



★ December Monthly Newsletter ★

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Head Teacher's Comment

The current half term has been a long one yet, with so many special activities happening, it seems to have flown by! In this issue you can see highlights from the many events that took place in November, in the classroom, in the hall, on the playground and at various sport venues across town.

Working Collectively

A personal highlight for me this half term was seeing so many parents, carers, grandparents, sisters, uncles, ... joining the children for their various workshop events – Maths Games Workshops for Years 3, 5 and 6, and a Hat Making Workshop for Year 4. The children love working on projects together with their families, and judging by their comments, the family helpers love it too! We also look forward to hosting plays and concerts live in our hall rather than on video.

You can see in this issue that the children have hosted visits from our governors and our local MP. They have also enjoyed working together in our first House Forum since the pandemic and having fun in Maths Week.

Helping others

Our children have been helping others through charity events such as the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need Day. We are aware that the current situation is proving difficult for many local families. If you find that you are struggling as a family to cope with rising living costs, you can get in touch with Mr Finch our family worker who can discreetly help you with food and clothing as well as direct you to other sources of help.

As we come to the end of term, I wish you a wonderful Christmas time as a family and a restful break. And I look forward to following the children's achievements in 2023!

Mr Hunt



Inside: Maths Week Hat Making Games Workshops Governors Visit Day
MP Visit Sports Railway & Art Clubs House Forum Children in Need



Get the latest news on
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School briefing for parents and carers

Helping children with their reading - volunteers wanted!

Reading is key to success in school and we seek to support all children to develop their independent reading skills. To help them with this, it is useful for them to read to an adult regularly. If you would like to volunteer to help children in this way on a regular basis, please contact the school office to let them know and we will get back to you. Once we arrange times and dates, we will also provide some introductory training so that you feel confident in how to help the children. (You will also be required to undertake a DBS background check.)

We are particularly seeking extra help with Year 3 but all years may benefit from this support.

This type of volunteering may also help you find out if working in a school is something you might like to do more of in the future - it is just how some of our teaching assistants got started!



Unwanted gifts? - Please keep for Mother's Day and Father's Day sales!



Later in the year, School Council hope to run their annual Mother's Day and Father's Day gift sales from gifts donated for the occasion. These sales raise money for the children to improve their school experience and also provide children with a chance to choose a nicely wrapped gift for someone in their family.

So if you receive any unwanted gifts that would be suitable for their sales please do save them for those events! (In the past, money raised by School Council has funded the outdoor gym and some of the goals on the field.)

Coming up in January (events for parents and carers in blue)

Please see full calendar at the end of this newsletter

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| • Wed 4 January | Term begins |
| • Thurs 12 January | Skipbeatz skipping day with world record holder (children to wear PE kit) |
| • Fri 13 January | Year 3 'Wear blue for a loo' (for a contribution) |
| • Wed 18 January | 5 Hercules class assembly - parents and carers invited (9:00am) |
| • Wed 18 Jan <i>*New date*</i> | Year 5 & 6 to visit Queen Elizabeth School panto |
| • Wed 18 January | Flu immunisations - catch-up date (please request a permission form) |
| • Tues 24 January | Year 4 pop-up café - parents and carers invited (9:15am) |
| • Fri 27 January | Year 6 bridge building and architecture workshop |

Poppy Sales

Through their sale of poppies and related merchandise, the children raised over £250 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We would like to thank our team of pupil poppy sellers for their work and our office team for organising this.



Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal

To Somerles Junior School

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

You raised an amazing amount of £251.02

In total Luton Schools raised a whopping £18,771.85



Someries Clubs

Model Railway Club

Members of our newest club have been working together to create a detailed layout as a setting for their railway. Mr Robinson has been helping the team add texture to their board and make buildings to add features to the layout. We look forward to seeing how this develops over the year!



Art Club

Our Art Club entered a Christmas tree into the St Francis' Church Christmas Tree Festival. They created their own decorations, opting for paper ones to make their tree more eco-friendly.

Art Club and Model Railway Club are just two of the twelve clubs available to children before or after school. You can find the full list on our [website](#). Booking is open for next term.



Community Links - a visit from our MP

On Monday 28th November, our local member of parliament, Rachel Hopkins, visited the school to meet the pupils and explain what MPs do. This was linked to November's *Parliament Week*.

Answering School Council's questions

In assembly, Ms Hopkins answered questions from our school councillors. They had prepared their questions in advance, asking Ms Hopkins how she got interested in politics as a young person, what she did as an MP at the House of Commons and what she has done for Luton. She gave detailed answers about how she works with other MPs, including those from other parties, to secure improvements for the local area. Some children also raised issues about some problem areas in the local environment and, following her visit, Ms Hopkins has worked with local councillors to get those areas improved.



