - For excellent effort in our 'dynamic balance' lessons. Noa has listened carefully to advice in order to develop her skills. She has also been an effective coach to others.

February Awards

Attendance

31st January - 10th February:

Class	Attendance
6P	96.3 %
3D	94.6 %
6A	94.3 %

Values Role Models

February 1st:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Mercedes 4O & Mansirat 5H
Cooperation	Ollie G
Respect	Armaan 6A
Responsibility	Haris 3L

February 22nd:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Cayci 3L & Amaan 4O
Cooperation	Lennon 5P, Tara Lilly 6P
Kindness	Olivia 5P
Respect	James 3L
Responsibility	Eisa 5H, Darragh 6P

Golden Award Winners

3 Draco: Rosie & Bryan

4 Aquila: Jake E & Yousaf

5 Hercules: Brooke B & Declan

6 Andromeda: Armaan & Anmolpreet

3 Lyra: George & Aoibheann

4 Orion: Rodayna & Gurveer

5 Perseus: Ben & Onyx

6 Pegasus: Olivia C & Nauman



Golden Table Winners

These are the winners of places at the weekly Golden Table - chosen from those children who were nominated for their good manners and living our values at lunch and break times.

4th February

Y5: Sophie, Adiyar, Arthur, Violet
Y6: Ollie G, Elsa, Aastha, Lilly M

11th February

Y3: Scarlett, Leyla, Rayhan, Bilal
Y4: Quinn, Amillie, Scarlett, Jake E

25th February

Y5: Declan, Bane, Amara, Ava
Y6: Anmolpreet, Aishani, Madu, Ethan

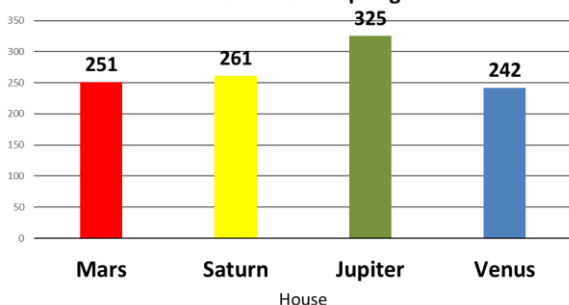


House points

Points were counted at the end of term and these were the results.

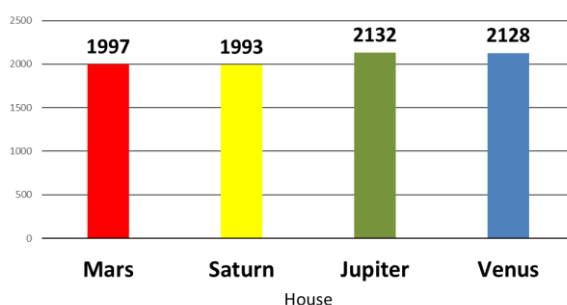
This half term: Jupiter are champions

House Points for Spring 1



Overall: for 2021-22 so far - Jupiter have retaken the lead

House Points for 2021-22 so far



Somerles Junior School Updated Calendar of Events 2021-22



2022

March	
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 suitable for Mother's Day Sale
w/c 21 March	3 Draco class video (recorded for parents & carers)
Weds 23 & Thurs 24 March	Parents consultation evening for Years 3 to 6 (video calls)
Thurs 24 March	Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Mother's Day (which will be on 27 March)
w/c 28 March	Year 4 play (recorded for parents & carers)
Tue 29 March <i>*New event*</i>	Police talk on internet safety (lower and upper phase)
April	
Fri 1 April	Term ends (at normal times)
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
Fri 13 May <i>*New event*</i>	Year 4 History trip to Ufton Court (cost to be advised)
Wed 18 May	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	
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 June	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 (p.m.)	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*