



SOMERVALE SCHOOL

Newsletter: Term Five



MN Midsomer Norton
SP Schools Partnership

Tel: [01761 414276](tel:01761414276) Email: enquiries@somervaleschool.com Web: www.somervaleschool.com

Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow, I really do not know where that term has gone. It has been another jam packed one. It hardly seems like a few days ago that I had the delights of riding a camel through the Sahara desert with our students. As you will see later in the newsletter the joint trip to Morocco was an amazing experience and I am already looking at ways that I can get to return to that incredible country. It was an extremely emotional experience handing over the donations raised by our students to the villagers and one that I will not forget. Year 11 are now half way through their exams and we have been extremely proud of their attitude to the whole process and how hard they are all working. Attendance to after school sessions are at an all time high and we have a number of additional sessions running during the holidays. We have had our confirmed numbers for September and we will be having 150 students joining us. As I have said in previous newsletters I have decided to stick to five classes due to the size of the school now being around 800 students and being close to needing some more building work. As you are all aware, I would really like a sports hall... and am frantically searching down the back of the sofa for all the spare coins we can find to fund this. We have continued investing in the school and along with painting work and general maintenance we have redone the hall floor and have confirmed new lighting and curtains ready for September. We are hoping that the new covered area by the canteen will be completed soon and have plans in place for a new snack serving area to be open ready for September. Student engagement with learning and behaviour around the school has continued to be a strength and we were once again able to impress Mr Williams with our fantastic school on a recent visit. At present the sun is shining and I hope that that remains over the next week. I hope that you all have a lovely bank holiday and half term break and look forward to welcoming the students back next term.

Very best wishes



Joanna Hethwaite



Geography Department



On Monday 15th April and Thursday 18th April, our Y9 Geography students visited Cadbury World in Birmingham.

The day included a self-guided factory tour, chocolate tasting and a KS3 Geography talk. The Geography talk allowed students to:

- Discover the global legacy of the Cadbury brand and our reach as a transnational company.
- Discuss how Cadbury's is part of a larger company and the effect this has on international business.
- Examine Cadbury's place within primary, secondary and tertiary industries.
- Understand Cadbury's key markets and how Cadbury's is developing new products to reach bric and mint countries.
- Explore the providence of some of our ingredients and how Cadbury's are supporting cocoa farmers as well as the Ghanaian rainforest through schemes such as cocoa life.
- Compare the functions of the various Cadbury factories found in the uk and discuss the importance of location when choosing a factory location.
- Recognise the importance of sustainability in industry and discover the methods in which Cadbury are improving their environmental footprint.

There are lots of photos on our social media pages!



Geography Department

Morocco Trip

Rebekah F (Year 12)

I was delighted to join Somervale and Norton Hill on the fabulous trip to Morocco and it was definitely an experience I will never forget. I don't think there was anything that we didn't do and it was such an eye opener to visit a different, vibrant and spectacular culture. Across the different areas of Morocco that we visited, from the mountains to the desert, the food also never failed to disappoint!

Isla H (Year 9)

We arrived in Marrakech on the evening of Easter Sunday after a three-and-a-half-hour flight, greeted by our tour guides, who were informative and friendly for the duration of our trip.

Each day was packed with cultural immersion, breathtaking landscapes and multiple activities that enlightened us about life in Morocco. Some of my favourite activities included our camel ride through the Sahara Desert and watching the sunset from the dunes, as both moments felt so surreal. In addition to this, early in the morning after camping in the desert, we got up to admire the rise of the sun over the golden sand. The rest of the itinerary included trips to local villages, a visit to a souk and an apothecary in Marrakech, henna tattoos, a walk around the kasbah in Ouarzazate, a trip to the UNESCO world heritage site of Ait Benhaddou for some historical exploration and lots more. The views were incredible as we drove through the Atlas mountains, with each landscape so diverse to the other. Being surrounded by mountains and palm trees made the trip feel nothing short of magical.

During our time in the country, we visited various villages and engaged with the local people there to learn more about their culture and communities. We took part in a vast range of cultural activities, from helping to make traditional delicacies like tagine, bread and couscous to visiting the women's apothecary to watch the production of Moroccan oil. We also visited a few people who talked to us about their daily life and provided us with a deeper insight into Moroccan life. For example we travelled to a date palm farm to meet a young farmer, and we met Mohammed, a man living in a small village near Ouarzazate, who toured us around the maze-like streets, uncovered the history of his village and showed us the manufacturing of pottery. One of my highlights of the journey was definitely visiting a small village outside of Marrakech, where we were greeted by a group of schoolchildren who had picked flowers for us. They were the sweetest group of girls and they took us around their village, holding our hands, teaching us Arabic songs and phrases, insisting on carrying our bags for us and hugging us every 5 seconds. The friendliness and warmth of all the local people we met was really welcoming and offered a sense of familiarity.

