



Dear Parents/Carers

Well, I really don't know where this year has gone! September only felt like a few weeks ago.

It has been another fantastic year at Somervale School. Our 180 new Year 7 students settled in well to the school and soon threw themselves into getting involved with everything the school can offer.

Uptake to extra curricular clubs, especially Duke of Edinburgh, sports and music have been at an all-time high with record numbers of students completing DofE and teams being successful at Ten Tors.

The Year 11 students experienced a 'normal' exam period and it was wonderful to celebrate the end of all their hard work with them a few weeks ago at Leavers Day and Prom. The memory of the whole year group and large numbers of staff dancing the Macarena together will stay with me for a while!

Transition Day was busy with another large year group of six classes joining us. It was wonderful to see all the nervous faces that walked in through the gates in the morning walking out at the end of the day beaming and excited for the next step on their journey.

Celebration Evening allowed us to recognise the students who go over and beyond each day in their learning and are true role models to others.

Watching last week's Buggy Malone performance sat at the back of the hall has to have been one of the highlights of my time at Somervale. The students were amazing and I am sure we have some future stars in the making.

I am already looking forward to what they are going to deliver next year!

Term Dates

Term 1

Friday 1st September 2023
Friday 20th October 2023

Term 2

Monday 30th October 2023
Tuesday 19th December 2023

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Friday 9th February 2024

Term 4

Monday 19th February 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024

Term 5

Monday 15th April 2024
Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6

Monday 3rd June 2024
Friday 19th July 2024



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Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Continued ...



Longleat

As I write this, activities week is in full swing and I am waiting for the return of the students from Splashdown and Longleat. The school today have been buzzing with students creating box robots in DT, scripting and filming their own plays and playing sports together. It has been really wonderful to watch them play and learn together outside of the classroom.

As you may be aware, Mrs Woodland is retiring from her role as Inclusion Leader after 28 years at the school. She has had such a significant impact on the lives of many many members of the local community during her time at the school and we are going to miss her greatly. We wish her the very best for her next adventures.

We also have a few other members of staff moving on the summer and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and wish them well in the future.

Miss Leach is leaving to take up a role as teacher of Criminology and Sociology at St Joseph's in Newport.

Mrs Parker-Sedgemore is moving to Norton Hill Primary to take up the role of a teaching assistant. She has been responsible for producing amazing displays and props around the school whilst working as the Art Technician and we will miss her creative flair.

Miss Pekova is moving on to a role in another local school.

Miss Beaumont is also leaving us at the end of her contract.

Mr Wait is leaving to take up a post at another school.

A massive thank you from myself and all the staff at the school for all your support over the last year. It really is a partnership.

I would like to wish you all, a long sunny and restful holiday and look forward to seeing all the students in September.

Joanna Stethwaite



Go Ape



Brean Leisure Park



Paddle boarding

Somervale News



Somervale School Spelling Bee

This term, all students in KS3 had the opportunity to participate in the Somervale School Spelling Bee. This was an opportunity for students to learn new words whilst raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The Student Learning Group helped organise the event and we had all tutor groups participate in round 1 and 2 from the 19th - 30th June. Students were asked to learn words to spell and say aloud.



During the week of the 3rd July we had Year group finals which were very competitive and students had to spell words aloud. On Tuesday 11th July we had 10 students from Key Stage 3 enter the final. It was a tight competition with the last round being an instant knockout. Congratulations to all finalists in each round and to James (Yr 8), Isla (Yr 8) and Lucas (Yr 8) for making the final round but the winner of the competition was Elliott (Yr 7). We would like to thank all Year 7, 8 and 9 students for participating and supporting the Spelling Bee.

Miss Evans and Miss Harris



Charlie and Ollie participated in the Autograss UK championships. Both boys did incredibly well. Ollie finished 6th overall and Ollie came 4th and 5th in his races. Keep up the racing, we look forward to more reports of your achievements.

Somervale News

Extra Curricular Programme

We would like to thank all students who participated in our Extra Curricular Programme throughout the year. We have had a wide range of activities available to all students throughout the year which included; PE, Music, Library, English and Media, Radio, Languages, Equalities Group, School Production, Club Rock, Attenborough Club and Duke of Edinburgh. We also look forward to offering some new activities next year!



Curriculum and Achievement

At Somervale, we're proud to have a broad and balanced curriculum where students are challenged to meet and exceed their potential whilst keeping a focus on enjoyment of learning. This term, students have continued to shine across all our subjects with the efforts and achievements of many of our students being recognised in our achievement assemblies and, more recently, in our celebration evening. It is always a pleasure to see students growing in confidence and taking pride in their achievements, regardless of their ability and, at Somervale, we are keen to emphasise that students should strive to achieve more than they thought possible. This is evident in our commitment to Aspiration which is one of our core values.