Touring the School



After the assembly, our head girl and head boy gave Ms Hopkins a tour of the school so that she could visit the classes and see them at work.

In a letter she sent after the visit, Ms Hopkins commented on how much she enjoyed the tour and speaking to the pupils. She said that the School Council had some very interesting and thoughtful questions and she was pleased to see the pupils engaged in democracy and participation.

Highlights from November & December



House Forum - developing our speaking and listening.

In a termly *house forum*, children work together with others from their house rather than their class, including children from a different year group. In our first post-Covid house forum on 10th November, children from each house in Year 3 and 4 worked together, as did Year 5 and 6. Based on a Danger Mouse theme, the children took part in a number of group games and activities that involved describing and explaining. These activities were designed to help the children listen carefully and speak with confidence.



Jupiter House



Mars House



Saturn House



Venus House



Governor Visit Day

Over the last year, a number of new governors have joined our governing body and this new team got to know the school on their Governor Visit Day on 15th November. On this day, the governors had tours of the school with our head pupils and saw the school in action. They joined pupils for a school lunch in the Someries Diner and listened to children's views of the school. They also learned more about their role in helping the school move forward from its current strong position.



We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you would like to support the school in this way, please contact the school office for more information and an application form.

Year 4 Hat Making

In Design and Technology (DT) lessons, Year 4 had been designing hats. When it came to bringing their designs to life, it required lots of help so we were pleased to see so many family members turn up for their hat making workshop at the end of November.



There were a wonderful array of designs on display at the end!



Children in Need day

On the last day of November, children raised £245 from their non-uniform day





Maths Week – an introduction

In November, our pupils at Someries participated in Maths Week! Each year group enjoyed learning about maths in different subjects and in different ways. There was lots of time to investigate important mathematicians, as well as use maths in Art, Science, English, PE and more. The highlight for the pupils was the visit from The Happy Puzzle Company, who came in and did workshops with each year group – challenging the pupils to solve tricky puzzles and work together as a team, showing resilience and co-operation!

It was also wonderful to see so many parents and carers in school that week, as we enjoyed creating Maths games and having the opportunity to play them as well. Teamwork, creativity and communication were skills the pupils used to make innovative and fun games. It was a morning enjoyed by all! Maths Week has again been a highlight of the term and has given the pupils an opportunity to enjoy Maths and see its application across so many areas of life.

Mrs Barton Maths Leader

Class activities

In Maths Week, we made Top Trumps Cards about endangered animals. We looked at the most endangered animals on the laptops. One of the most endangered animals is an elephant. The elephant population is dropping day by day. The internet says that if the population keeps dropping, all elephants will be gone by 2030. I really enjoyed it, as it was really interesting. It was a fun way to link Maths and Science. Jack - Year 4



In Maths Week, we created a poster about Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi because he was a mathematician. He was a Muslim and he made up numerals like 1, 2, 3, 4 ... He is known as the Father of Algebra. I enjoyed finding out about him. Noa - Year 4



On Friday, we made Peppermint Creams. First, we looked at the ingredients we needed, icing sugar, condensed milk and peppermint essence. We used weighing scales to measure the condensed milk. We had to make a dough and split it equally. Then we had to flatten them in to sweets. We left them in the fridge for two hours. It was so much fun making them! I loved Maths Week! Elena - Year 3



Normally I am not a fan of Maths, but Maths Week was really fun. One of my favourite activities was creating a tessellation. You had to draw a shape on paper and cover the whole sheet with no gaps. Then we coloured it in. I had a great time with all the activities and I wish we could do more. I loved Maths Week! Millie - Year 5

Maths Week Homeworks

Just a few of the imaginative homework ideas that children worked on for Maths Week.





Happy Puzzle Company

On Wednesday, the Happy Puzzle Company came in and I played three games. One was a penguin game when you have a wobbly iceberg and we needed to put the penguins on the iceberg without letting them fall off. The second game was when you had road pieces and you had to make a big road out of them. The third game was when you had lots of shapes and you had to put them in a grid. Some of the games were hard but so much fun at the same time! Ben - Year 3



In Maths Week, we did lots of fun activities including making games with parents, carers and friends, so that we could play them during indoor break. We also had a workshop with the Happy Puzzle Company and we worked together in teams to solve puzzles. We had to use co-operation and teamwork. One of the challenges was to use one of your pinkies and someone else's to pick up and balance a small, toy plastic figure of a penguin and balance it on a plastic, wobbly board. Many groups (including mine) got frustrated with some of the activities and we had to try many different ways to solve the puzzles until they worked. It took patience and tested our teamwork. Amillie - Year 5

In Maths Week, I became a lot more confident in Maths. This is because we did so many activities that were fun and which we had not done before. The best thing for me was when the Happy Puzzle Company came in. They made us use our brain to solve puzzles! We had to be co-operative in our groups and it was loads of fun! Daniel - Year 6



Maths Games Workshops

For Years 3, 5 and 6, we hosted workshops in the hall where children could work on designing a maths game with support from their families. Thank you to all the family members who turned up to support the event and make it such a fun morning for the children!



