



# April Monthly Newsletter

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## Head Teacher's Comment

### Engaging learning experiences

Along with consistently good daily teaching, we aim to provide engaging learning experiences that nurture your child's potential. During March, many such experiences took place – either in the classroom or as part of a bigger event. Children completed investigations as part of Science Week, learned from real authors on World Book Day and took part in trips. These trips included the 4-day Year 6 residential activity trip that is, for many children, the highlight of their time at junior school. It was great to see the children tackling the challenges so positively and encouraging each other. They also coped very well with being away from home and developing their independence. Other events included our Mother's Day sale, raising money for Ukrainian families with School Council's 'Yellow and Blue Day' as well as many sporting activities. I am grateful to the staff who organise and run these activities for the children to make their time here so special.

### Change to Covid guidance

1<sup>st</sup> April saw the end of government Covid restrictions for schools as we move to what the government call, 'living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19.'

Guidance for children is now as follows: *"Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend"*

Testing is much less widely available; but, if your child does test positive, the guidance is: *"If a child has a positive COVID test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test..."* If your child is unwell, please contact the school office regarding attendance.

### Welcome to the intake of 2022

I would like to welcome the parents of our next Year 3 to our school community. These children were allocated their places this week and we look forward to meeting them at the transition events this term. Our school was oversubscribed again and there is a waiting list to join. Over summer, some places may become available in all year groups if families move away from the area. If you know families whose children would like to join the school, please encourage them to contact our office.

Mr Hunt



**Inside this newsletter:** Mother's Day Yellow & Blue Day RAF Hendon Trip  
Biodiversity Cereal bar sale Bikeability Fruit Salad Online Safety Awards  
Calendar Year 6 PGL residential trip Science Week World Book Day Lots of sport!

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)

### April

- Monday 25 April **NED Growth Mindset Assembly and yo-yo sale** (Mon-Fri 3:15pm - 3:40pm)

### May

- Monday 2 May **Bank holiday - school closed**
- w/c 9 May **SATS week** for Year 6 - details to follow
- Friday 13 May **Year 4 History day trip** to Ufton Court (£22.50)
- Wed 18 May **Young Voices choir concert**
- w/c 23 May **International week** including **Platinum Jubilee celebrations** - details to follow
- + 3 Lyra and 4 Orion class videos (recorded for parents & carers)

### Used-uniform Sale

Later in the term, our Eco Committee will be holding a sale of used uniform. We hope that this will reduce waste, enable families to get uniform at a huge discount and raise money for their Eco Schools project. If you have any uniform that your child has grown out of but is clean and still in good condition, please bring it to the school office - thank you!



### From Public Health:

#### Information for parents and carers on COVID-19 vaccination for at risk 5 to 11 year olds

Children aged 5 to 11 years *who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed* can get the COVID-19 vaccine, in line with advice set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other conditions as outlined by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the Green Book.

Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Further information is available in the guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years published by UKHSA. We have published some frequently asked questions on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Following advice from the JCVI, healthy 5 to 11 year old children will also be offered two 10 microgram doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April.

### Operation Encompass - working with local police with regard to children reported missing:



The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools, Luton Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting tool sending the relevant information to schools, before midday of the next school day when a child or young person has been reported missing to the police, whether that is by yourself or respective guardian.

This is to enable the school (as professional safeguarding partner) to be made aware of the missing incident for their information and be in a position to support the child should they still make their way into school. As a professional partner, the school are also able to complete a 'safeguarding check' on the child and we can close a missing report based on the information. This would then not require a police presence which may affect any disclosures or information being provided.

The school are not being asked to be information gatherers but to provide support and guidance when speaking with the child in the interest of safeguarding the child and their environment, though the information may be shared with respective safeguarding partners following partnership sharing agreements already in place.

Operation Encompass has trained a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult (Mr Finch), to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families of the child/young person who has been reported a missing.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.



## Highlights from March

### Mother's Day non-uniform day and gift sale

In the week before Mother's Day, School councillors sold the gifts that the children had donated the previous week - and which had been beautifully wrapped by Mrs Dudley and her team. Their sale raised a total of over £800. This will be enough to purchase some book storage units for the new outdoor classroom - something that children had requested via their school council reps.



### "Yellow and blue for Ukraine" Day

The children wanted to do something to help families who are suffering from the war in Ukraine and their School Council approached Mr Hunt with the idea of a Yellow and Blue non-uniform day. This raised £390



### Boring but important: improved entrance area

Mr Hunt and Mr Burton, our chair of governors, had been in liaison with the local council regarding the area outside our entrance. Towards the end of last term, a team from the council came to re-lay the paving there. They have also re-painted the railings there.





