

1st September 2026

Start of Term Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! After a hot and balmy six weeks, I hope the children are feeling well rested and ready to return to school. The staff are all looking forward to seeing the children in their new classes on Thursday, ready for a new year to begin. They have been working behind the scenes over the summer holiday to prepare classrooms, resources and lessons for the first term, and are excited to share this with their new classes.

While the six weeks break can sometimes pass in a haze, school has remained busy and purposeful! Mr Gardner has been working very hard to keep the school smart and safe. You will notice some of the changes that have been made around the school perimeter to keep the spaces smarter and easier to maintain, and Mr Gardner has been productive in the school building too, painting, repairing and organising to ensure that the children come back to a space that enables them to start straight away with fantastic learning. A huge thank you to him for all his hard work, as well as the PFA, who have been working so hard to re-design the school's front garden area, which is looking fantastic. We are so fortunate to have such community-minded parents and staff in our school.

We welcome Miss Thompson and Miss Tilley to the teaching team, and Miss Smith, Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Jerred, Miss Pitchford and Mrs Cox to the Teaching Assistant team. We also welcome a number of new children in classes across the school. I am sure you will join me in saying a big Somersham 'hello'.

Please do read on throughout the rest of this newsletter. There are important reminders about uniform, attendance, entry and exit points and SEND. Even if you think these don't apply to you, please do read on, as there are a couple of changes to processes and procedures which are really important for everyone to read.

We are looking forward to another year of great learning, hard work and wonderful progress in school. Please do always come and talk to us if you have a question, query or concern – there are always Senior Leaders on the school gates and class teachers are always happy to catch up if you need to. By working together, we can make this a fantastic year for our children and school.

We will see you back on Thursday 3rd September, promptly at 08:40!

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



Key Dates – updates in blue



Thursday 3 rd September	Term starts for children
Monday 14 th September @ 18:00	Meeting for parents/carers of children going to Hilltop
Friday 23 rd October – Monday 3 rd November	Half term
Wednesday 14 th – Friday 16 th October	Year 6 Hilltop visit
Tuesday 17 th November	Individual photos

Pupil Collection and Medical forms

Thank you to everyone who completed the Medical Needs form before the summer break. If your child's medical circumstances have changed over the summer break, please let us know via the school office.

If you didn't do so before the end of term, please ensure that the pupil collection form below is completed before 12:00 tomorrow so that we can share this with teachers before the children arrive!

[Somersham Primary School – Pupil Collection Form – September 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Attendance

We all understand the importance of regular attendance to ensure that children make as much progress as possible, both academically and socially.

This year, we are asking parents and carers to report absence via phone rather than email. We understand that this may be difficult due to work or family commitments, but if absence is reported via email, someone from the office will call back so that the absence can be appropriately coded on the register and we can discuss an expected return to school date.

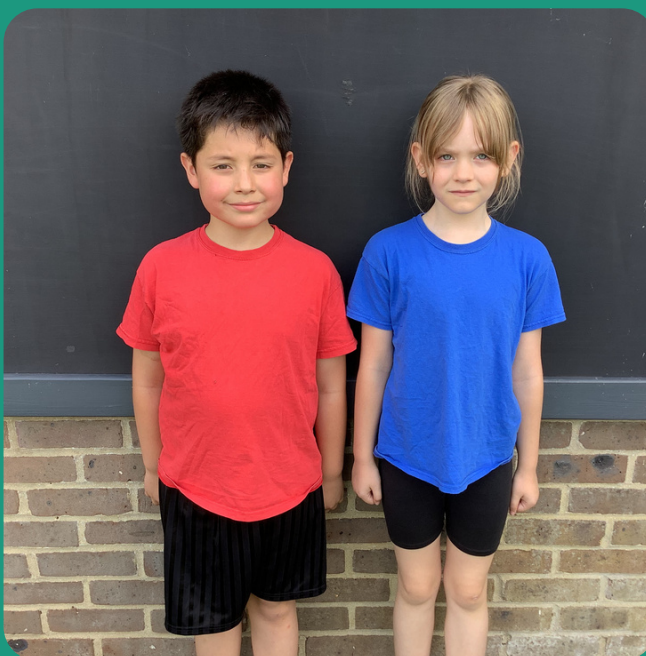
Uniform

Please see the photos to the right as exemplars of what children should be wearing for school uniform and PE lessons this academic year. Sports shorts and leggings are not acceptable unless otherwise agreed for a particular reason.

There is no expectation that jumpers/cardigans are branded, and second hand uniform can be purchased from the PFA (see their Facebook page for more details).

PE tops should be the colour of the child's House, and should be plain and without logo.

If you have any questions about uniform, please ask your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team.



Other items in school

Please see below a couple of reminders about other items children need at school:

- Children should bring a water bottle to school every day, which is clearly named. There are some very expensive water bottles now on the market, and we would advise against these! Water bottles do get lost or knocked, and the school takes no responsibility for these items if misplaced or damaged.
- Smartwatches are not appropriate for school, and should not be worn. If children in Year 6 are bringing mobile phones to school, these should be dropped off at the office before children go to their classrooms, and can be collected after children have been dismissed from their classroom at the end of the day.
- Focus tools (a more appropriate rebranding of 'fidget toys'!) should only be used in school in agreement with Mrs Gardner and your child's teacher. Please do contact your child's class teacher if you'd like to discuss this further.

Entry and Exit Points

Please see below photos of the doors which are entry and exit points for each class. There are no changes to previous years, apart from Woodpecker and Nightingale, which are slightly different due to our new four class structure in Key Stage One. There is no guidance for Robin and Wren classes, but this will be shared at the 1:1 visit later this week.

Kingfisher continue to enter through the right of the three doors, and Chaffinch through the middle. Nightingale will enter via the left door, and will be in the classroom previously occupied by Woodpecker. Woodpecker class will enter via the same door and will then move along the corridor to their classroom, which was the previous Wren classroom.



Kestrel class enter via the first door on the right, and Magpie class the second. For families who are new to these classrooms, they can be accessed by the pathway to the left of the office or, if coming from King Street, by continuing past the Reception outdoor area.



Puffin class enters via the first door on the left, and Red Kite and Barn Owl classes via the second door.



Osprey class enters school via the hall, and crosses the hall to get to the classroom. There will be adults available on the first day back to direct children.