Somerles Sport

Indoor athletics at Inspire

On 9th November, our Year 3 and 4 team took part in the competitive indoor athletics event at the Inspire sports hall along with seven other local schools. With so many children in the hall, it was a noisy affair! However, our team seemed to have enjoyed taking part even though they did not make it through to the next round.



Athletes' reports

At the sport event it was really loud and it was really energetic and competitive. I really enjoyed the relay and I was super happy that I went to the sport event and I don't care where we came - Leo

I liked athletics sports because I really enjoyed it because I really like sports. The first race for girls was 1x4 relay. Somerles was Heat 2 and it was very tiring. There were 8 schools there like Wigmore and Ramridge. There were field races and track events there. If you came somewhere in the top four you would go to one linked to this one in January 2023. But we came 7th out of 8 schools. We can't go in January but it was good because it was just for fun. I wasn't very sad - Noa

At the sports hall event at Inspire it was really loud and energetic. There was a series of events including a relay race, obstacle race, chest push, hurdles and much, much more. In the events I did, I got 1st in the hurdles, 2nd in the boys relay x4. Unfortunately we came 7th out of 8 schools. I really, really enjoyed the event and I was elated when I won and the Year 3 won - Jack

Girls Football Match v Stopsley Primary

The girls team have twice had their football tournament postponed due to rain. They finally got to play a game on 10th November after school at Stopsley Primary. In the failing autumn light, the two teams played a competitive game with the Somerles team eventually winning 3-2.



Team report

The happy and nervous football team left Somerles School and walked to Stopsley Primary with Mr Prue and Mrs Awan.

The girls were taking it slow and careful for part of the first quarter but out of nowhere, Lily scored the first goal in the bottom left corner. The second quarter was the most energetic play. Stopsley scored a skilful goal, but then Lily took a fantastic corner. Brooke made a pass to Ava who scored the second goal for Somerles (even after she slipped over in the mud). Amarachi did some brilliant passing and Maja started really kicking into it with some fantastic saves in goal and great tackling. After some very good football, the other team got their second goal. Somerles were determined to win so Mr Prue put Amarachi and Maja in defence with Brooke in goal. Cerys, Bella-Mae and Evie Rae played some fantastic football with Amelie doing some freestyle skills.

Sportability

Our Year 5 and 6 team took part in this event at Inspire on 16th November. Unlike other tournaments, children attending a Sportability event do not know the sports they will be playing! At the event they tested their ability against a range of new sports such as curling skittles, indoor golf and blindfolded goalball. The team seemed to enjoy taking part - and were proud of the medals that they earned.



Dodgeball tournament

Dodgeball is a very popular sport here - both for PE lessons and as an after school club. Two teams of excited Year 5 and 6 dodgeballers represented the Someries Juniors at a tournament at Inspire on 30th November. The teams seemed to enjoy themselves and one team returned home as bronze medal winners.



November Awards

Values Role Models

| Value | Role Model Badge Winners |
|-----------------------|--|
| Aspiration | Phoebe, Charlie 3D, Ghali 3L, Joshua 4A Ella 5H, Isla P 5P, Lucy, Adiyen 6A |
| Cooperation | Chloe 3L, Jihane, Scarlett, Ali 5P, Kayaan 5H |
| Kindness | Daniel 3L, Noa 4A, Jai 4O, Darby 5H |
| Respect | Simran 3L, Ewan 3D |
| Responsibility | Ryan K, Jacob, Elena 3D, Alexandru 3L Sienna 4O, Alex 4A, Zain, Charlie, Declan 6A, Joe 6P |

Golden Table Winners



Somerles Junior School Calendar of Events 2022-23



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, 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.

Events which parents and carers may attend are in blue. If you have any questions regarding an event then please contact our school office.

