

25th September 2026

Weekly Update



Headteacher update

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

There has been a real buzz of excitement in school this week, as children put themselves forward for School Council, Eco Council and House Captain positions. Some children really stepped outside their comfort zone to present their ideas to the class, and we were really proud of their bravery. As is the case in a democratic process, there will be some children who are disappointed not to have been elected, but we are proud of all their efforts and congratulate those who were successful. Photos will be included in next week's newsletter and we look forward to seeing those elected represent their classes and contribute to wider school life.

There was also a buzz to this afternoon's MacMillan fundraising event. A big thank you to Mrs Miller for organising this, and to everyone who made cakes, attended or contributed. It was great to be able to come together as a community and support this important charity, and give parents, carers and family members the opportunity to catch up. This will be an annual Somersham event so do mark it in your diaries for the same time next year.

We have hosted ten trainee teachers in school this week, who

have spent two days exploring behaviour for learning across the school. Led by Mrs Furness, they have been in and out of classrooms, observed break and lunchtime and worked with groups of children, to find out more about how behaviour is positively and successfully managed to facilitate productive learning environments. The visitors were very complimentary about the children, their behaviour and the wider school, and it is great for Somersham to be able to contribute to wider teacher development.

A quick note to say that paper copies of communications are always available to parents and carers who may prefer this, or who are having problems with technology. If you would prefer a paper copy of a letter or a newsletter, please just let the office know and we can arrange for these to come home with your child in their book bag.

Have a lovely weekend. See you bright and early on Monday morning!

Jonathan Clarke and the SPS Team



Key Dates – updates in blue



Tuesday 29 th September 16:00 – 19:00	Abbey College Open Evening
Wednesday 14 th – Friday 16 th October	Year 6 Hilltop visit
Tuesday 20 th and Wednesday 21 st October 15:30 – 18:30	Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings
Thursday 22 nd October 17:00 – 20:00	Cromwell Community College Open Evening
Friday 23 rd October – Monday 3 rd November	Half Term
Wednesday 11 th November	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need
Week beginning Monday 16 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17 th November	Individual photos
Monday 23 rd November	EYFS and Y6 Measures Programme
Tuesday 8 th (09:20), Wednesday 9 th (14:00) and Thursday 10 th (09:20) December	Key Stage One Christmas Production
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 14 th December	Reception and KS1 Walk to Church
Thursday 17 th December	KS2 Walk to Church

TTRS

Times tables are central to children's mathematical success. Children's proficiency in multiplication facts supports them to access other areas of the maths curriculum with confidence and fluency.



To support children's work in this area, we use Times Table Rock Stars, an online app, for children in Years 2 to 6. To re-launch this, Meridian Trust is launching an inter-school competition the week beginning October 5th. We will be encouraging children to engage with this at home and start the year as they mean to go on in learning their times tables.

What is Times Tables Rock Stars? Parents and Carers Guide

PFA AGM

It was great to see so many parents and friends at the PFA AGM on Tuesday night. At the meeting, there were reports from the Headteacher, Co-Chairs and Treasurers, before the committee was dissolved and a new committee elected.

The outgoing committee was thanked for all its hard work over the year, organising a range of events for all children to enjoy and engage in. Leading the PFA is a busy job, and we are grateful for their effort and dedication.

A new committee was then elected and we are grateful for the following people for volunteering for the roles:

Co-Chairs: Kailea and Sacha

Treasurers: Amy

Vice Treasurer: Katrina

Secretary: Aimee

Vice Secretary: Becky

The first meeting is on October 13th, and all parents, carers and friends are welcome to join the group. You do not need to have attended the AGM to come along.

The group are looking forward to organising another range of great events this year, to entertain the children and to fundraise for the school.



