



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

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HARVEST FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY

Friday saw our three schools come together for our annual Harvest Assembly. We talked of how lucky we are to live in a country where food is plentiful and gave thanks for our blessings. We then turned our attention to this year's charity, Water Aid.

It comes a shock to some of our children that not everyone has access to fresh clean water at the simple turn of a tap. A short video showed us all too clearly the consequences of poor sanitation with one child dying every 20 seconds somewhere in the developing world as a direct result of illnesses attributed to a lack of clean water.

Many thanks to all the boys and girls for their generosity over the last few days and for those who forgot on Friday, we will keep the collection going for another two or three days.

I was especially pleased to see large numbers of children giving up their cake sale money to support Water Aid instead....thank you.

Mr C



Nursery children recently took advantage of the lovely weather and went for a walk to find our pond and go on the woodland walk. How lucky we are to have such wonderful resources here at Somerhill.

The Somerhill Christmas Card

You should have received a flyer for our very own Christmas Card in the last few days. An inspection copy can be viewed in Reception. Please get your order form back as soon as possible - supplies are limited!





We would have liked to have had some of last week's sun for our trip to the Tudor farm, but spirits were high and there were jobs aplenty to keep the Year 4 DL girls busy down on the farm. From soap making to bread making all were keen and interested in their introduction to Tudor life.



After their trip to the Natural History Museum, the Year One children were inspired to make model ammonites. Can you spot the real ones?

NORTHBROOK GIFT WRAP

Order forms for this have been circulated recently. Please make sure yours is returned by 4th November.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON AT COOMBE BANK SCHOOL

When we were told that we were going to see Sir Isaac Newton, I said to myself 'He can't be real!' and when he came in I said 'Phew, he's just an actor!' He did a big speech about himself and told us he was born on Christmas Day in 1642 making him 369 years old and 'died' in 1727. Newton was very clever but sadly he was bullied at school.

What impressed me about our visit to Coombe Bank School to see Sir Isaac Newton was the way he discovered how light and rain make a rainbow. I also liked the way the black rock disappeared as he halved the rectangles to find the area of an odd-shaped cloud. It was funny the way he stamped his foot and said p-p-p-plastic over and over again.

By Joe Wheeler and Tom Pincott 5D



The first of Reception's visits to Shipbourne Farmers' Market took place on 6th October. The children were very excited travelling in minibuses and luckily the rain held off so that they could enjoy looking at the different stalls and naming the various fruit and vegetables. The children spotted some of the letters we had been learning in the stall signs.

Great fun was had tasting different types of apples and apple juice. The boys and girls were also entertained by listening to a story and shown how to make an 'apple man' with cloves and acorns. More stalls could be found inside the church and the children were given some honey to bring back to school to taste in their sandwiches. It was a great morning, thoroughly enjoyed by all, and thanks must go to all at the market for making us so welcome.

SSPA GOLF DAY

This takes place this Friday 14 October and has spaces for more players — please contact Jane Tate if you would like to take part.



Merry Christmas!

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2011

Your children will be shortly be bringing home information on the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. This will be the 7th year we have supported this very worthwhile organisation. The idea is that we have fun putting gifts together in a shoe box for girls and boys to open on Christmas day. Last year we helped 167 children celebrate Christmas, which is fantastic. The leaflet has full instructions on what can and cannot be included in your box. Once filled please drop your box off with Claire Wilkes at the School Reception. The closing date for all donations is Wednesday 30th November. Thank you very much for your support.

Photography Day - The girls and boys of DL and YC had a great day taking photographs to enter the annual Photography Day competition. This year's categories include: Portrait, Landscape/Close-up, Action and Digitally enhanced. Thankfully the 'Indian Summer' just held on for us giving some of the best weather for several years. All entries, both YC and DL, need to be in before the start of our half-term break please.



On Thursday 6th October Year 5 girls departed 2011 and travelled back in time to the Victorian era. Dressed as applicants for the jobs of kitchen maid, house maid, 'oddman' and footman at Preston Manor in Brighton they learnt of the hard life of poor children looking to earn enough money to support their family. Authentic artefacts, superb characterisation and Victorian style packed lunches combined for an enriching learning experience.





Wellies at the ready!

Derwent Lodge Year Six girls spent a day at Horton Kirby for their geography field study of rivers. After comparing and admiring the amazing variety of wellie boot designs, the girls got down to the serious business of wading into the River Dart to measure flow speed and depth. A walk along the river bank gave the opportunity to observe meanders, identify the different types of land use and consider what factors are affecting the course of the river. It was a beautiful day and a successful trip for Year Six.... except perhaps for Megan, whose wellies had a serious leaking problem!



The Year 6 undertook much the same activities three days earlier. Wellies were not much discussed! Conditions were ideal for boys to enter the river and take a full part in the practical aspect and recording of the data. Having spent the morning in the 'field' we collated all of the results at the centre in the afternoon session and found that our records support the accepted theory that water is more erosive and flows quicker on the outside of a bend (meander) in the river.



Year 3 - 5 Beginners Swimming Club: This meets every Tuesday afternoon, apart from when there are Swimming Galas against other schools, and works at improving the boys' confidence and swimming skills in the pool.

Football Trophy Success
Yardley Court U9s were involved in our own soccer tournament last Saturday held in blistering heat. Eight schools took part and we were delighted to come out of our group unbeaten. This put us in the semi-finals against St Michael's where we won a tight game 1-0. We went on to play Shrewsbury House in the final and drew 0-0. With everyone so hot, both teams agreed to share the trophy—well played boys!
STOP PRESS.....We had a highly successful afternoon yesterday at the Thomas Trophy cross country event at Sevenoaks Prep. Boys from YC and girls from DL ran really strongly to record some excellent results. The boys won the overall trophy and there were some smashing individual results from all age categories in both schools. Pictures and a further report to follow.

Sports News



A moment from the recent Year 5 B match against New Beacon—YC emerged comfortable winners.

