



# Somerles Junior School

Achieving Excellence Together



# January Monthly Newsletter

**Date:** January 2024

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## Head Teacher's Comment

2024

The children have made an excellent start to the new year following their holidays. It has not been an easy start for some classes as there have been a number of teachers off due to illness. I have been very impressed with how well these classes have coped with different staff teaching them. All the cover teachers have commented on how well the children have worked and how polite and helpful they have been. They have also commented on how friendly the school is and how much they enjoyed being with us.

We have welcomed a new teacher this term: Mrs Phillips is teaching 5 Hercules along with Mrs Ball.

### Christmas celebrations

December was a busy time for us with Christmas events and celebrations and you can read about all the events, concerts and plays in this newsletter. I have enjoyed looking back at the plays from Years 3 and 5 which were both great productions with high-quality, enthusiastic performances from the children.

### International week

There is plenty planned for this half term. We will soon be hosting parents evening and asking parents and carers to complete this year's survey. Some feedback from last year's survey indicated that there were lots of events close together in the summer and so we have brought forward some events. This includes International Week, a highlight of the Somerles Juniors year, which will take place in the week of 29 January. More details will follow and we hope to see many of you at the parents and carers events (9:15am – 11am):

• Year 6: Tue 30 January • Year 5: Wed 31 January • Year 3: Thur 1 February • Year 4: Fri 2 February

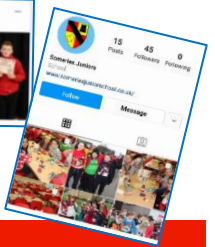
I was reminded by the very high turnout at concerts, plays and workshops last term, how well supported our children are by their parents and carers. This support helps them value their learning and contributes to their progress. We would like to thank you for this support and we look forward to seeing you at this term's events!

Mr Hunt



**Inside:** Hat Parade Year 3 nativity play Year 5 Christmas play  
Townwide School Council Music concerts Panto  
Christmas dinner Santa Dash Christmas jumpers Party time!

Get the news faster on  
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## School briefing for parents and carers

### 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.

If you received any unwanted gifts that would be suitable for their sales, please save them for those events!



### Coming up in in this half term (events for parents and carers in blue)

- Mon 15 January Parents evening – onsite (3:45pm – 6:00pm) [except 5H]
- Wed 17 January Parents evening – onsite (6:00pm – 7:50pm) [except 5H]
- Thu 25 Jan **\*New Event\*** Resilience and self-esteem workshop with Claire Scott (CAMHS) – parents/carers invited (9:00am – 10:30am & 6:30pm – 8:00pm)
- Fri 26 January Parent coffee morning (9:00am) – parents and carers invited
- w/c 29 January International week
- Mon 29 Jan International week dance workshops – all children to wear PE kit
- Tue 30 January Year 6 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) with parents & carers
- Wed 31 January Year 5 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) with parents & carers
- Thur 1 February Year 3 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) with parents & carers
- Fri 2 February Year 4 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) with parents & carers
- Fri 2 February Choir trip to Young Voices, Wembley Arena
- Mon 5 Feb Year 5 bread making with Aspens (school caterers)
- Tue 6 February Safer internet day
- Wed 7 Feb **\*New date\*** 5 Perseus class assembly 9:00am – 5P parents and carers invited  
(5 Hercules assembly is now on Tuesday 5 March)
- w/c 12 February Practice SATS for Year 6
- Thur 15 February Year 4 Pop-up Café – Year 4 parents and carers invited (10am – 11am)

*please see full calendar at the end of this newsletter*

### Winter Weather Clothing

It has been good to see so many children wrapped up warm and well prepared for the cold weather. If you find that due to current circumstances, you are struggling to get a warm coat or new shoes for your child, please do contact Mr Finch, our family worker, via the school office. He may be able to help with winter coat, hat and gloves or school shoes vouchers.



