



Schools At Somerhill Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue # 12, 29 June 2009

It's that time of year: plays, concerts, plays, musical evenings, trips, sports days and ... oh yes, more plays! So here is a snippet of what's been taking place over the past week or so for Somerhill pupils



Yr 7 Shakespeare workshop and Twelfth Night Performance



Year 8 visited Lords cricket ground and BBC TV Centre. "We even got to visit the dressing rooms at Lords and found out which famous 'bottoms' usually sat in the seats we had chosen! At the BBC, some of us read the news and had a go at presenting the weather too."



Nous avons passé une journée au Touquet, il faisait beau! Nous adorons le diabolomente, c'est délicieux! Y5 DL



Yr 4 Play—Eric the Viking!



On Thursday last week at 6.30am 56 bleary-eyed but very excited Year 5 boys left for Le Touquet and Boulogne sur mer. As soon as they arrived after a three hour bus and Eurostar journey they made straight for the market in order to buy their lunch. One could hear from the various groups eager voices asking in French, 'Je voudrais une baguette s'il vous plaît'. After lunch and fun games on the beach the boys were driven to the aquarium in Boulogne-sur-mer where they saw the sea lions doing all sorts of incredible tricks – some of them were definitely 11+ candidates! Finally they bought ice cream and those who had time to write up their post cards sent them off. The boys arrived home tired but very, very happy and replete with 'bonbons' 'glaces' et 'de la bonne bouffe française!'

Year Two visit to Tudeley Church

On June 18th, the Year Two classes visited Tudeley Church. The children had a most interesting talk from Mrs Patricia Dunkin Wedd, who told them about the inside of the church. She also explained the pictures in the beautiful Chagall stained glass windows. All the children were impeccably behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the visit. One small boy commented as we left – “That church is stunning!”



The boys of Year Three and Four visited Knockhatch Adventure Park on Tuesday 16th of June. Here are two excerpts from their accounts of the day:

‘Next we went to the playground and went on the toboggan run where we had a great time. Whilst on the climbing frame Mrs Wynder, Mr Shute and most of the year group played a big game of ‘it’, where we were not allowed to touch the ground. Mrs Wynder and Mr Shute fell off the climbing frame loads of times!’ Harry R

‘After lunch we saw the bird show. The first bird was a bird of prey called a kestrel. I learnt that the kestrel hovered above its prey, ready to dive down and catch it with its sharp claws. The second bird was an African owl; this bird liked to run along the ground. When the bird keeper threw a piece of meat up in the air the owl was supposed to fly and catch the meat, but instead it slowly flew down and ran to the food. It was really good!’ Alfie S

Year 5 girls delighted their audience last week with an evening of uplifting music and poetry. Girls performed a selection of amusing songs all on the theme of school life, from grumpy teachers to playtimes to what goes on behind the staffroom door! Poems about classroom life were read and parents were given a potted history of how life at Derwent Lodge began.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves, especially having the opportunity of making Mrs Michau blush at one or two points!
Well done Year 5!





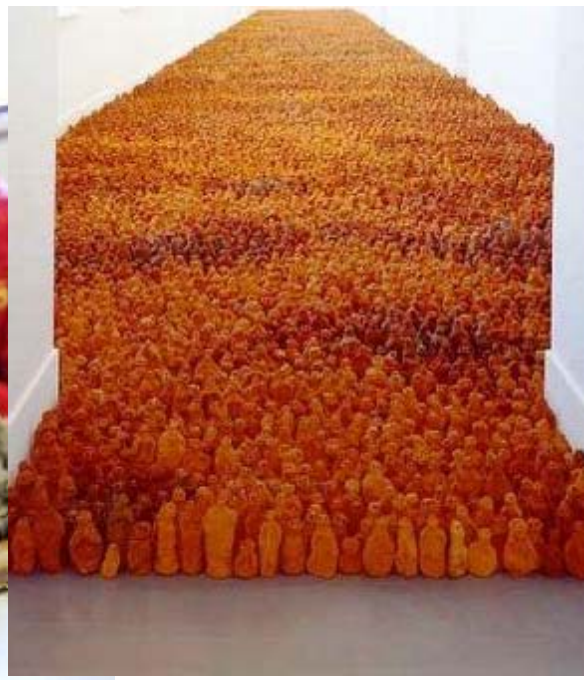
Year 6 Trip to Dorset

On Monday, 15 June we set off from Somerhill and arrived at Chantmarle. After settling in the rest of the day was spent in team-building exercises, which were great fun. The next day, Tuesday, half the group went off-site and we had fun swimming at Chesil Beach and Lulworth Cove and then went to Durdle Door.

Wednesday the groups swapped and we stayed on-site where we tried fencing, archery, rock-climbing (awesome!) and pool-kayaking (amazing!!). Thursday we went for a walk looking for flags, had lunch and then we had to leave for the return to Somerhill. It was an amazing trip and we would like to thank all the teachers who came with us for helping make it such fun.
Charlie London

Yardley Court Camping Week

Yes its back! Camping Week the week boys love and staff?
I'm sure we would not have the number of boys staying (nearly 97%) if Mr.C. did not make such wonderful toast for breakfast. The boys took part in a number of wide games and swimming before tucking into the delicious barbequed food prepared by our own staff. Then it's more games, camp fire, with the obligatory marshmallows, followed by many hours of peaceful sleep under the stars!! Only to be woken with the sun shining (at just after 4.00am!!) and a bright, cheery good morning from Mr C. who prepares breakfast for all happy campers!