In lessons, Somervale students continue to take pride in their work. This is evident in their strong engagement in lessons as well as in the quality of work in their books and homework. I'm proud to say that the vast majority of our students are making excellent progress and consistently meeting their targets with many others exceeding expectations. This is down to the hard work of both our staff and students and I look forward to seeing the many successes that lie ahead for our students including strong academic outcomes.

Keep up the good work!

Mr Herron



Well done to Abigail P (Year 9) who has passed her violin grade 1 exam with Merit.

We are all really pleased for you.

Celebration Evening



Celebrating our students and their successes is one of the highlights of our year. All our students work incredibly hard and we are proud of each and every one.

Celebration evening is a chance to highlight a student's outstanding achievement in a particular subject. This year was incredibly special and we were thrilled to be able to celebrate this special occasion together with the families of those being given awards.



MFL Department

It has been an exciting time with lots going on.

We welcomed a group of Spanish students to our school.

They enjoyed seeing our culture and being part of our school for 2 weeks.

Some of our students were buddies for the Spanish students ensuring they were well looked after.



The Spanish students with their buddies.

It was sad to say goodbye when their time was finished.

Our trip to Malaga, by Oliver in Year 10

"In the last week of the term, some of the Somervale students who learn Spanish had the great opportunity to travel to Spain and engage with the local people, developing crucial conversational skills.

As a group we travelled to Málaga where we took part in a variety of activities including a Spanish intercambio; where a group of global students come to learn and converse, along with tours of local picturesque towns and visits to famous Spanish attractions such as the phenomenal 'Balcón de Europa'.

Our confidence grew throughout the week as we had opportunities to order ice creams and exchange words with various people as we bought a wide range of souvenirs.

We also learnt a great deal of history and Spanish culture through watching the annual 'Día del Carmen' which is a large Catholic religious celebration.

When we weren't invested in Spanish culture, we spent our downtime on the beach, which provided hours of entertainment in the forms of frisbee, football, volleyball, workouts, and intense games of Duck Duck Goose.

We were lucky to be entrusted with free time as we explored and indulged in the differences in daily practices such as shopping and tasting typical Spanish cuisines.

As a group we are incredibly grateful for the teachers who have given their time to make the trip so incredible, we are all rapt in the diversity of Spanish culture and can't wait to return with more polished skills in the language."



Drama Department



From stunning props to splurge guns, our annual production was bigger than ever!

Students transformed the stage into downtown New York. With big numbers and catchy tunes this musical had you sitting at the edge of your seat.

Well done to all the students on stage, our stage team and musicians.

Thank you for your time doing lots of rehearsals, painting all the wonderful backdrops and props and the endless hours of learning your lines.

It was an incredible performance and had us all humming the tunes by the end of the show.



Library News



Year 7 Author Visit - 9th June 2023



Author, explorer, mountaineer and cameraman Matt Dickinson, visited our year 7 students as part of Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Writer in Residence Scheme. Students had a great time hearing all about Matt's expeditions to Mount Everest, and how he became an author writing about his experiences and putting them into children's novels. Students were challenged to do their own piece of creative writing- who would they take to base camp, and why?

The National Carnegie Book Awards 2023



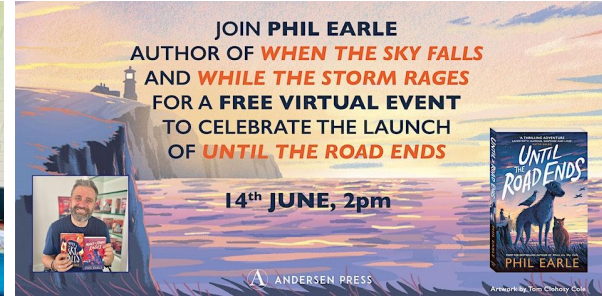
Our Carnegie Book Award shadowing group enjoyed the watching the Award Ceremony live from London on 21st June. Our students were particularly pleased with the winning titles this year, 'The Blue Book of Nebo' and 'I Must Betray You', which were firm favourites in the library!

This term saw another successful **Student Reading Mentoring Programme** completed. Our year 9 and 10 mentors were fantastic in encouraging the year 7 students to stay focused & engaged with their reading. Huge thanks to all students who participated! Amazing work!



Library News

Virtual Author Event with Phil Earle 14th June 2023



On 14th June students took part in our virtual event, with author, Phil Earle. They heard all about Phil's latest World War Two novel, *Until The Road Ends*.