### Self-Esteem and Resilience Workshop – 25th January, morning or evening

Mr Finch and Miss Awan have set up this workshop for parents. Following the response to our autumn access survey, where some parents let us know that they are not able to make events in the school day, there is an evening option for the event. You can book a place [here](https://bit.ly/SJSSelfEsteem250124):

[bit.ly/SJSSelfEsteem250124](https://bit.ly/SJSSelfEsteem250124)

#### Self-esteem and Resilience Workshop

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (9:00am-10:30 am or 6:30pm-8pm)

Facilitated by Claire Scott – CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)

with Miss Awan and Mr Finch

Parents are invited to attend a workshop focussed on children's self-esteem and resilience

- What is self-esteem and resilience?
- How self-esteem and resilience can affect children
- Share strategies and advice to support your child's self-esteem and resilience
- A chance to discuss any issues you are having with your child

### Coffee Morning with Claire from CAMHS – Friday 26 January

In addition to the event above, we are running monthly coffee mornings with Claire from CAMHS and our pastoral team (Mr Finch and Miss Awan). The next informal coffee morning for parents and carers is on Friday 26 January at 9:00am until 11:00am with a focus on **bedtime and sleeping** and how to provide support for you and your child. You can book a place here: [bit.ly/SJSCoffee260124](https://bit.ly/SJSCoffee260124)

# Highlights from December

## Hat Parade

In November, Year 4 children had a great time making hats with family members in the hat making workshop. The hats were so good that they needed to be seen by a wider audience and so, in December, the children paraded their hats to the Year 3 classes on the 'hatwalk' in assembly. We hope that the Year 3 children were inspired by what they saw as it will be their turn next year.



## Outdoor Science

To learn about how sound travels, Year 4 children headed outside with their trundle wheels, notebooks and iPads. They carried out some experiments on the school field to record how long it took sound to cover certain distances.



## Chanukkah Assembly

On 4th December, Mrs Green led an assembly on the Jewish festival of Chanukkah (or Hanukkah). She explained the story behind the festival and showed how Jewish families mark the event with a special game (dreidel) and with special sets of candles.



# Christmas at Someries I

## Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day - with a dash of Santa!

December 13<sup>th</sup> was our Christmas Dinner day and we combined this with an option to join in with Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day to help raise money while enjoying some festive fun. This was the first Christmas dinner with our new caterers, Aspens, and the children told us how much they enjoyed the excellent food. There were party hats and drinks on the tables for all the children - both school dinners and packed lunches - and there was Christmas music to help with the festive atmosphere.

To balance all the feasting, we added some exercise to the day, with Mr Maddock organising a Santa Dash. For this, the children completed as many laps they could of a course around the playground in their time slot. (Sadly, the cold weather prevented some classes from going out for their afternoon slots.)

It was a fun day and the children raised £183 for the Save the Children!

### Christmas Dinner



### Santa Dash



## Christmas at Someries II

### Christmas Jumpers



### Christmas Assembly

For our Christmas assembly on the last Monday of term, Reverend Josias from St Francis Church came to talk to the children about what Christmas means to Christians. He used a Christingle to show us how Christmas reminds us of Gold's love for the world, of his gifts to us and of Jesus, called 'the light of the world'.



### Christmas Panto

We were pleased to be invited once more to the Queen Elizabeth School panto, '*Cinderella...or is it?*' Year 5 and 6 children walked to QES with their teachers and enjoyed the new twist on a favourite old panto story. It was great to see some ex-Somerics pupils taking part in the show.



## Christmas at Someries III

### "Bethlehem B&B" - Year 3 Nativity Play

Year 3 gave two great performances of their nativity play - one to the children in school and one to families in the evening. For a first junior school performance, they were surprisingly confident, speaking their lines clearly and singing with great enthusiasm. It was great to see them enjoying themselves while they played their roles on stage.

The play focussed on Bethlehem's smallest inn, The Happy Donkey, that was suffering from unfair treatment by rival innkeeper until, one magical, starry night, The Happy Donkey became THE place to be in town, as a stream of important visitors arrived!

Our congratulations go to the children and their team of staff- Miss Sadaq, Miss Perini, Mrs Cresswell-Bayliss, Mrs Bloxham, Miss Cattermole, Mrs Cox and their helpers - for such a good production.