## Learning - Year 5 History Trip

For their World War II history topic, Year 5 spent a day at RAF Hendon. This was their first school trip for a long time. At this museum, they saw many warplanes and experienced a 1940's style school lesson.



## Learning - Making Fruit Salad

For Design & Technology, Year 3 learned about making fruit salad. They were taught how to do it by Adam, the head chef from Caterlink, our school catering company.



## Learning - Year 5 Bikeability

Year 5 developed their cycling skills further with two lessons each on the playground.





## Learning - Online safety talk from the police

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, PC Sally from Bedfordshire Police gave a talk to the children about Staying Safe Online. She gave a talk to upper phase and lower phase separately.

- For Years 3 and 4, she talked to the children about staying safe when playing online and gave advice to avoid being tricked online and about cyberbullying.
- Her talk to Years 5 and 6 focussed more on social media, the information they might give away online, and cyberbullying. Sally encouraged them to check that any social media accounts are set to "friends only" and she reminded children not to accept friend requests from anyone they do not know in the real world.

Please do discuss these matters with your child to check that they are following Sally's advice.



## Biodiversity - Eco Committee research

To find out what creatures live in our school grounds, Mrs Ball led our Eco Committee on a survey. The children compared areas of the school fields and found that the long grass around the tree saplings was richest in biodiversity.



## Biodiversity - Tree Planting

To provide a better habitat for wildlife, and a nicer school environment, we have been planting trees around our field. In March, Mr Robinson, Mr Finch and their parent and child helpers planted 30 new trees



## Eco Committee - Cereal bar sale

In the final week of term, our Eco Committee members baked a range of cereal bars that they sold at break time. The children raised £60 from their happy customers!





## Living our values – Year 6 residential trip to Bawdsey Manor PGL

We were delighted that we were able to run our activity trip for Year 6 this year on 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March. This year, we used a new venue, the beautiful Bawdsey Manor PGL centre on the coast in Suffolk.

The Year 6 residential trip is a highlight of the children's time at junior school. This trip is a lot of fun as the children take part in a large number of activities and get to spend four days and three nights with their friends. But, more than that, it is a huge learning opportunity. The children learn independence through organising their own clothes and equipment and getting ready on time for each part of the day (and making their beds!).

They learn to overcome some of their fears in the more challenging activities and, in doing so, realise that they can do more than they thought they could do.





They also learn to work in teams to solve problems and enjoyed a beautiful beach walk in the evening.



During the trip the children were a positive, enthusiastic and supportive group who made the most of their trip, arriving home very tired and very proud of their achievements!



Here are some of their comments about the trip:

*"A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" "Although I was nervous leaving my parents, it was so fun that I forgot I missed them"*  
*"It was full of activities so you were never bored!" "I would like to come again!" "THE THINGS WERE FUN" "AMAZING"*  
*"I learned lots of helpful life skills." "As fun as a 4-day nonstop birthday party!"*  
*"It was very tiring and I missed my family but it was very fun and I got to spend lots of time with my friends and loved the activities."*  
*"The experience was great - it was above my expectations" "It was a nice break from school to rest my mind and have fun"*  
*"The instructors were very encouraging and made me feel safe during the high events." "The food was very nice."*  
*"PGL was one of the best experiences I have ever done - so fun and so good it really is just so good"*  
*"Wake up, brush teeth, shower, get dressed, breakfast activity, another activity,*  
*free time, activity, another activity, lunch, free time until night activity, repeat"*





## Science week 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March

### Mad Science

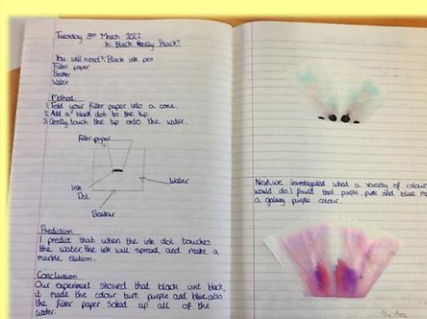
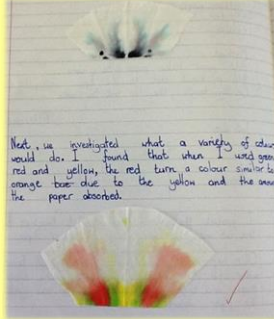
On the first day of Science Week, Atomic Amy from Mad Science launched our Science Week, teaching us about energy and light.



