

Annual Parish Meeting 2024- Report from Somersham Primary School

Somersham Primary School remains a popular school, serving local families from Somersham, Little Blakenham, Offton and Flowton as well as out of catchment villages such as Willisham, Barking, Great Blakenham, Claydon, Bramford, sproughton and Great Bricett. This reflects the Government's changes in legislation that allows parental choice when applying to schools in the locality.

Somersham Primary is federated with Bramford CEVC Primary School. This provides an extremely beneficial and supportive partnership, allowing the schools to work together, share resources and professional development whilst maintaining autonomy within each school. School staff and governors are working as an effective team together to ensure high standards around teaching and learning are maintained. We are extremely grateful to our amazing Parent Teacher Association (FOSS), who have worked diligently to continue to raise much needed funds this year. The School Summer Fete is always a huge success and summer 2023 was no exception, being well attended and enjoyed by all. Other FOSS fund raising events have included:

- Easter trail
- Pumpkin carving competition
- Wreath making workshop at the Village Hall
- Design a Christmas card design
- Discos

FOSS have also funded many school trips this year including our Residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands, a visit to Duxford War Museum, West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, Ipswich Fire Station and The Suffolk Schools Farm Fair. With the rise in travel costs, trips have become hugely expensive and contributions from FOSS have avoided these costs being passed onto families.

Other items FOSS have funded over the year:

- iPads for Adders Class
- Glitter fund for each class – Christmas crafts
- Subscription to First News (newspaper for Key Stage 2)
- Author visit
- Forest School shed
- EYFS/KS1 Storage shed and covered area
- Children's resources shed for EYFS/KS1 outdoor area

Outdoor Early Years and Key Stage One Building Project

Following a meeting with the Parish Council on May 10th, an agreement to part fund our much needed outdoor building project for the Primary school was approved (using Community Infrastructure Levy funds). This was greatly appreciated and the new storage shed and covered area has created a usable all weather space for the children to learn and play. We also received some funding towards this from the Somersham Land Trust.

We are now in the process of sourcing funds for 20 plus storage boxes to use inside the shed to store all the equipment in.

Breakfast Club

After sending out parent/carer surveys, findings showed that a Breakfast Club would be beneficial to several families. Since April 2023, we have had Kicks & Tricks Ltd in school every morning from 8am running our breakfast club. The children who attend get to choose from a range of breakfast cereals, toast, fruit and juice before then joining in with a variety of activities such as football, basketball, kin-ball and archery. Numbers attending are currently low but we are hoping that this will increase with our new September 2024 Reception intake.

Other news

This term we have lots to look forward to including our Summer Fete, a KS2 production and Sports Day. We continue to promote our school as an Eco- School. Our Eco-Council are proud advocates of recycling and are currently running a competition to see who can make the most creative tree from recycled objects. Gardening club are also actively promoting healthy eating and are currently growing many different vegetables on the school grounds. They are also in the process of completing an Olympic themed garden which will be on show at The Suffolk Show this year. Some members of Art Club have just won a prize to visit a farm as they created an amazing soil sculpture showing how important the soil eco-systems are.

We will be saying goodbye at the end of the term to our Year 6's so transition work with Claydon High School is already underway. We will also be out and about around the village studying the local area so keep a look out for us!

Mrs Leah Chinnery

Head of School

Somersham Primary School

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