### Year 5 Christmas Play - "Mr Humbug Sees the Light"

For their Christmas play, Year 5 put on a show based on A Christmas Carol, set in a school and with Mr Humbug as a Scrooge-like head teacher. Mr Humbug is visited by the spirits of Christmas past, present and future, and 'sees the light' in time to save himself and Christmas!



This was a high-quality show with great performances from the children. We would like to thank the Year 5 team for their great work in putting on this show - Mrs Ball, Mrs Belizaire, Mrs Bredenkamp, Mrs Whiting, Miss Pinto and Mrs Cox. The children were justly proud of their work!

### Party time

On the final day, children enjoyed Christmas crafts and class Christmas parties.



## Town-wide School Council

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, some of our school councillors went with Mr Hunt to the University of Bedfordshire in the town centre. They took part in a "School Council Conference" where children from Luton schools were invited to give the views of children to town council leaders to help the council develop Luton into a 'Child Friendly Town'. Our councillors worked with children from other schools to decide what they wanted less of in Luton, and what they wanted to see developed in the town. Mr Hunt was very proud of our representatives, particularly Jamie who presented the results of his table's discussion to children and teachers from other groups

**Event report 1:** In December, three school councillors went to Luton University. I went with Amelia and Malek. We drove in a minibus to the university. When we got there somebody was waiting for us to take us to the main area. After that we went to a massive room and sat down on our seats. Then the workers introduced themselves to us and told us what we would be doing around the university. After that, we had a break where we could get drinks, bananas, oranges and more. Then we went to a classroom to do different activities.

The first activity that we did was a 'world cup' and they did it to see what you want more of in our town. The second one was that we had three angry stickers and we had to put them on pages with different problems. The ones that had most stickers were crime, then homelessness, then drug taking.

After that, we had a discussion around the table and said what we should do more of. We chose safer crossings and wider roads. Then we chose one person on the table to stay with an adult and discuss it with other tables. Then we went back to the massive room where each group talked about our ideas. When we were about to leave they gave every child a bag with lots of stuff inside which was very nice of them. *Jamie 5H*



### Event report 2 :

We took a bus into town and went to the Bedfordshire University. Then we went into a big room with lots of chairs. Then we had a break. Then we split into groups. We discussed what we like about Luton and what we do not like about Luton, then we shared our ideas with other groups. *Amelia 3D*

## Music - End-of-term Performances

Every class here benefits from weekly lessons from Luton Music Mix. Each child learns on an individual instrument. In December, we witnessed the progress of the children in Years 4 and 6 at their end-of-term concerts. (Years 3 and 5 will perform in March and all year groups will have a summer term concert)

### Year 4 pBones

The Year 4 classes are the first Someries children to learn to play pBones - plastic trombones. It can be a tricky instrument to learn, but after just a dozen lessons, the children had progressed enough to put on a concert with their new instruments. They impressed us with their timing and sound quality.



### Year 6 Djembe Drums

Both Year 6 classes performed on the Djembe drums parents for a large crowd of family members. They played several numbers on these African instruments and some of these involved individual pupils playing rhythms for the others to follow. It was great to see how they worked together on this.



We would like to thank the music teachers, Mrs Carew (Year 4) and Mrs Norman (Year 6) for enabling the children to make such good progress and to perform so well together.

If you would like your child to have instrument lessons to develop their talents further, please contact the Luton Music Service on 01582 548685.

## December Awards

### Values Role Models

December 5<sup>th</sup>:

Value	Role Model Badge Winners
Aspiration	Khadija, Zakaria 4O Natayah 6P
Respect	Quinn 6P
Responsibility	Hamza 6P
Tolerance	Maria 6P

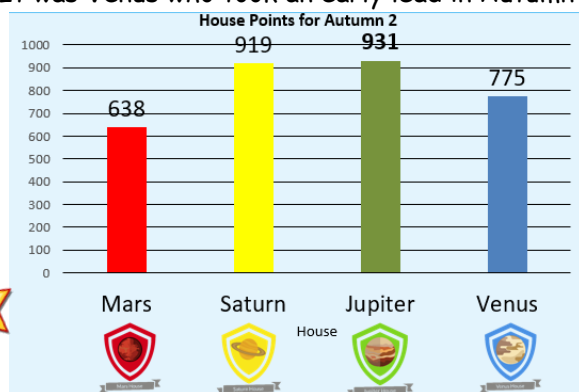
### Golden Table Winners

Congratulations to our Golden Table winners!