Reception	Sign	Sign means using our hands or body to communicate a message without speaking. This week, we have learnt the toilet sign and are beginning to use it as part of our Reception routines. Signs give children a quiet way to communicate what they need, particularly if they feel shy, while also helping us to keep the flow of our learning without interruptions. We will be learning more signs as the year goes on. To extend this learning at home, you could ask your child to show you the toilet sign they have learnt at school and practise using it together.
Year 1/2	Responsibility	We have been discussing responsibilities in PSHE. Can your child say how they can be responsible at school and at home?
Year 3/4	Magnet	In Science, we have been exploring which materials are magnetic by using magnets to test different objects and investigate magnetic fields. Can you name some magnetic materials at home?
Year 5/6	Typography	In art this week, Year 5 and 6 have been studying a variety of fonts and type faces and how these have all been specifically designed for their audience.
	French	Years 3 & 4: Watch BlabberBeasts – hang out at the park with Monster Jean greeting his monster friends! Greetings in French Years 5 & 6: Watch this BBC video about French school life: French primary school

Christmas Fayre

POSTER

Competition



We need a special poster to advertise our Christmas Fayre and it could be YOUR design!

Your poster should include:

- ☒ The words 'Christmas Fayre'
- ☒ The date & time (4th December 5pm-7pm)
- ☒ A fun, eye-catching design
- ☒ Bright colours and a festive theme!

Open to all
children of
Somersham
Primary School



Hand in your design by:

Thursday 22nd October



Give it to:

Your class teacher



£1 per entry

The Christmas Fayre Poster Competition entry form shall be distributed from school. Prizes available for winner, 2nd & 3rd place designs.

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

TOP OF THE ROCKS



MERIDIAN AUTUMN

DATE:

05.10.2026 - 09.10.2026

TIME:

07:00 - 19:00

*** ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE *
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING CLASS
WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT
ANSWERS PER PUPIL * ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR
FULL DETAILS AND RULES ***

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



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The National College®

See full reference list on our website



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Cambridgeshire
County Council



Launching soon: Best Start Family Hub **Huntingdon**



From Monday 28 September, Cambridgeshire County Council is launching five new Best Start Family Hubs, which will build on the current Child and Family Centre offer.

We would like to invite you to be part of the launch! Come along to the opening of the new Best Start Family Hub in Huntingdon.

No booking required. Drop in to meet the team, learn about all the support available and enjoy fun activities with your children. You'll find refreshments, information stands and free resources.

Also, we'd love to hear from you about our services and the support you need.

Everyone welcome.

We look forward to seeing you soon at a new Family Hub!



Where and when

- ★ Thursday 1 October
- ★ 10.00am - 2.00pm
- ★ Huntingdon Family Hub, Sallowbush Road, Huntingdon, PE29 7AF



Taster activities

- ★ Sensory babies
- ★ More to explore
- ★ Bookstart corner
- ★ Tiny tooth
- ★ Introducing family foods
- ★ Sensory ribbon rings
- ★ Parachute play and singing with Julie
- ★ Playdough making





SOMERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

PFA SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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Good quality uniform, great prices!

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<https://uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=4450>



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Keep up to date with events, fundraising and everything PFA:



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Somersham Primary School
Parent & Friends Association



INSTAGRAM

@somershamprimaryschool_pfa



**REMINDER
OUR AGM IS**



WANT TO USE A QR CODE?

Save this poster to your phone, open it from your camera roll, then press and hold the QR code you want to use.

Physical activity

for children and young people (5-18 Years)



***Builds
Confidence &
Social Skills***



***Strengthens
Muscles & Bones***



***Maintains
Healthy
Weight***



***Develops
Co-ordination***



***Improves
Health & Fitness***



***Improves
Sleep***



***Improves
Concentration
& Learning***



***Makes
You Feel
Good***

Be physically active

60 minutes

Aim for an average of at least

per day across the week

**Spread activity
throughout the day**



Play



Walk / Run



Swim



Skate



Skip



Climb

**Activities to
develop
movement
skills, and
muscle and
bone strength**

**All activities should make you
breathe faster & feel warmer**



Bike



Active Travel



Sport



PE



Workout



Dance

**Reduce
inactivity**



**Increase
activity**

**Find ways to help all children and young people accumulate an average
of at least 60 minutes physical activity per day across the week**

UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines, 2026