### Year 4 - experimenting with Parachutes



### Year 5 - experimenting with coloured inks



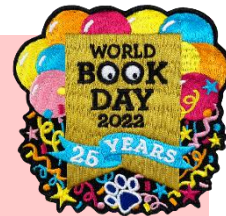
### Robots

We were amazed at the robots that children made at home for their Science Week homework!





# World Book Day



On Thursday 3rd March, we joined schools around the world in marking World Book Day.

## Inspiring authors

Each year group were inspired by meeting a real live author!

- Year 3 had poetry sessions with local poet John Mole
- Year 4 listened to readings from Dean Gray, author of *Dean's Food Fables* and *Angel the Storyteller*
- Years 5 and 6 met Sarah Oliver online. Sarah is a biographer whose subjects have included Robert Pattinson, Taylor Smith and Lionel Messi



John Moles



Angel Miller



Dean Gray



Sarah Oliver



## Pop-up book shop

Angel Miller also runs the "No Ordinary Bookshop" which specialises in selling books from a diverse range of backgrounds. Each class visited our pop-up bookshop and many children chose to order books from there.

## BFG's Cave experience

Mrs Quintana and her team transformed our hall in to the BFG's Cave to give the children a special experience. There were tables of BFG-themed goodies for the children to eat, dream catchers to make and cushions to lie back on while their teachers read them excerpts from the BFG (Big Friendly Giant) book.



## Dressing up

Of course, no World Book Day would be complete without all the amazing book costumes!





## Somerles Sport I

We have continued to field teams for a large range of sports events across the different year groups. We aim to enable a wide number of children to gain experience of participating in an event and to represent the school. So far this school year, 139 children have taken part in such events - this is more than half the school! We are grateful to Mr Prue for organising the events and for Miss Awan and Mr Lewis and the other staff who have accompanied the children to these fixtures.

### Girls Football Champions

Earlier in the term, our girls football team had qualified comfortably for the town finals. In the final week of March, they took the finals by storm, winning all their games without conceding a goal! Congratulations to our team, who are the new town-wide champions.



#### Tournament Report

Today, the Year 5 and 6 football team went to Queen Elizabeth School and they got to the final in the tournament. Jessica A was the star player scoring and setting up loads of goals. The first Match was 9-0 to Somerles vs William Austin. The second match was 3-0 to Somerles vs Ferrars. In the final, it was 2-0 against St Josephs and Somerles won the league and came back with medals. It was a whole team effort and everyone played amazingly.

Olivia E

### Year 5 Football Tournament

Two Somerles Year 5 teams played in a tournament on 4<sup>th</sup> March at Power League in Stopsley. They competed well and had to endure cold, wet weather as they played a number of games, with one of the teams getting through to the quarter finals.



### Year 5 & 6 Bowls Experience

Our team were introduced to the sport of lawn bowls at Luton Indoor Bowling Club. This event was a chance to learn a new sport and the team received coaching from the experienced club members.







## Somerles Sport II



### Boys Football Fixtures

With the lighter evenings, our boys team resumed their after school fixtures.

#### Sacred Heart - 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Having won all their games before Christmas, our boys suffered their first defeat of the season at local rivals Sacred Heart School. Sacred Heart have a very strong team and our boys battled well against them. We were proud of their effort and attitude!



#### Wenlock - 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Our boys bounced back from their defeat to secure a 1-0 win in a very tight game against Wenlock Juniors.



#### *Somerles vs Wenlock - Captain's Match Report*

*On Tuesday 22nd March, we played our 4th game of the season at home against Wenlock. 19 days after our 7-1 defeat to Sacred Heart, the team were fighting fit and ready for the next challenge. It would be a very equal game and it was just that, as many chances were created either side.*

*As soon as the whistle blew and we kicked off, Wenlock were straight on the press and we dealt with that very well. About 10 minutes in, Grayson had a long range shot and it was very close to a long-range goal. Down the other end, Riley made some very important 1-on-1 saves to keep us on level terms. When the half time whistle blew, we went to our managers and we were praised about our brilliant first half display.*

*When the second half began, we were straight on the press and we created yet again many chances and couldn't finish them off. Wenlock's no. 9 was the closest to breaking the deadlock about 12 minutes from time with a ball down the wing which he lofted over Riley only to miss. 5 minutes left, and Ethan won the ball at the centre of the pitch and played it to Grayson on the left wing who squared it to Adam who took it round their keeper to score the winner. At full time, we were very pleased to get back to winning ways. Man of the match was Jordi and Riley*

*Jordi*

#### St Joseph's - 31<sup>st</sup> March

The final game of the term came on the last day of March against St Josephs.