### House Point Competition

It was Venus who took an early lead in Autumn 1 but in Autumn 2, Jupiter improved dramatically to win.



### Athletes of the Half Term - Autumn 2

Year 3

**Hanain** - Hanain shows excellent teamwork skills in her lessons and is extremely helpful to her teacher.

**Thomas** - Thomas stands out by giving 100% to every lesson and has an excellent growth mindset

Year 4

**Charlie & Matilda** - For showing excellent teamwork and participation in their hockey lessons with Mr Freeman.

Year 5

**Jai & Jacoby** - For showing excellent teamwork and participation in their hockey lessons with Mr Freeman.

Year 6

**Evie** - Evie is extremely helpful during PE lessons, often offering to set out or collect up equipment. She also shows excellent leadership skills in our lessons.

**Harry** - Harry is an excellent role model to the rest of the class and has shown great leadership and teamwork during our PE lessons this term.



## Somerles Junior School Calendar of Events 2023-24



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.

**2024**

*\*Changes are highlighted in red\** w/c = week commencing

<b>January</b>	
Mon 15 January	Parents evening – onsite (3:45pm - 6:00pm)
Wed 17 January	Parents evening – onsite (6:00pm - 7:50pm)
Thu 25 Jan <i>*New Event*</i>	Resilience and self-esteem workshop with Claire Scott (CAMHS) - parents/carers invited (9:00am - 10:30am & 6:30pm - 8:00pm)
Fri 26 January	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
w/c 29 January	International week
Mon 29 Jan	International week dance workshops – children to wear PE kit all day
Tue 30 January	Year 6 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Wed 31 January	Year 5 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
<b>February</b>	
Thur 1 February	Year 3 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 2 February	Year 4 International week morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 2 February	Choir trip to Young Voices, Wembley Arena
Mon 5 Feb	Year 5 bread making with Aspens (school caterers)
Tue 6 February	Safer internet day
Wed 7 Feb <i>*New date*</i>	5 Perseus class assembly 9:00am – 5P parents and carers invited
w/c 12 February	Practice SATS for Year 6
Thur 15 February	Year 4 Pop-up Café – Year 4 parents and carers invited (10am – 11am)
<b>19 – 23 February</b>	<b>Half term holiday</b>
<b>March</b>	
Fri 1 March	Non-uniform day – in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for Mother's Day Sale
Tues 5 March <i>*New date*</i>	5 Hercules class assembly 9:00am – 5H parents and carers invited
Wed 6 March	Mothers day gift sale at morning break (£2 or £5 in named envelope)
Thur 7 March	World Book Day (dress as a book character)
Fri 8 March	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
w/c 11 March	Science Week
Tue 12 March	Year 3 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Wed 13 March	Year 5 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Thur 14 March	Year 6 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
Fri 15 March	Year 4 science morning (9:15-11:00am) – parents and carers invited
w/c 18 March	Year 5 bikeability training (Monday – Thursday)
Wed 20 March	6 Pegasus field work
Wed 20 March	Year 4 play (children arrive 6:00pm for 6:30pm performance) - parents and carers invited
Thu 21 March	6 Andromeda field work
Thu 21 March	Year 3 music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
Tue 26 Mar <i>*New Event*</i>	Year 5 rivers trip (cost to be advised)
Wed 27 March	3 Draco class assembly 9:00am – 3D parents and carers invited
Wed 27 March	Year 5 music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
Thur 28 March	Term finishes 3:20pm
<b>29 March – 12 April</b>	<b>Easter holiday</b>
<b>April</b>	
Mon 15 April	<i>Term begins</i>
Tue 23 April	St Georges Day – scouts/brownies/brigade etc. uniforms may be worn
<b>May</b>	
Wed 1 May	3 Lyra class assembly 9:00am – 3L parents and carers invited
<b>Mon 6 May</b>	<b>Bank holiday – school closed</b>
w/c 13 May	SATS week – no appointments or leave of absence for Year 6
13 May	Year 3 fruit workshop (morning) - children to bring a named plastic container