Geography Department

On our coach journeys through the mountains, we stopped at different points along the way to not only look at the beautiful scenery all around us but also to purchase souvenirs and handmade jewellery. Bartering is a large part of trade for tourists in Morocco and we had to participate in bartering in the souk in Marrakech and at the stalls we stopped at on our coach journeys. And I would say that as a group, we were quite successful with getting the prices as low as we could. The stalls in the bustling souk displayed a variety of traditional, Moroccan handicrafts such as arrays of handcrafted pottery, intricate metal work, beautiful jewellery, hand polished metal lamps, woven rugs and vibrant textiles.

Overall I loved every moment of the trip, every activity was really enjoyable and I am so happy that I took the opportunity to go.

Mrs Day (Trip Organiser)

We have run a number of 'Wow' trips over the years but Morocco seemed a whole different kettle of fish. Our students were not only amazing but they immersed themselves into the way of life and culture of this African country.

Before we set off many students worked closely with Miss Evans, and a number of other Somervale students, to fundraise for the village that we were visiting on the final day. The village has not had a full rain season for nearly 10 years and is struggling with droughts and crop issues. As part of our visit the students wanted to give something back so took the money they had helped fundraise whilst at school (doing many Easter activities) and Ms Postlethwaite met with the village elder and donated the money, nearly £600 to the kindergarten school and to support the village in purchasing a new water pump to pull up the water from the ground. The children of the village and the elders were very touched and thankful. We were so proud of our students and all that they achieved. Speaking to many parents after the trip it was lovely to hear how many came back a different person, mature and independent.

Well done to you all.

You should be very proud!



Languages Department

The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators

We are absolutely delighted to announce that, once again, a Somervale student has been awarded the top prize for Spanish translation in the South West of England, in the 'Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators'.

The Year 11 student will now go on to compete with the Key Stage 4 Spanish National Finalists to see if they can win even further recognition.

The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators is a very prestigious competition run by The Queen's College, University of Oxford and this year had over 16,000 participants translating texts from different languages into English. To have received an award is a phenomenal achievement. Well done!

Thanks to all the students who submitted their entries this year. I know the judges are very impressed by the standard of entries.

We hope to have more news on how our Year 11 student does in the National competition in the final newsletter of the year.

We wish them luck!



Art & Design Department

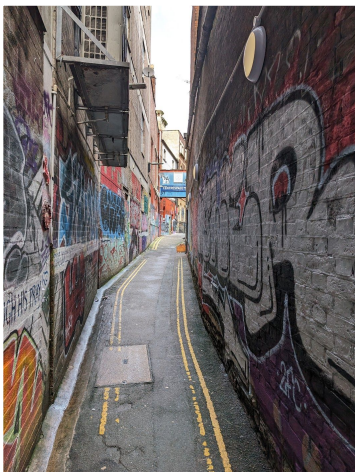
Pictures from our recent Trip to Bristol to help our Year 11 Students prepare for their photography exams.



Wapping Wharf
Boats, cranes
and containers



Millennium Square
Planetarium, water
features and modern
buildings



Finzels Reach -
mixture of new and old
architecture. It is
located on the South
bank of the river and
joined to Castle Park.



Old City - Historic
Architecture and
narrow alleyways with
street art.

