



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue # 1, 26th September 2011

Welcome back! It's great to be back at school (yes, honestly!) and to see the children settling in so well. The holidays are already a receding memory but I hope that they were enjoyable and restful. Not so for our maintenance and ground-staff team here at Somerhill who, together with outside contractors, got an enormous amount of work done. We are delighted with the new pre-prep courtyard which is so wonderfully bouncy and puddle-free. We added additional features to the little ones' play area and fenced that off and it all looks very attractive. The Nursery had a makeover and we refurbished the toilet area below the main hall in the Mansion. An additional shed for the equipment that we use to keep the estate in fine order was installed on the lower terrace and regular maintenance of the astroturf undertaken. All was looking splendid when we welcomed a good number of parents and pupils to the 'Back To School Bash' and many outside visitors on Heritage Day the following day. Our planning application is in for the new traffic management scheme here at Somerhill and we should know early in October whether those works can go ahead—fingers crossed!

The academic year got off to an especially fast start for many boys and girls in Year Six who have already taken their 11+. Well done for working so hard in preparation for this and we all hope for good results when they become available just before half-term.

Could I remind you all, especially new parents, to keep eye on the school website (www.somerhill.org) for notices, copies of letters, calendar changes etc. Most of these will also be advertised via the e-mail messaging service that we use, Parentmail. Do please make sure that you have signed up for this. (Jan McGeary and Louise Brewer in the office can give you further guidance on this if required.)

It promises to be another busy and exciting year here at Somerhill and we are keen to do all that we can to ensure that it is happy and fulfilling for children and parents alike. Do get in touch with us if you need clarification on any matters or have concerns/suggestions.

Best wishes

John Coakley



On Monday 19th September all of the boys from Year Four went to the British Museum in London. They looked at the amazing Egyptian displays whilst also debating whether the Elgin Marbles should remain in the museum. The boys' behaviour was excellent and noted by the museum staff. Well done, boys!

PRE-PREP UNIFORM COATS NOW AVAILABLE

At long last the new school coats are in stock! Do please buy one if you child has been using a home coat whilst waiting for their arrival. Many thanks. Ruth Sorensen

FOUND PROPERTY (!!)

Mrs Wilkes has a growing collection of iPods, mobile phones, and spectacles which have been found in and around the school. Other items of value include a chunky 'designer' watch with a white strap and the remote key for an Audi!

Please can we also ask you to check that your son or daughter has his/her glasses and if they are missing then do come and see Mrs Wilkes.



Friday 16th September was our Annual Science Day in the Pre-prep. The theme this year was "Straws". Reception used straws to blow objects a certain distance, Year One made boats and then tested them to see if they floated. Year Two managed to make flying devices out of straws and two circles of paper. The sun shone brightly so we were able to test all our creations out of doors, and loved playing on our new surface.

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Year Six girls got off to a flying start with their creative writing last week with a workshop based on their class book Great Expectations led by Heather Evernden of Walthamstow Hall.

PRE-PREP DROP OFF

May I please remind all parents and carers that Reception children should play in the far end of the courtyard behind the green cones before school in the morning. If you wish to wait to see your child into school would you please wait in the perimeter of the courtyard so the teaching assistants can supervise the children effectively. Many thanks.
Ruth Sorensen

NEW NURSERY CHILDREN

The children who have just joined the Pre-Prep Nursery classes are settling in well and are enjoying the exciting days in school.

Yardley Court Year 8 boys were invited to attend a Leadership day and overnight camp last weekend. Many areas of leadership were discussed including world leaders and their strengths. Part of the course was dedicated to a First Aid programme where Mr and Mrs Lewis (Iain and Paul's parents) discussed the importance of knowing what to do in an emergency situation. The staff leaders devised leadership and co-operation games that were enjoyed and discussed at great length during the afternoon.

The Saturday evening's pizzas were not finished which for Year 8 boys is astounding! Sunday morning found the boys enjoying the home 'cooking' of Mr C (well, toast) whilst watching the England rugby match before heading home for some much needed rest and sleep - having found star gazing and weather system recognition a new night time activity!





SAS Break Times: The Somerhill children (and Stan!) enjoying some of the various break time activities, including the new nature information boards.

NAGC EXPLORERS CLUB For 4 – 14 year olds

NAGC is a national charity dedicated to offering opportunities to all children.

On Saturday 1 October 2011, Explorers Club visits Beechwood Sacred Heart School where they present a day of creative workshops with a Gothic theme.

Literally maddening

A monster story-writing episode with author Elizabeth Kay. Enjoy a workshop where your monster starts at the end of the story and works their way back to the beginning!

