

# Somerville News

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**AIMING HIGH TOGETHER**

## DIWALI 2023 – THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Diwali is a major festival that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and the start of new beginnings for millions of people of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain faiths. The exact dates of Diwali change every year however this year the main date was last weekend and fell on the 12th November. We would like to wish our Hindu and Sikh families and those within our community a very happy Diwali celebration.



## READING IN SCHOOL



Last week all children should have arrived home with a book they get to keep. This is to make way for newer and even more enjoyable books for the school library that children will be able to borrow for reading for pleasure.

We are asking all of our children and families to have a push on reading at home and ensure reading is happening daily.



### Dates for you Diary

**December**

**Thursday 21st**

School closes to pupils for Christmas holidays

**January**

**Monday 8th**

School opens to pupils for Spring Term



## GREEN TEAM

On Friday 10th November, three of our Eco Committee members attended a Wirral Wide Eco Council meeting at Bidston Golf Club, along with other children from six local high schools and seven primary schools.

Ruby, Isla and Hope (year 5) were involved in making some very important decisions to help launch and develop a new eco programme, deciding on what the programme would involve and even how the budget would be spent. The new programme will be based on earth, water and air and there will also be separate eco art days for raising awareness.

The children represented Somerville beautifully, showing respect and coming up with fantastic ideas. We were very proud of them.

## ORACY FAMILY DISCUSSION POINT OF THE WEEK

If you could be any character in a book for a week, which one would it be and why?

### CHRISTMAS DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please see the dates below for each of the Christmas performances. This year we are trying a different format for Year 5. Year 5 will not be doing a Christmas Carol concert, they will instead lead the school celebration for Easter and will do a production based on this instead, that Year 5 parents will be invited to in the Spring Term. Year 5 will, of course, still be involved in all other Christmas activities and will be watching some of the dress rehearsals for other year groups.



Reception - Nativity - Monday 11th December - 9.10am  
Year 1 - Nativity - Wednesday 20th November - 9.10am  
Year 2 - Christingle - Friday 15th December - 2.00pm  
Year 3 - Angels production - Wednesday 20th December - 2.00pm  
Year 4 - Carol concert - Monday 18th December - 9.10am  
Year 6 - Christingle service - Thursday 21st December - 9.10am

There will be **two** tickets issued per child for all performances. If you bring a child they will need to sit on parent / carers knee. Prams and pushchairs can not come into the school hall due to fire safety. All prams and buggies will have to be parked outside **regardless of the weather**.

### JUDAISM

 On Thursday we welcomed a visitor from the synagogue into our school to talk to different year groups about different aspects of Judaism. Reception children learned about Shabbat, Year 2 children about Hannukah and Year 5 children about Jewish life. The children really enjoyed these sessions and being able to ask questions. Mr Cohen will be visiting school again in January to talk to Years 1, 3 and 6.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY – WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Our **CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY** is always a roaring success. It is a lovely, social time where the children eat THE MOST AMAZING DINNER, listening and singing to Christmas tunes. The dinner is lovingly prepared and cooked by Mrs Spencer and her fabulous team! All the staff have a dinner on this day as well because the food is AMAZING.

This years Christmas dinner day is **WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER**. We have to order the meat well in advance meaning we have to ask for numbers to be confirmed. On Christmas dinner day the **only** option is a Christmas dinner. Therefore, if your child normally has a school dinner and doesn't want a Christmas dinner, they would have to bring their own packed lunch that day.

Whether or not the children normally have a school dinner you will STILL NEED TO FILL IN THE GOOGLE FORM that will be sent to all families on Monday. **Responses need to be in by WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2023.**

If you are on packed lunch normally the charge for a school dinner is £2.30 and you will need to pay this on the parent pay app. If you are normally packed lunch **BUT** are entitled to free school meals then you need to fill in the forms online to be able to have the dinner for free. Ask at the school office if you need help with this.

# ONLINE SAFETY

Please find below a list of apps and the recommended age for their usage. The age guidelines are there for a reason for these apps. There is the potential for harm on a number of different levels. Children need a certain level of maturity and knowledge to know how to safely use these apps. There is the potential for strangers to exploit them and for the child to get themselves into trouble due to inappropriate use.

Parents and carers should use the parental restrictions available and monitor their child's use of apps and social media. It is extremely difficult for school to sort out difficulties that arise out of school hours using social media, when children are using apps they should not have access to due to their age. The NSPCC website has lots of advice to support.



13+	16+
 Facebook	 Snapchat
 Instagram	 WhatsApp
 TikTok	 Sarahah
 Kik	 MeetMe
 YouNow	 YOLO
 House Party	 LiveMe
 Monkey	

## PRIMARY SCIENCE ACTIVITY

Mrs Connolly, our science leader, is raising the profile of science further in school by setting fun family science actives, several times a year. Currently, the last of the leaves are falling off the trees. Can you pick a few up on a park walk and try to identify the tree type they came from and then create a piece of 'animal' art using your leaves. Any artwork created please give to Mrs Connolly who would love to see your piece of art with your leaf types identified. Please see below for an example. We can't wait to see your creations! Can you build up your science certificates over the year?





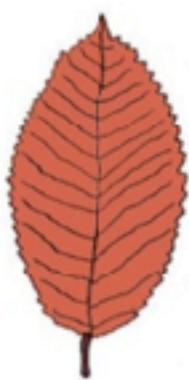
elder



ash



beech



cherry



english oak



eucalyptus



field maple



hawthorn



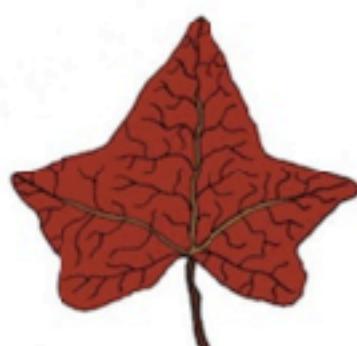
hazel



holly



horse chestnut



ivy



rowan



silver birch



sycamore



yew