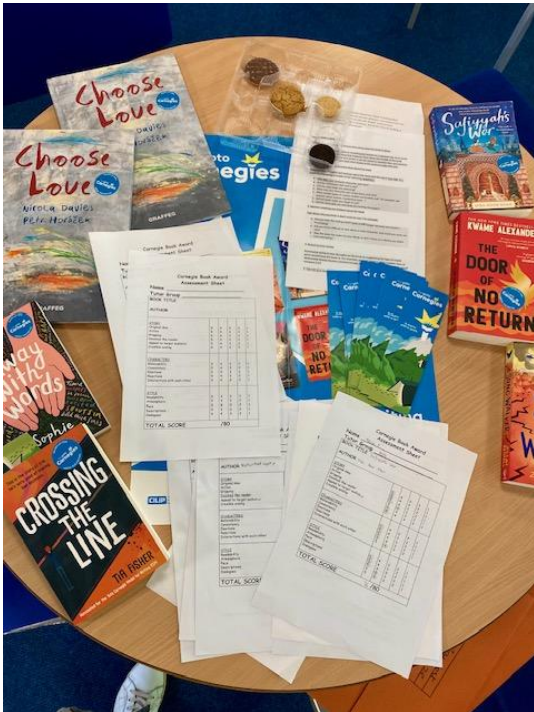
Library News

The National Carnegie Book Awards 2024

Our Shadowing group of students in year 8 and 9 have been busy reading this year's shortlisted titles. Students need to complete an evaluation and scoring sheet after finishing each book, and write a review for the Carnegie Award website.

Every Week A Wednesday lunchtime we meet to discuss the books, research the topics and complete activities.

There's even biscuits and lunches too!



For more information on the Yoto Carnegies and this year's shortlisted books, please click here: [Yoto Carnegies 2024](#)

This year's shortlisted books are:



Library News



Accelerated Reader®

Congratulations to all our Accelerated Reader winners in Term 4. These students have shown commitment to their reading and engagement in Accelerated Reader Quizzing.

Well done!

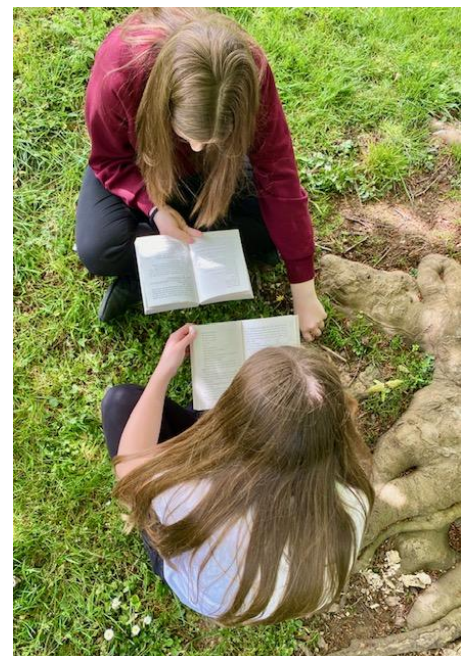
Freddie F 7MFI
Harvey P 7ALO
Harrison F 7CME
Archie R 7KLU
Olivia M 7KLU
Evangeline H 7KLU
Freddie D 7MFI

Max A 8NPA
Neve C 8EKD
Stanley P 8NPA
Sam EC 8EKD
Elsie S 8CPA
Leo T 8EKD
Jack J 8EKD
Lilly L 8NPA

Ty B 9MGE
Max C 9MGE
Ava K 9MGE
Sasha M 9WFA
Megan B 9VTH
Ianis I 9WFA
Poppy W 9LGE



The sunshine has finally arrived, which means some lovely opportunities to read outside during library lessons...



Music Department

Our year 11s have been working really hard to get their final coursework completed for GCSE. It's been lovely watching so many of them giving up extra time during lunch and after school to edit and fine tune their work. We would like to wish all of our musicians good luck for the upcoming exam period.

Term Six is shaping up to be a busy one for the music department.

We're hoping to take a group of students to Paulton Juniors to showcase secondary music in an assembly to key stage 2.

Our Club Rock members are rehearsing hard for Battle of the Bands in June (details to be confirmed) and we will be closing off the academic year with a joint summer showcase event with our friends at Norton Hill School.

Mr C Kehoe & Ms C Evans



English Department



On Tuesday 23rd April, a group of Year 9 students attended a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" by Box Clever at The Egg theatre in Bath.



It was a great opportunity to enjoy one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays adapted to suit a young audience. Our students loved being involved in the performance and some even dared to come on stage and take on roles in front of their fascinated classmates. We really did have some stellar performances from Reuben R, Liam W, Billy W, Sasha M, Henry C and Reuben B.

As usual, our students did Somervale School proud with their respectful and enthusiastic attitude. It was a real pleasure to share this experience with them.

English Department

English Department - Year 8 Poetry

Students in 8.1 have been exploring different aspects of culture through poetry. They have been investigating methods used by writers and then attempted to use this style in their own writing. The poems that have been created demonstrate wonderful imagination from this group! Well done all.

Mrs Davis



Tesco spaghetti and meatballs microwave meal

The spaghetti is golden like a thread of hay,
the meatballs are saucy, they make my day.
The combination of herbs and happiness,
a delicious delicacy, phenomenal and
wondrous.