Huge congratulations to our year 9 student Ben, who won our Somervale School Chapter Writing Competition for *Until The Road Ends*. Ben is a huge fan of Phil Earle & was so excited to receive a copy of Phil's latest book and get a congratulatory Tweet from him too!! Well done Ben!



Accelerated Reader Celebration

We hosted our annual "Word Millionaire" Celebration last week! 38 students achieved their "Millionaire" status, having read over 1 million words this year. Some students even managed multi-million words!

Huge congratulations to those students who have been fantastic with their engagement with reading & quizzing!



PE Department

Sports Leaders

This term we have had our lovely Sports Leaders run some fun, small sided games at Midsomer Norton Cricket Club for the Primary Inclusive Sports Festival. The students coached and interacted extremely well with the Year 4 students and did such an amazing job. Many of the parents and teachers complimented on the Sports Leaders' maturity, smartness, communication skills and their ability to lead!

Well done team, we are an extremely proud PE department!

Year 8 Boys Football - B&NES Finalist

Congratulations to the fantastic Year 8 football team for reaching the B&NES schools U13 final against Oldfield.

Despite a loss during a difficult game, we are really proud of their achievement this year and know they will continue to represent the school next year!



KS4 Team Bath Netball Trip

Some of our lovely KS4 students were involved in our Netball trip that involved watching Team Bath's last home game of the season playing against Manchester Thunder. This trip was shared with Norton Hill School and Writhlington School.

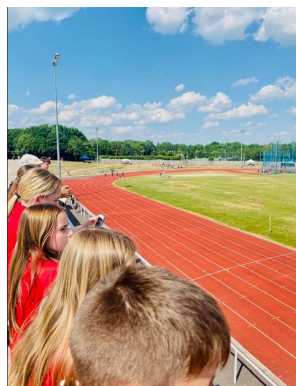
The students were able to watch some amazing Netball with some true inspirations being on court.

The students thoroughly enjoyed it and the match was brilliant with a very close score line throughout the game.

B&NES Athletics

Over one hundred students represented Somervale at the District & Minor athletics events earlier in the term.

Well done to all involved!



Continued ...

Fixtures

Recently we have had a mixture of rounders, football and cricket fixtures. All students involved have represented the school extremely well and have played some brilliant sport.

We look forward to seeing even more students in September representing the school at fixtures!



YR11 GCSE PE

Congratulations to our YR11 GCSE PE students who performed exceptionally well in their Practical Moderation Day.

The YR11 PE students also worked really hard and completed lots of revision prior to their PE exam.

We hope that the students get the grades they deserve and we wish them all the best of luck for the future!



Sports Awards 2023

To say thank you to our amazing sports performers we held a sports awards where we celebrated their success from the year.

A special congratulations to Marco & Meah for winning Sports Personality of the Year and to Tyler for winning the Ambrose Cup for most Inspirational Performer of 2023!



Walcot RFC Trip/Workshop (BDU)

On Wednesday the 24th, a group of Year 9 students were invited to a touch rugby workshop and tournament organised by Bath Rugby and Walcot Rugby Foundation. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day out and were offered a lovely BBQ at the end of the tournament. All students were great and showed some great talent and sportsmanship!

Sports Day



Sports Day!

This year the whole school took part in a full day of sport.

Students rotated around cricket, rounders, table tennis, bocca, new age curling and a traditional athletics event.

Well done to all students involved, especially to Oliver for breaking the Year 10 1,500m record, previously held for 9 years with a time of 4 minutes and 47 seconds!

The total results table ended like this:

OVERALL POSITION	TUTOR GROUP	TOTAL POINTS
1st	8LGE	743
2nd	10CKE	716
3rd	7SHO	710



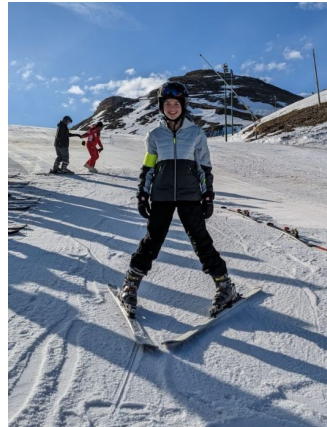
Outdoor Education



Ski Trip Easter 2023 (JST)

During the Easter holidays Miss Stowell, Mr Kelly, Miss Harris, Mr Batten and Mr Matsumoto took 48 students to Prato Nevoso in Italy for a week of skiing.

The trip began with an early departure from Somervale School, travelling by coach to Heathrow airport. Students arrived sleepy but excited in their SV bobble hats. After a long (and interesting...) transfer journey, we arrived at Hotel Galassia in Prato Nevoso! Students spent the afternoon in ski fit in preparation for a great week of skiing.



Continued ...