#### *Somerles vs St Joseph's school - Captain's Match Report*

*Somerles played St Josephs at home in the league. With horrendous weather conditions, the team had to keep warm and keep playing to earn the three points.*

*As it turned out, the weather would play a big role in the match as 10 minutes into the game St Joseph's broke the deadlock with a cross in to the box resulting with an easy tap in to make it 1-0. With St Joe's entering the pitch so late, the game time was cut short so with 5 minutes to go in the 1st half, St Joseph's increased their lead to 2 goals. The half-time whistle blew and we knew we had to up our game. Not long after the beginning of the second half, the away side scored and smashed any thoughts of a Somerles comeback. With not much time left, Bobby scored an open goal to make it 1-3. Spencer claimed the assist. Just before full time, St Joseph's made it 1-4 and that was the full time score.*

*Man-of-the-match was Charlie Newton.*







## Somerles Sport III



### Year 3 Trampolining Event

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, a Year 3 team represented us at an event at the Gravity Trampoline Park.



#### Pupil Reports

At trampolining, we first watched a video then we went up the stairs. I went on an air bag. After that I climbed a blow-up climbing wall. And the last thing we did was jump. Also, we went on equipment. I had lots of fun. Top tip if you want to go on a trip like me, don't chat. *Jahnai*

I extremely enjoyed all of the things but mostly the last one the obstacle course. It was really fun! I finished the whole thing and went down the slide! It was amazing. *Aleena*

I really enjoyed going on the bouncy slides. I think it was amazing it was really fun! I loved jumping up and down on the trampoline and I was playing with my friends. On the minibus, I was playing Ispy. *Scarlett*

I like the trampolines because it was really fun to jump with my friends. Also, there was nothing we didn't like. The part I enjoyed most was the slide obstacle course. It was all really fun.

### Year 3 Sportability Tournament

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, our Year 3 team took part enthusiastically in an indoor School Games event at Inspire.



#### Pupil Reports

On Wednesday, we played squash and table tennis and archery and you had to get the ball in the hole. It was fun. I had a great time. Then we got medals because we did really good. I loved it. It was great fun - best day ever. *Jacoby*

We played squash, archery and table tennis and it was so much fun! We saw other schools - it was really loud. It was a great event. I really suggest people go there and enjoy it. It's not a competition but it's about having fun. *Johnson*



### Multisports Club

With the better weather, we have been able to have sports clubs outside again. Here, the upper phase Multisports Club members are playing Prison Break.





## March Awards

### Attendance

21<sup>st</sup> February - 10<sup>th</sup> March:

Class	Attendance
4A	98.8 %
6P	98.3 %
5P	95.7 %

14<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March:

Class	Attendance
4A	97.5 %
4O	96.9 %
6A	94.8 %

### Values Role Models

March 1<sup>st</sup>:

Value	Role Model
Cooperation	Jaxon 4A
Respect	Anita 6A
Responsibility	Alexander 3D

March 8<sup>th</sup>:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Paris 6A
Cooperation	Sienna 3L
Responsibility	Kelsey 6P

March 15<sup>th</sup>:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Bryan 3D Aditty 5P
Cooperation	Harry & Joseph 4O
Kindness	Ella 4O

March 22<sup>nd</sup>:

Value	Role Model
Aspiration	Brooke & Leo 5H, Riley & Layla 6A, Callum & Lily 6P
Cooperation	Jeremiah 3L, Lacie 4A
Kindness	Nathan 3D, Easa 3L, Alisters 5H
Responsibility	Miley 4O, Esther 6P

