



## *The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter*

### *Volume 14, Issue # 2, 4th October 2010*



Chintamani Yogi, founder of three HVP schools in Nepal, visited us again last week. He gave two fabulous assemblies and the song that he taught the boys and girls about love, truth, peace, self service and non-violence has been heard sung in many break times since. Most of the girls are also wearing the colourful string bracelets to help remember the message. Mr Shute's class can be seen here with Chintamani ji with the 'hands' they made to remember his theme. Chintamani spent the rest of the day talking to classes about life in Nepal and in particular about the Peace Home in HVP Dang.

#### **Somerhill Harvest Festival**

This year we have decided to support the Pakistan Disaster Fund Appeal; this is topical and relevant to the education of the children, as well as being a very worthy cause. We are asking that children bring in **£1 coins** which they will slot into the map and the flag of Pakistan to 'fill up the country with cash'. The map and flag will be put in the lobby of the Dining Hall so they are easily accessible for all pupils, parents and visitors to make donations.

We hope you will help us in our efforts



to raise as much money as possible this harvest season by encouraging your child to bring in those **£1 coins** From **Monday 4th October**. It would be fantastic to completely fill the map and flag by the end of the week!



#### **Chess Club**

During the course of the year we shall use the newsletter to help showcase the huge variety of clubs on offer here at Somerhill. Chess is always a popular option both as a club pursuit and also for many boys both before school and at break-times.



Reception went down to the woods to build chairs for baby bear! They used both man-made and natural materials and were very creative! Each class made their own chairs and we all admired them. We tried to make sure that the chairs were both comfy and lovely to look at!

The 'New' Library continues to be a fantastic resource for the Somerhill children and here we have a couple of new Year Three boys enjoying their first "Information Literacy Skills" lesson in the library.



### Northbrook Gift Wrap

The Parents' Association is again operating an ordering system for gift-wrap and ribbons etc. A leaflet should have come home with your child, but if not there are spares in Reception. Make sure you complete and return the order form BEFORE FRIDAY, 5th NOVEMBER. Items will be delivered to school and then you will be advised when you can collect them.

This is a great hassle-free way to stock up on cards and gift-wrap and raise money for school funds too.



Year Six DL girls had a day off timetable on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, a welcome relief after the effort put into the 11+ exams earlier that week. Despite the girls saying they did 'no work' (!), in fact they had a really useful morning workshop on Leadership and Communication, which involved lots of games to develop non-verbal skills and confidence. In the afternoon, they had some team challenges to complete. Then, the Grand Finale – CAMP NIGHT! Plenty of games, mountains of pizza and marshmallows, a roaring camp fire, and far too little sleep...! Apparently, for one girl whose birthday was the same day, it was 'the best birthday party ever!'

The Kent 'Safer Schools Partnership' Police Officer recently visited Somerhill and spoke to boys and girls from Year 5 upwards about 'ICT Safety'. He spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of the internet, outlining the problems that can occur whilst using this type of medium. The afternoon sessions were followed by a parental evening where over 80 parents were given insight into the modern world of electronic communication. All the children learnt a great deal about this issue and have been made fully aware of the problems that communicating by the internet can pose.



MEXICAN DAY. The recent Mexican themed lunch, saw Somerhill pupils and staff creating our own wraps and being served by Mexican hat wearing Senoras! As you can see from the photo, it proved a success with the boys!