Conclusion

At the beginning of the week, there were some concerns around the condition (and lack of) snow. But, on Tuesday morning, we all woke up to a winter wonderland! There had been 10 cm of snowfall overnight. Students were able to explore more of the resort and progress onto green, blue, red and even the black slopes led by expert local ski instructors.

We stopped for lunch back at the hotel where lots of pizza and pasta was consumed. Apres ski activities included, sledging, hot chocolate, pizza night and even a disco!

By the end of the week, students were tired but had made great memories - lots didn't want to come home! Thank you to all involved in making this trip such a great success.

Keep an eye out for information for our next ski trip!



Duke of Edinburgh

Bronze DofE

At the end of June our Year 9 Bronze DofE students took part in their final expedition. They did really well and walked an average of 13 kilometers a day over the Quantock Hills. Groups worked really well and our campsite was left in a fantastic condition. Students were assessed and completed the expedition really well.

Well done Year 9!



Silver DofE

Silver Duke of Edinburgh students completed their practice expedition in Exmoor in sweltering conditions in June.

Both teams impressed us greatly with their fitness, navigation and team work.

Morale was high throughout the three day expedition and we look forward to challenging them in the Black Mountains in September for their final expedition.



Information

Pastoral Structure from September 2023

Year Group	Head of Year	Contact Details
7	Miss L Wilkinson	lwilkinson@somervaleschool.com
8	Miss J Stowell	jstowell@somervaleschool.com
9	Mr K Matsumoto	kmatsumoto@somervaleschool.com
10	Miss A Lawson	alawson@somervaleschool.com
11	Mrs S Davis	sdavis@somervaleschool.com

School Uniform September 2023

As you are preparing for the return to school in September, please can we draw your attention to the uniform expectations on this link -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17pKG8f8PSFROH_3iBRil32Pi64slxB8y/view

Please can we ask that if you are planning on getting any ear or nose piercing that these are done at the start of the holidays so that they can be removed easily before the start of school. The same for any extreme hair colours or designs, whilst lovely and fun during the holidays they need to return to normal expectations ready for the return to school.

Please note that ALL school shoes should be of a formal shoe design (this does NOT include some of the 'trainer style' shoes that some shops sell in their school shoe section). Any students that do not wear the correct footwear to school will be provided with school daps to wear. If you are unsure please contact the school for advice before making a potential costly error.

Please also note the reference to all school trousers and skirts NOT being of a jersey or stretchy material. School trousers need to be formal (not chinos) and loose fitting.

Any students without the correct uniform risk being placed into isolation.

Term Dates 2023-2024



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alun Williams
Registered Address: Norton Hill Primary School, Silver Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UD
Company No: 7365778

November 2022

Final Term Dates Academic Year 2023/2024

Term 1

Friday 1st September 2023
Friday 20th October 2023

Term 2

Monday 30th October 2023
Tuesday 19th December 2023

Term 3

Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Friday 9th February 2024

Term 4

Monday 19th February 2024
Thursday 28th March 2024

Term 5

Monday 15th April 2024
Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6

Monday 3rd June 2024
Friday 19th July 2024

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Friday 1st September 2023

Inset day 2

Monday 4th September 2023

Inset day 3

Wednesday 13th October 2023 (HGS & BCS)
Monday 30th October 2023

Inset day 4

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 (disaggregated)

Inset day 5

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

National Bank Holidays:

Monday 25th December 2023

Tuesday 26th December 2023

Monday 1st January 2024

Friday 29th March 2024

Monday 1st April 2024

Monday 6th May 2024

Monday 27th May 2024

Monday 26th August 2024



Term Dates 2024 - 2025



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Executive Headteacher/CEO: Alan Williams
Registered Address: Norton Hill Primary School, Silver Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UD
Company No: 7365778

Term Dates Academic Year 2024/2025

Term 1

Monday 2nd September 2024
Friday 25th October 2024

Term 2

Monday 4th November 2024
Friday 20th December 2024

Term 3

Monday 6th January 2025
Friday 14th February 2025

Term 4

Monday 24th February 2025
Friday 4th April 2025

Term 5

Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025

Term 6

Monday 2nd June 2025
*Friday 18th July 2025
(22nd July official end of term)

**please note this is a change to dates issued by local authorities. This is to avoid a broken week.*

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Monday 2nd September 2024

Inset day 2

TBC

Inset day 3

TBC

Inset day 4

Monday 21st July 2025

Inset day 5

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

National Bank Holidays:

Wednesday 25th December 2024

Thursday 26th December 2024

Wednesday 1st January 2025

Friday 18th April 2025

Monday 21st April 2025

Monday 5th May 2025

Monday 26th May 2025

Monday 25th August 2025