Goth in black

A charcoal workshop with local artist Lyn Merrick. Create a self-portrait in charcoal - true to type or with added gothic features, or create a story book with charcoal illustrations on fabric

Science Club

The return of our infamous Science Club where future astronauts reach for the skies! Design and create a model rocket! (For age 10+ only)

For further details, have a look at www.nagcwestkent.btck.co.uk, pick up a flyer from Mrs Wilkes in Reception, or email Mrs Jennings on tjennings@somerhill.org



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Leaflets will be coming home soon about the Shoebox Appeal, but now's the time to start collecting all those bits and pieces from party bags etc which help to make the box extra special!



DL Year 6 Leadership Day and Camp Night

Making fires in the woods might sound like a school's worst 'Health and Safety' nightmare, but that was just one of the activities enjoyed by Year 6 girls on Friday 16th September, as part of their Leadership skills programme.

The morning was spent in a lively workshop, learning about communication, group dynamics and how to present well to an audience. All very useful for the girls who have interviews for secondary schools coming up and are expected to take on roles of responsibility at the top of the school. After lunch, Clair and Scott from EarthCraft came to lead the outdoor activities. They taught small groups how to light a fire safely (breathe now, Bursar...!), boil water in a Kelly kettle to make a hot drink, secure a hammock to suitable trees and erect a tarpaulin for shelter, and how to hunt for camouflaged items hidden around the camp site. Then teachers had to find the pupils who camouflaged themselves and took great delight in hiding in the leaves and bushes.

Delicious pizza for supper was followed by camp night fun – games of 'Spotlight' in the grounds, toasting marshmallows on a roaring camp fire, and entertaining fellow campers with renditions of pop songs that would put X-Factor auditionees to shame...or not!

It was a super day and night; thank you to the girls for being such good sports and to all the staff involved for helping to make the day a brilliant one.

Mrs Michau



Here are 3T on their very first day in YC. All of Year Three have settled brilliantly into life at Yardley Court. Well done!

THOSE PESKY HEADLICE!

Both YC and DL have had cases of these unwelcome visitors this week. Please check your children's hair carefully—full details of treatments can be found at <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Headlice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

Water Sports Trip—Isle of Wight

Many of our present Year Six boys and girls enjoyed a week on the water in August, where they had the opportunity to windsurf, sail dinghies and keelboats, build rafts and play giant water polo in kayaks. The United Kingdom Sailing Academy provided first class tuition for the children - and staff - who all learned a great deal in just a few days. The weather forecast was not good, but thankfully, all activities went ahead as planned, and the only time we did get wet was when we capsized! The evening entertainment included a treasure hunt, crabbing and pool games. At the end of the busy days we all enjoyed a well-deserved mug of hot chocolate before a good night's sleep. The students were a credit to the school, and it was a most enjoyable trip for staff and students alike. Please take a look at the many photos that are on the school website, if you haven't already done so. Mrs Harman will be organising a similar trip next year, 19th - 22nd August 2012 for current Year Five boys and girls.



Cross Country Club - The Junior and Senior Cross-Country Clubs are run on Tuesday lunch times and are attended by about 30 energetic boys. After a run through the grounds they enjoy a hearty meal followed, usually, by a delicious dessert.



Somerhill Classifieds

The first edition of the Classifieds for this academic year will be published the week beginning 3rd October, and the deadline for copy is 28th September. This is a great chance to clear some of that clutter before Christmas. Full instructions of how to place items for sale can be found on the Parents' Area of the website.

Sports News

U9S WIN THE HAWTHORNS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The U9 A football Team kicked the football season off in fine style by winning the Hawthorns football tournament. Following an unbeaten group stage, the boys went on to beat Hazelwood in the semi-final 1-0 and Cumnor House in the final by the same score.

Well done to Will Tyler, James Barry, Archie Yorke, Rupert Terry, Drew Beazleigh, Rorry Lello, Harry Couchman and Oliver Creasey.



Year Three played their first set of matches against Rose Hill on Thursday 15th of September. All three teams came away with good wins after playing some well organised football. The teams from both schools showed excellent sportsmanship and should be proud of the way they represented their schools.



Netball

Two U9 teams played their first matches of the season after just a couple of training sessions, and it was very gratifying to come away with two wins from very close matches. The girls had to 'dig deep' to find a way to keep ahead of the opposition, but all credit to them that they managed to do this. There are additional photos on the website



Hockey

The senior girls have enjoyed 'goal-fests' in the first matches of the season. They have won 4 and drawn 2 of their 6 matches so far, and have scored 22 goals, conceding only 3. It is particularly rewarding to see the girls 'attacking the space' on receiving the ball, and creating many goal-scoring opportunities by good use of space off the ball around the attacking goal circle. The goal-keepers, when involved, have been excellent.