The sizzling sensation as it burns my
tongue,
the stunning smell, the very opposite of
dung.

I could not imagine a life without,
if it were, I would pout.

It is gorgeous like the maze runner saga.
I appreciate it as much as my phone
charger.

My spaghetti is my joy,
The meatballs, made to enjoy.

I wait for my food eagerly,
four minutes time, I can wait, surely?
the microwave turns, like the earth,
each mouthful ever better, discovering new
turf.

After time is up, the microwave finishes,
I begin to eat and my food diminishes.

E.S- 8.1

Ignorance

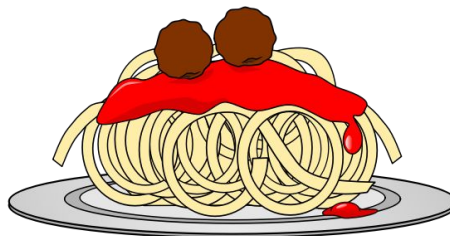
Waves nip carefully at golden sands.
Algae's slimy tongue, licking my hands.
sea foam races, like horses in the wind.
Grinning like clams, which have never sinned.

Unlike the minds of evil,
who were born by the devil.
Plastic which savagely litters the beaches.
Humans like parasites, they spread like leeches.

Disturbing wildlife, they're never calm.
Destroying vulnerable turtles and their farms.
Suffocating desolate, melancholy lives,
of angelfish and their midwives.

But all of this, we do not know,
as the waves wash, to and fro,
they jump over, cleansing us,
and give back our lives, as thus.

C.M - 8.1



English Department

The Forest

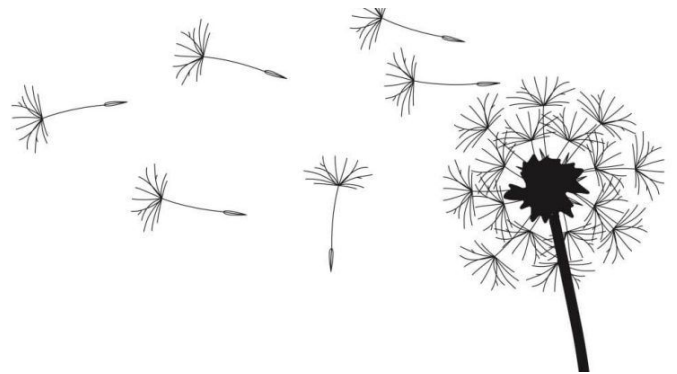
The Forest trees swayed in the gentle breeze.
The branches wave like many fingers moving with ease.
I walked along slowly my feet stepping in the mud.
This place was wild and the noises made me shudder.

The sun shone down through the trees and the autumn leaves.
All around me was luscious green.
The bushes grew thick, the trees grew high
and the birds flew gracefully in the clear blue sky.

There was the sound of the wind rustling the plants
and the birds singing and flapping their delicate wings.
In the distance the sound of trickling water from a stream.
Everything was so calm.

I walked over by the stream,
there was a beam of sunlight that made the water glimmer,
the reality of the world was nowhere to be seen.
It was too quiet for any human being.

D.S- 8.1



Forest Seasons

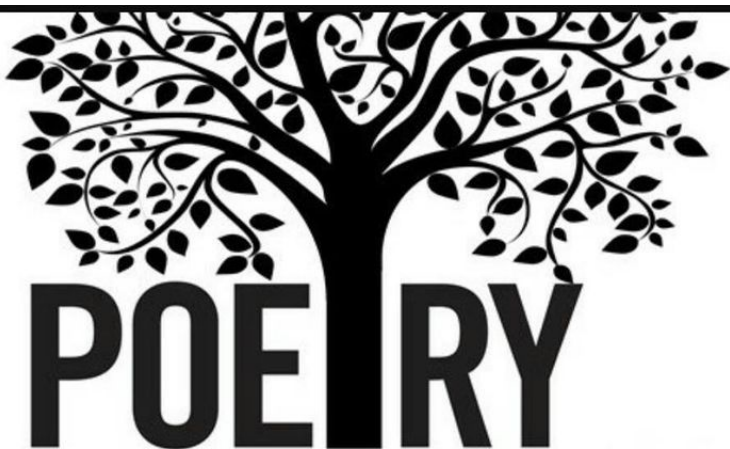
The forest is glowing.
Sun beams speckling the leaf covered floor.
Rivers splashing and flowing.
Flowers smiling to the sun.