Tue 14 May	Year 3 Fairtrade day
Fri 17 May	Parent coffee morning (9:00am) - parents and carers invited
Wed 22 & Thu 23 May <i>*New date*</i>	Year 4 Raiders and Traders days
Thu 23 May <i>*New date*</i>	Year 5 RAF Hendon trip (cost to be advised) <i>[Provisional date]</i>
<b>27 – 31 May</b>	<b>Half term (school restarts on Tuesday 4 June)</b>
<b>June</b>	
<b>3 June</b>	<b>Training Day – school closed to pupils</b>
Tue 4 June	Term begins
w/c 4 June	Online sale of second-hand uniform - order form will be sent to order online
Date tbc (June)	Choir taking part in Singing Spectacular at Stopsley Baptist Church (children from 2:00pm; family & friends invited to the concert at 6:00pm)
Thur 6 June <i>*New date*</i>	Non-uniform day in exchange for donation of gifts suitable for adult male
Thur 13 June	Sale of wrapped gifts suitable for Fathers' Day - £2 (in named envelope)
Wed 19 June	Uniform supplier on site to sell uniform (2:00-3:20pm)
Wed 19 June	New Year 3 intake information meeting after school
Fri 21 June	Year 3 trip to St Albans
Wed 26 Jun	Year 3 field work
Fri 28 June	Years 3-6 reports go home
Fri 28 June	Parent coffee morning (9:00am)
<b>July</b>	
Mon 1 July	Parent book looks (a chance to see your child's work) – 3:30pm-4:00pm -
Wed 3 July	Year 6 leavers performance (Children arrive 6.00pm for a 6:30pm performance) -
Thu 4 July	Move up morning (Infants to Y3; Y3, Y4, Y5 to their new classes; Y6 to high school)
Fri 5 July	Year 4 afternoon music performance – parents and carers invited (2:40pm)
	Year 6 SATS results go home (date to be confirmed)
w/c Mon 8 July	Sports week including daily mile
Thu 11 July	Year 3 music performance (2:40pm) - parents and carers invited
Thu 11 July	Disco: 5:00 - 6:15pm Year 3-5 disco & 7:00-8:30pm Year 6 disco
Fri 12 July	Sports day – parents and carers invited. Provisional timing: 1:00pm-3:00pm
Fri 12 July	Family Rounders after school - parents and carers invited
(Mon 15 July)	(Reserve sports day)
w/c 15 July	End of year park trips (costs and details to be confirmed)
Tues 16 July	Year 6 music performance (2:40pm) - parents and carers invited
Weds 17 July	Year 5 music performance (2:40pm) - parents and carers invited
Fri 19 July	School closes at 1:30pm

## Term dates

### **This 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.

	<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	<b>Summer Term 2024</b>
	<b>Start of Term:</b> Thursday 4 January	<b>Start of Term:</b> Monday 15 April
	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 19 to 23 February	<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 6 May
	<b>End of Term:</b> Thursday 28 March	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 27 to 31 May
		<b>Training day</b> school closed: Mon 3 June
		<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 19 July*
		*Summer terms end at 1:30pm

### **Next year:** Term Dates for 2024-25

<b>Autumn Term 2024</b>	<b>Spring Term 2025</b>	<b>Summer Term 2025</b>
<b>Start of Term:</b> Wednesday 4 September	<b>Start of Term:</b> Tuesday 7 January	<b>Start of Term:</b> Wednesday 23 April
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 28 October – 1 November	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 17 to 21 February	<b>May Day Bank Holiday:</b> Monday 5 May
<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 20 December*	<b>End of Term:</b> Friday 4 April*	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> 26 to 30 May
		<b>Training day</b> school closed: Mon 2 June
		<b>End of Term:</b> Tuesday 22 July

\*Term ends on this date at 1:30pm