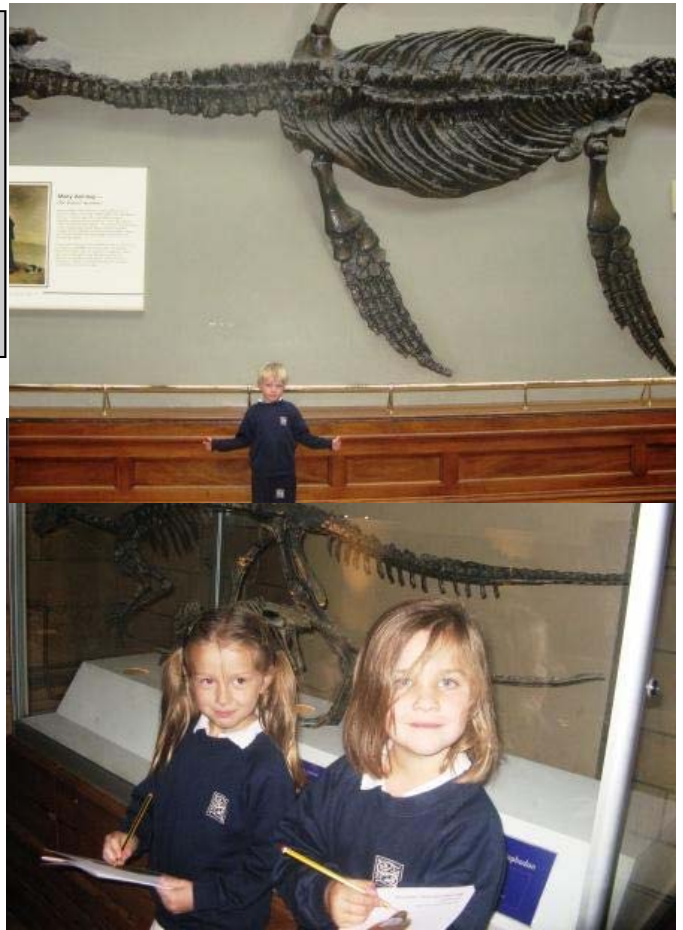


Ladyland Farm 2010.

We were blessed by a beautiful day for our annual trip to the Tudor Farm where we made bread and butter, fed sheep and chickens and learnt how Tudors made houses and felt. How many uses could you find for a pig? A Tudor could find at least six!

### **Year One and their dinosaur hunt.**

Year One went on a visit to the Natural History Museum as part of their topic about dinosaurs. It was a great experience for the children who saw for themselves just how big some of the dinosaurs really were. The highlight of the day was seeing the fossil ichthyosaurus which was discovered on Charmouth Beach by Mary Anning in 1811. Everyone had a fantastic time.



### **British Museum**

Year Four boys made their annual pilgrimage to The British Museum in London to visit the Ancient Egyptian and Greek displays. The boys were encouraged to think about whether it is correct for countries to have antiquities from other countries in our museums, with a specific focus being the long-disputed Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon. In addition they learnt a little about the every-day life of the Egyptians, the way they treated the dead and why Shabtis were important. The behaviour of the boys was impeccable. Well done!



### **Water, Wellies and Work!**

Year Six girls enjoyed a day out in the fresh air last week on a Geography Field Trip to Horton Kirby.

They donned their wellies and waded into the River Darent to carry out investigations which will enhance their knowledge of this term's Rivers topic.

# Sports News



All the girls continue to train hard and have fun in cross-country as a way of developing personal fitness. The senior girls had a 'run-out' on the Parkland in Games, and afterwards had a lot of fun collecting conkers. In fact, so many were found, that hockey socks had to be used to carry them back up to school! A lovely time was had by all.



Football: Senior Boys - Yardley Court entered two teams in the New Beacon 7-a-side tournament. Both teams played strongly throughout the initial rounds with the 'A Team' making it through to the final and the 'B Team' only missing out on the plate final on goal difference. In the final the boys came across the host team and played strongly. Goalless at full-time, the match came down to a 'Golden Goal', with a player being taken off after each three minute period until a goal was scored. After three minutes no goal had been scored so the goal-keepers came off, just as New Beacon had a corner! Their player made a beautiful cross which connected sweetly with the head of one of his team mates. The rest is history!

## DL Hockey

It has been a very good start to the hockey season for our senior girls. They have enjoyed four wins, a draw and just one defeat so far. We are trialling a new system on the field, which clearly suits our players. They have been working very hard on creating overload in attack or defence, as well as developing their V-drags (dodging skills) to eliminate defenders. News of 'old girls' has been most encouraging on the hockey front, with many of them achieving selection for hockey teams in their new schools



## More Sports News



The first cross country fixture of the season proved to be a very exciting day out for boys and girls from Years 2, 3 and 4. The Rawlinson Run, held at Dulwich Prep, saw hundreds of runners from schools across Kent and Sussex competing for individual medals, age group trophies and an overall title. Individual medals were won by Tom Dickinson (Bronze) from Year Two; William Tyler (Gold) and Sasha Androsov (Bronze) from Year Three; and Rosie Peachey (Silver) and Jasmine Lewtas (Bronze) from Year Four. Somerhill boys won the Year Two competition, our boys and girls took the Year Three trophy, and our Year Four runners came second. The overall competition was astonishingly close, with Somerhill coming second in the end by just five points. Well done, and congratulations to all the boys and girls!

The second cross country fixture was the Hazelwood Relays, which involved runners from Years Three to Eight. This is the only relay event in the calendar, and always proves to be an exciting event, not least because the course contains the steepest hills of the whole season! Our boys and girls did well, against a strong field, but it was the Under 9 Girls team who managed to take the trophy for their age group. Congratulations to all the athletes, and especially those who were making their cross country debut!



### Year Three Football Tournament:

The Year Three boys played in a three way tournament with Hilden Grange and Shrewsbury House. The YC boys played well in the first match against HG which we won comfortably 3 - 1. Their second match was much tougher as Shrewsbury House had clearly trained hard for their first ever U8 match against YC. We learnt a lot in watching them as they beat us pretty soundly playing some lovely football—that's the standard we must now aim for, boys!