



FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER 2025

Thank you all so much for attending parents' consultations this week. It is by working in partnership that we really achieve the best for our children. If you weren't able to make the sessions, please speak to your child's teacher to arrange a time for a chat. This is unlikely to be straight after school due to their other commitments.

Thank you

Thank you JP Morgan!

A team of volunteers from J P Morgan arrived at school today to help us update and tidy our Early Years outdoor learning environment. We are so grateful to them for their time, energy and enthusiasm. The area now looks so much better for our children.

What an amazing team!

Events in school over the last two weeks....

- Swimming lessons continued for Year 4 and some Y5 and 6 children
- Y4 continued their samba lessons and are beginning to sound pretty good!
 - Our reading dog Luca returned to read with some new children
- Hot chocolate Friday is back up and running to celebrate those children who always go above and beyond
 - Dr Bike came in to check our bikes are safe
- Children who cycled or scooted were rewarded with a Bike It Breakfast
 - We all smiled for our individual and sibling photos
- Y6 had a really interesting day at the Chiropractic College in Boscombe

Half term

School is closed from 27th to 31st October for the half term break. We re open on Monday 3rd November.

Rags2riches collection

We had a great collection today—thank you for sorting out your cupboards—and raised £55.38 for school funds.

The next collection will be 10th February 2026. We can store your bags for you before that date.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all of your generous donations to Christchurch Foodbank. The children carried them expertly to the church for our service and we'd like to thank Rev Paul and his team for making us so welcome.

Address:

Draper Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 3AS
Tel: (01202) 485436

Email: office@somerford.dorset.sch.uk

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Our focus for this year

Improve writing across the school.

If your child is in Reception or Year 1 ask them about Drawing Club. This uses books, stories and animations to enrich language, motor skills and creativity. The children love it and are already producing some amazing stories!

Attendance

Our expectation for attendance is 96% or above.

The school will not authorise leave in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Holidays are not considered exceptional circumstances and are likely to result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to each parent for each child. **This is £80 per parent, per child.**

Attendance over the last two weeks

	Year group	Attendance	Met expectation?	
Year 3 has dipped to below expectations. A holiday in term time will lead to a request for a Penalty Notice.	Whole school	95.01%	Just below	Well done!
	1	96.76%	In line	Year 2 have made a huge improvement over the last 2 weeks!
	2	97.17%	Above	
	3	93.85%	Below	
	4	94.41%	Below	
	5	88.93%	Below	
	6	96.02%	In line	

Date of next newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

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Somerford Primary School & PTFA present...

SPARC SPOOK FEST
OCTOBER 24th
4:30pm-7:00pm

PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION
FANCY DRESS

ENTRY TO GAMES TRAIL
£2pp spooky trail participant
50p Per adult / guardian & prize draw entry

FAMILY FRIENDLY SPOOKY FUN & GAMES TRAIL WITH ACTIVITY PACK

ENTRY TIMES: LOW SPOOK • 16:30-16:45 Less dark and less spooky atmosphere	DARK SPOOK • 17:00-17:15 • 17:30-17:45 • 18:00-18:15	PLUS: LUCKY DIP (50p) HOT FOOD & DRINK Supplied by, BERYLS & SMOKEY MOSE JACKET POTATOES & MINI CINEMA
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Somerford Primary PTA Friday 24th October 2025 Spook Fest

A Halloween inspired game and puzzle trail, where you play fair ground like games to find letters. When you find all the letters you solve the puzzle and win a small treat. There will be lights and sounds surrounding the event which takes place in the main playground at Somerford Primary School.

We will be running the event from 4:30pm to 7:00pm. The earlier part of the afternoon will not be as dark, which we are calling low spook for our younger or more sensitive children.

The trail is £2, and each £2 ticket will get a trail pack, including trail booklet with puzzle sheets inside and a Halloween pencil. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Adult tickets are 50p. Please head to Arbor to book.

Outside the trail will be hot food and drinks, cakes, hot dogs and jacket potatoes provided by external catering Beryls and Smokey Mose (as seen at Christchurch market).

There will also be a lucky dip for 50p per go, Mini cinema showing family friendly spooky shows and we will be judging our pumpkins carving competition, so bring along your carved pumpkins!

Fancy dress is welcome but not essential.

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Young Carers Halloween Afternoon

Last week, our Young Carers group came together in school for their half-termly afternoon of fun and friendship. The children enjoyed a Halloween-themed session packed with laughter, teamwork and creativity. They enjoyed toilet-paper mummies, creepy cake decorating and spooky dance-offs!

As always, it was wonderful to see the children relaxing, supporting one another and taking a well-earned break from their caring responsibilities at home. Their enthusiasm and kindness towards each other were a real highlight.

A huge thank you to Mrs Miles for volunteering to help run this event and to our amazing Young Carers for bringing so much energy and joy to the session!

Mrs MacMillan
Young Carer Champion





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Parent Workshop: Understanding Neurodiversity

Last week, Somerford hosted the first in our new series of Parent Workshops, led by Mr Thorne (SENCO) and Mrs Macmillan (Senior Mental Health & Pastoral Lead).

The session explored what neurodiversity means – that every brain works in its own unique way – and how understanding these differences can help children learn, grow and feel confident both at home and in school. Parents took away practical ideas and a new way of seeing their children's strengths and challenges.

□ These sessions are for all parents and carers – you don't need a diagnosis or any paperwork to join. Every child is different and these workshops are about understanding and supporting your child in the best way possible. These sessions are also a great way for parents to get to know each other and share ideas and there will be tea and coffee and biscuits.

Future workshops will look at everyday support at home, school and learning, and emotions and behaviour.

A few reminders....

- No dogs on site please
- No vaping anywhere on site, including the car park
- Please enter the car park slowly and park in marked bays only

Reception places 2026

This year we are full in our Reception class and have a waiting list. Don't miss out on a space if your child is due to start in September 2026!
If you would like to book a tour, please contact the school office.

Government Half Term Food Vouchers

We have received confirmation that we will be issuing food vouchers to all children in receipt of benefit related free school meals for half term. This will be £15 per child.

Flu Immunisations

If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccine on 11th November in school, you must complete the School Nursing online consent form **by 6th November**. If you need the information sent again, please contact cluker@somerford.dorset.sch.uk

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