LITTLE PEOPLE INVADE THE ART ATTICS!

Ms Boyce, Head of Art, has been having some fun with 5C and clay....They looked at work by Antony Gormley (Field for the British Isles / Angel of North / 4th plinth etc) and started to make our own figures to create a 'field' at SAS.



SAS SUMMER BALL

Thank you to Mrs Davies and the Summer Ball committee for their hard work in organising the recent Ball. A fantastic time was had by all—dancing and ‘gambling’ into the wee small hours. In addition some £6,000 was raised for charity.

Strangely we don’t seem to have any pictures of Mr C on the dodgems, so here are a couple of children who ‘tested’ for us in the afternoon.

LOST PROPERTY

A pink key ring with a door key and grey rabbit attached

Black Timex Watch

Nintendo DS Scooby Doo game

Please see Mrs Wilkes in Reception for more details.

SOMERHILL MINI BUS ROUTES

If you are interested in using any of the mini bus routes listed below please contact Mrs Wilkes in Reception. Full details of the services are given on the Parents’ Area of the website, but these are the basic routes:

*From Tunbridge Wells via Southborough and Tonbridge

*From West Malling via Mereworth and Hadlow

*From Horsmonden via Brenchley and Matfield

*From Ightham via Shipbourne and Tonbridge

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Inventory

Changes are afoot at the Yardley Court and Derwent Lodge Library. We hope to be able to provide the pupils and parents with internet access to our library catalogue during the next academic year. (Details to follow.)

With this in mind, we will be undertaking an inventory, starting on Monday 29th June. If you have any library books that have evaded return over the years, please just send them back. Your child will know to put them in the Book Return Box in the library. No questions asked!!!

Summer Reading

Many local libraries will be promoting Quest Seekers, the 2009 Summer Reading Challenge to encourage children (4 -12) to carry on reading throughout the holidays. For more details access:

<http://www.readingagency.org.uk/children/summer-reading-challenge/>

SHOEBOXES

SOMERHILL will again be supporting Operation Christmas Child this coming Michaelmas Term. So a little advance warning to save all those shoe boxes from the Summer shoe shopping, ready to cover and fill next term, please. 270 to beat!

Sports News



Athletics school records tumble!

DL athletes have had a fabulous season, and even before Sports Day, seven records have been broken, with more expected to follow. At a recent Athletics match, DL won against Kent College and Rose Hill. The Yr 3 and 5 teams both gained first places, with the Yr 4 team second and Yr 6 team were 3rd.

Well done to all athletes, and the record breakers (Fran Reali, Beth Peachey, Sophie Gull, Maddie Hughes, Hannah Kinsey, Annie Cassidy and Eliza macLachlan).

Yardley Court Athletics Success

Athletes from Yardley Court brought home a good haul of medals from the Kent Prep Schools Athletics Championships in Ashford on Friday 19th June. Tim Faes (1500m), Robert Miles (high jump) and Louis McKeeve (long jump) all won gold; Jonathan Smith, George Howard, Ed Harris and Louis McKeeve (relay) won silver; Ed Harris (hurdles), Louis McKeeve (100m) and Robert Miles (800m) won bronze, as did Harry Rees (1500m), who ran outstandingly well against older boys. Tim, Robert and Louis also qualified for the National Championships in Birmingham on Monday 29th June. Congratulations to all involved, and good luck to the boys competing in the Nationals.

The athletes were again in action on Tuesday 23rd, this time competing in a tough match against teams from all over the South East at Tonbridge School. Gold medals were won by Louis McKeeve (long jump) and Ed Harris (hurdles), and silver medals by Tim Faes (1500m), George Howard (150m) and the relay team of Dan Payne, Charlie Pratten, George Howard and Louis McKeeve. Ed Harris also claimed a bronze medal in the long jump. The U12 team from Yardley Court came a narrow second overall, ahead of a whole host of rivals, and all the boys there should be proud of their performances on a very hot day. Well done!



DL Under 8 Tennis team do the double!

DL took 4 pairs to the County Red Tennis Doubles Championships, and were delighted to come away with 1st, 3rd and 4th places out of 32 pairs from all over the county! Our 4th pair just missed out on qualifying for the quarter finals, beaten by the pair who went on to claim 2nd place. Jasmine Poole and Sarah Mercer beat Baston A 10 - 5 in the final, despite us having to wake poor Sarah up to play 'just one more match', as unbeknown to us at the time, she was coming down with tonsillitis! A couple of weeks ago, the U8 tennis team won the County team event.

Mia is back!

Following a very successful 3 months at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida, Mia has been offered a full time scholarship to return for further coaching. The last person to receive this kind of scholarship at such a young age was Maria Sharapova! Mia and her coach are giving a demonstration of her tennis ability at St Johns Sports Centre in Tunbridge Wells on Sunday July 12th at 10.00am. The Smiths offer an open invitation for anyone to watch.