2023

w/c = week commencing

| January | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Tue 3 Jan | Training Day – school closed to pupils |
| Wed 4 January | <i>Term begins</i> RE week |
| Thurs 12 January | Skipbeatz skipping day with world record holder (all children to wear PE kit) |
| Fri 13 January | Year 3 'Wear blue for a loo' (for a contribution) |
| Tues 17 Jan *New date* | Year 6 music afternoon performance (2:45pm) |
| Wed 18 January | 5 Hercules class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am) |
| Wed 18 Jan <i>*New date*</i> | Year 5 & 6 to visit Queen Elizabeth School panto |
| Wed 18 January | Flu immunisations – catch-up date |
| Tues 24 January | Year 4 pop-up café – parents and carers invited (9:15am) |
| Fri 27 January | Year 6 bridge building and architecture workshop |
| February | |
| Wed 1 February | 5 Perseus class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am) |
| Fri 3 Feb *New event* | Coffee morning with Claire from CAMHS and Mr Finch (9:00am) |
| Tue 7 February | Safer Internet Day |
| Tue 7 February | Young Voices (Choir) - Wembley Arena |
| w/c 6 February | Practice SATS for Year 6 |
| Mon 13 February | Half term holiday |
| w/c 20 February | RE week |
| March | |
| Thurs 2 March | World Book Day (dress as a book character) |
| Wed 8 March | 9am: 3 Lyra class assembly – parents and carers invited |
| Fri 10 Mar <i>*New event*</i> | Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale |
| w/c 13 March | Science Week |
| Mon 13 Mar <i>*New event*</i> | Mother's day gift sale at morning break (£2 or £5 in named envelope) |
| Tues 14 March | Year 5 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am) |
| Wed 15 March | Year 3 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am) |
| Thurs 16 March | Year 4 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am) |
| Fri 17 March | Year 6 Science Week activity with parents and carers (9:00am) |
| w/c Mon 20 March | Parents evenings – details to follow |
| Wed 29 March | Year 4 play (6:00pm children arrive for a 6:30pm performance) |
| April | |
| Mon 3 to Fri 14 April | Easter Holiday |
| Mon 17 April | Training day – school closed |
| Tues 18 April | <i>Term begins</i> |
| Fri 21 April | St Georges Day – scouts/brownies/brigade etc. uniforms may be worn |
| w/c 24 April | Year 4 Ufton Court trip (cost to follow) |
| May | |
| Mon 1 May | Bank holiday – school closed |
| Wed 10 May | 3 Draco class assembly – parents and carers invited (9:00am) |
| Mon 8 May | Bank holiday – King's coronation |
| w/c 8 May | SATS week – no appointments or leave of absence for Year 6 |
| w/c 22 May | International week - details to follow |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Wed 24 May | 4 Orion class assembly - parents & carers invited (9:00am) |
| w/c 29 May | Half Term (school restarts on Monday 5 June) |
| June | |
| w/c 5 June | RE week |
| Wed 7 June | Class photographs – full uniform required (PE kit in a named bag where appropriate) |
| Fri 9 June <i>*New event*</i> | Non-uniform day in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult male) |
| Wed 14 June | Year 4 Viking Day “A Day in the Dark Ages” |
| Thur 15 June <i>*New event*</i> | Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Fathers’ Day - £2 (in named envelope) |
| Wed 21 June | 4 Aquila class assembly - parents & carers invited (9:00am) |
| Mon 19 June | New Year 3 intake information meeting after school |
| Mon 19 June (from 2pm) | Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform |
| Fri 23 June | Years 3-6 reports go home |
| July | |
| Sat 1 July | Golden Jubilee Fair for the school community, past and present |
| Mon 3 July | Parent book looks (a chance to see your child’s work) – 3:30pm-4:00pm |
| Wed 5 July | Year 6 leavers performance (Children arrive 6.00pm for a 6:30pm performance) |
| Thur 6 July | Move up morning (Infants to Y3; Y3, Y4, Y5 to their new classes; Y6 to high school) |
| Fri 7 July | Year 5 guitar afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed) |
| w/c Mon 10 July | Year 6 SATS results go home (date to be confirmed) |
| w/c Mon 10 July | Sports week including daily mile |
| Weds 12 July <i>*New date*</i> | Year 3 afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed) |
| Thurs 13 July <i>*New date*</i> | Year 4 ukulele afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed) |
| Fri 14 July | Sports day - parents invited. Times 1:00-3:00pm |
| Fri 14 July | Family Rounders after school |
| Thurs 13 July | 5:00 - 6:15pm Year 3-5 disco & 7:00-8:30pm Year 6 disco |
| Tues 18 July <i>*New date*</i> | Year 6 drumming afternoon music performance (time to be confirmed) |
| Fri 21 July | School closes at 1:30pm |

Next year: Term Dates for 2023-24

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 2023 | Spring Term 2024 | Summer Term 2024 |
|--|---|---|
| Start of Term: Tuesday 5 September | Start of Term: Thursday 4 January | Start of Term: Tuesday 16 April |
| Half Term Holiday: 23 to 27 October | Half Term Holiday: 19 to 23 February | May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May |
| End of Term: Tuesday 19 December | End of Term: Thursday 28 March | Half Term Holiday: 27 to 31 May |
| | | End of Term: Friday 19 July* |
| | | *Summer terms end at 1:30pm |