



The Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

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What a start to the 2010! I'm not sure that getting up at 5.00am and shovelling snow for a couple of hours was high on the list of New Year resolutions but it was great that our usual team effort here at Somerhill enabled us to stay open for most of the time during the recent snowy conditions. Even on the very worst days, we still managed about a 50% attendance and we were glad to provide a service for our children and parents. Doubtless we may have more snowy days ahead and increasingly the website will be populated with work for the children to do on days when the journey to school is too hazardous. This can all be found on the Parents' Area of the website.

It is starting to get a little brighter at pick-up time but please be vigilant and please drive slowly so that we can ensure our children's safety; nothing is of more importance. I am looking forward to another excellent year working with our great children. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school if you ever require additional information / have concerns that you would like addressed. John Coakley, Principal



Although it seems a long time ago now, the two SAS Carol services were both very enjoyable events. The children seem to rise to greater and greater heights with their choral performances and huge thanks go to the music staff from all three schools for their hard work and dedication. Well done!

A big thank you, too, to our parental body for your generous donations. The Junior Service raised £582 which was split between Children with Leukaemia and SASRA, whilst the Senior Carol Service raised £1071 which was sent off to a very grateful Hospice in the Weald.



Year Five Yardley Court boys and the girls from Years Five and Six in Derwent Lodge took on the challenge of designing and building their own Lego city last Friday afternoon.

Buildings were erected first and wired up with series and parallel circuits so they could be lit up. Next transport was created in the form of cars, trains and planes that were also wired up so they worked. The focus and concentration was superb and results were spectacular!



Boys from Year Seven have been reviewing a selection of books from the School Library. Mrs Smith has been using the vouchers collected from The Times vouchers to buy in some lovely new titles—so there was plenty for them to choose from.

On Thursday Reception, Year One and Year Two enjoyed a drama workshop with the Perform Theatre Group. The children travelled to Australia via the North Pole and Egypt..... and never left our Hall!



LOST PROPERTY—Mrs Wilkes has a black CD case containing some CDs in Reception.

Mrs Caygill's and Mrs Dalton's class performed a super assembly for their parents on Wednesday. We all learnt some very interesting facts about life in London. The children spoke extremely well especially as their practices were hampered by snowy weather! Well done!



Year Six from DL visited the Science Museum and enjoyed the interactive activities in both launch pad and the energy gallery. Some tried being the energy minister of an island, others connected circuits to make a hand dryer work at different speeds – what ever they tried, everyone had fun finding out something new.

The boys from Year Four went to the Natural History Museum in London on Monday, 18th January. During the visit the boys explored the sections on Natural Disasters; especially relevant with the recent earthquake in Haiti (the money from 4SH's cake sale will go towards helping the Haitian people). As well as looking into the effects of earthquakes, the boys studied volcanoes and explored the dinosaur section. A great day was had by all and the behaviour was excellent.



Last term budding doctors in Year Five were inspired by Dr Feazey, a consultant in the A and E Department at two local hospitals, who came in to tell the girls about the NHS and about her job. Here they are looking down the 'patient's' throat to see if the airways are open. It was a very hands on morning with lots of equipment to use and things to try. Thank you Dr Feazey for a fantastic morning.



There were some fantastic entries for this year's science competition which challenged the girls to make a game to include a circuit. The winners were Lottie Turner for her innovative quiz game, Monique Gunter for her electronic version of 'Rock, paper, scissors', and Jasmine Pool for her treasure-seeking game called 'Island of Doom'. An enormous amount of work had gone into designing and making all the games, well done!

SOMERHILL ADVERTISER—Unwanted Christmas gifts, items made superfluous by replacements? **SELL** them with our Advertiser! Kate Roshier is waiting to hear from you—we have lots of space in our monthly 'free ad' sheet. Email Kate for further details on kate@tipscross.co.uk or check out the most recent advertiser on the website



Lots more pictures of Somerhill children (and staff!!) making the most of the delights of the snow and the grounds can be found in the gallery on the website.



Kindergarten children and their newest recruit!



U11 v staff netball.....

The yellow socks probably clinched it; in fact, it was definitely the socks. Well, it certainly wasn't the experience and team discipline of the staff team, that's for sure! Plaintive cries of "Where do I stand?" and "Which way do we go?" did little to inspire confidence in our ability to make it through one quarter, let alone win a match. We all felt a bit sick, but once the whistle went.....the yellow socks took over.

It was a tough and very nerve-wracking first half, with professional reputations and respect for authority figures seriously being undermined by the sheer speed and skill of the U11 team. The scores stayed pretty close, but the cardiovascular effort required varied significantly between the teams.

The second half meant loss of members from the staff team, but Mrs Forward was (almost) fair and impartial in her umpiring and the game continued with goals being popped into the net by both teams. The final score was 16 -9 to the staff team, but we all agreed that the match had been really tough, so the girls should be very proud of themselves.

If it's any consolation, girls, none of the staff can walk very well today ...

Sports News



Conditions were near perfect for the senior Inter-house Cross-country event this year on the parkland. The first three girls home all beat the existing course record, which demonstrates just how strong the girls are at present. It was more than a little muddy underfoot, and two boots were 'lost' en route, but found later on! Well done to Beth and Josie for finishing in socks! As usual, the effort from most of the girls was outstanding as they were aware that every point would count towards the final house result.

Winning House - Grasmere. Runner-Up - Coniston.

Individual 1st - M Fenton, 2nd - B Peachey, 3rd - F Hall

Most improved runners - I Venes and S Morey.