### Golden Award Winners

**3 Draco:** Cerys, Sophia, Jacoby, Jorgie

**4 Aquila:** Darya, Reilly, Joseph, Evah

**5 Hercules:** Zain, Ghavan, Lucy, Dylan

**6 Andromeda:** Reece, Jessica A, Charlie, Riley

**3 Lyra:** Emiliana, Bilal, Abbie, Haris

**4 Orion:** Aiden, Miley, Evelyn, Evie-Rae

**5 Perseus:** Olivia, Rashid, Arthur, Sheldon

**6 Pegasus:** Jordi, Kaya, Madu, Lilly M



### 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 March

Y3: Leyla, Alex, Jasmine, Aoibheann

Y4: Louie, Jude, Rio, Ugo

#### 11th March

Y5: Sanehpreet, Holly, Spencer, Lillie-Rose

Y6: Elsa, Layla, Oliver M, Daniel



#### 18th March

Y3: Sophia, Dhriti, Paige, Dzifa

Y4: Aiden, Isla D, Darya, Riley

#### 25th March

Y5: Jenson, Jason, Joe, Olivia

Y6: Emma, Charlie C, Anita, Sulman





## House points

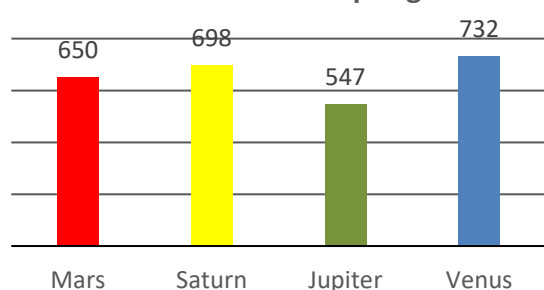
Points were counted at the end of term and these were the results.

**This half term:** Venus were champions

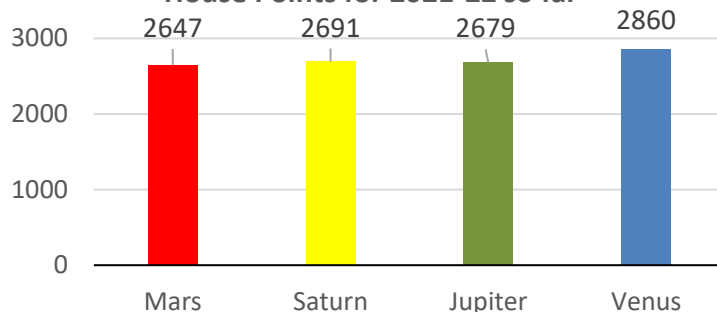


**Overall:** for 2021-22 so far - Venus have retaken the lead

House Points for Spring 2



House Points for 2021-22 so far



## Athletes of the half term - Spring II

Year	Athlete	Reason
Year 3	Jack	For working well with others and applying his skills to confidently send and receive the ball.
	Jasmine	For being able to work as part of a small group agreeing on an order and take turns to send and receive a ball using different skills.
Year 4	Yousaf	For being able to dribble with both feet by using different parts of each foot to move the football.
	Amillie	For showing great skills in dribbling and shooting, as well as showing good awareness in football.
Year 5	Wissam	For excellent sportsmanship and effort. Wissam always tries his best in PE and makes an effort to encourage and help others around him.
	Olivia	For her excellent effort in all aspects of PE. Olivia tries her best in every lesson and you can see her confidence increasing.
Year 6	Jess D	For being able to perform a combination of skills confidently in different settings.
	Madu	For showing great physical skills in order to perform a range of movements in team games.

## Once in a dream poets

After their workshop with poet John Mole, Year 3 children wrote their own 'Once in a dream' poems.

These poets, pictured in the head teacher's office were chosen to read their wonderful poems to Mr Hunt.







## Someries Junior School

### Updated 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.

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)

<b>April</b>	
Mon 25 April <i>*New event*</i>	NED Growth Mindset Assembly and yo-yo sale
Mon 25 – Fri 29 April	Yo-yo sale in the study 3:15pm-3:40pm
<b>May</b>	
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	Year 4 History trip to Ufton Court (£22.50)
Wed 18 May	Young Voices choir concert
w/c 23 May	4 Orion class video (recorded for parents & carers)
w/c 23 May <i>*New event*</i>	International week <i>including Platinum Jubilee Celebrations</i>
w/c 30 May	Half Term
<b>June</b>	
w/c 6 June	RE week
Wed 8 June	Class photographs – full uniform required (PE kit in a named bag where appropriate)
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)
Mon 13 June <i>*New event*</i>	Eco Day
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 (pm)	Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform
w/c 20 June	Sports week including daily mile
<b>July</b>	
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 1:15/1:20pm

### 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.

<b>Autumn Term 2022</b>	<b>Spring Term 2023</b>	<b>Summer Term 2023</b>
<b>Start of Term:</b> Monday 5 September	<b>Start of Term:</b> Wednesday 4 January	<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 18 April
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 24 to 28 October	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 13 to 17 February	<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 1 May
<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 16 December*	<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 31 March	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 29 May to 2 June
* autumn and summer terms end at 1:15pm		<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 21 July*

### Start and end times

(Children should arrive no more than 5 minutes before their start time and no children should be onsite before 8:35am)

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