The forest is white.
Covered in snow.
Silent and shivering.
Plants frozen below.

The forest is orange.
No leaves on the trees.
All on the floor.
Yellow, orange and green.

The forest is pretty.
Flowers blooming across the green grass.
Creating a colourful blanket.
Pink, yellow and blue.

E.M- 8.1



Pastoral Department

Hayfever season is coming! Please can students that require them, remember to bring their inhalers to school and, wherever possible, take any medication that they may need to manage seasonal allergies prior to coming into school.

We would like to offer a polite reminder that if students need medication brought to them during the school day, they should come to the Pastoral Office for a member of staff to call home. Any medication to be taken in school should be handed in to Reception or to the Pastoral Office with a completed consent form.

As the weather gets warmer, it's particularly important to stay hydrated. Please remember to send pupils to school with a reusable water bottle which they can top up during the day.
Many thanks!

Student Achievements

Reuben B recently shot at the Essex Master which is one of the biggest Clay Pigeon shooting events in the UK.

He came a very credible 4th in his group with an impressive 162 out of 200, beating a lot of his peers by a big amount.

His family and the school are incredibly proud of his achievements and he will next be competing at the British Open.

Good luck!



SEN Department

The SEN Dept are pleased to announce that we have appointed a new 'Thrive' practitioner to join the TA team.

Thrive offers a trauma-informed approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Mrs Copsey has experience of delivering Thrive interventions in a previous role, so we know she will be a great asset to the SEN team and are grateful for the expertise she can bring to Somervale School.



The next academic year of 2024-25 is very exciting, as we are planning on designing and creating a Forest School area on the school site, to enable us to offer and deliver Forest School interventions to support our SEMH SEN pupils.

Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions.

Exciting times ahead, so watch this space for pictures as the Forest School area develops!

Lastly, good luck to all our Y11s this term, including those with Special Educational Needs, who start their GCSE exams. Some of the SEN pupils are completing their GCSEs with Exam Access Arrangements to help and support their needs, so they can achieve their very best and reach their full potential.



School Office

SOMERVALE SCHOOL

SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK

We are setting
up a School
Uniform Bank

Please can you
support and
donate any
unwanted
school uniform
you have

Please donate any of the
following:

School Jumpers

School Ties

School Coats

School Skirts

School Trousers

PE Kit

[www.somervaleschool.com/key-
information/school-uniform.htm](http://www.somervaleschool.com/key-information/school-uniform.htm)

Please drop
off at the
Main School
Reception



School News



03 458 686 688

WHG

We are looking for welcoming
Host Families

Earn up to £350 per week per student
full support from Local Guardian
access to free safeguarding course
all families DBS checked



For more information contact Sue
☎ 07 939 211 193 ✉ avon@localguardians.co.uk
or visit <https://whitehouseguardians.co.uk/host-family>



White House Guardians

School News

Parent Voice and Student Voice Home Learning Feedback May 2024



68% of parents agree their child is organised to complete set deadlines

90% of parents agree their child knows how to use google classroom

90% of parents agree their child receives support to complete homework

78% of students agree they complete homework on time

58% of students agree they are organised to complete homework

97% of students agree they know how to complete homework on google classroom

85% of students agree they want homework tasks to include how to revise

48% of students agree they read regularly at home

59% of parents agree their child reads regularly at home

77% of parents agree their child has enough time to complete homework

41% of students agree they need to be reminded to complete homework

48% of students use the library or homework club

49% of students agree they have enough time to complete homework

Thank you to all parents/carers and students for completing the survey. We are currently reviewing the feedback with staff to make changes for the next Academic Year.

Areas for Development:

We are looking to reduce the amount of KS3 ELP's set throughout the year to ensure students have enough time to complete them.

We are looking to ensure home learning tasks include recall and revision tasks at key times when students have core exams in KS3.

We are looking to introduce a wider variety of homework tasks across subjects which will include how to video guides, pick n mix activities and include wider general knowledge skills linked to the academic calendar.

We are looking at supporting students to complete accelerated reader activities, to read regularly.



Term Dates 2024-25



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
Norton Hill Primary School,
Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Somerset BA3 2UD
headoffice@msnpartnership.com
www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

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
Tuesday 22nd July 2025
(Friday 18th July last day for students)

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Monday 2nd September 2024

Inset day 2

Friday 25th October 2024

Inset day 3

Monday 6th January 2025

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*