



Southmead win GOLD at Devon Summer Games!

On Wednesday 19th June, 23 children from Southmead travelled down to Exeter to take part in the Devon Summer Games 2019. The School Games was created as part of the London 2012 Olympic legacy and aims to increase opportunities for young people to compete at a regional and national level. This was the first time that Southmead had qualified for this event, so we were very excited to be going. The children were going to take part in three different events. One group of four children were going to take part in the **County finals of the Yr3/4 Mini Red Tennis championship**. A second group of eight children were going to compete in the **County finals of the Quadkids athletics competition**. And a third group of children were going to take part in the exciting '**Change for Life (C4L) Personal Challenge Arena**.

Although the opening ceremony was held at Exeter Arena, the three different groups spent most of the day in three different locations. The tennis was played at St Luke's Science & Sports College, the Quadkids competed at the Arena track, and the C4L activities were held at Exeter Saracens Pitches, next to the Arena. But before the three teams started their different activities, we were treated to an impressive display of BMX prowess in the **opening ceremony** ...



"Once we had found a seat, the amazing, spectacular ceremony started!"

Grace D.

"The opening ceremony included an epic man doing amazing stunts on his customised BMX."

Ben A.

"During the opening ceremony show there was a man who did magnificent stunt tricks: it was amazing! He jumped over a lady who was a helper there and did an outstanding performance. He was incredible!"

Hermione V.

Tennis

In early May the Southmead Yr4 'A' team came a commendable 4th in the Mini red tennis competition at the Tarka Tennis centre. Even though we missed out on a top 3 place in the qualifier, our team played so well, with equal numbers of games won, that when another team dropped out, the Summer Games organisers very kindly invited us to compete in the Summer Games on a **Wildcard**.

We might have started as underdogs, but our team quickly displayed the quality of the tennis that had brought them to the finals, winning their first two matches **3-1 (Horrabridge)** and **4-0 (Canada) Hill**, with Leo taking a very strong 12 point lead in his game. Old rivals West Buckland brought us up short in the third game, sending us to a 1-3 defeat, although Amelia's game was very close and Mia won her game by another clear **12 point margin**. Despite their defeat, the rest of the

team quickly recovered their poise, winning both of the next two matches 4-0. The contest (St Peters) was the only other really challenging match, but once again the Southmead team won 3-1, with Amelie winning her game with yet another incredible **12 point lead!** After that the championship turned into a rolling triumph for Southmead, as **the team won all of the remaining eight games, against teams from around Devon, in straight 4-0 victories!**

In terms of matches won, we had a **commanding lead.** And as a round robin format, in which we had played all of the teams in the competition, no other team could come close to our team score. However the organisers decided to hold two final play-offs to decide 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th places.

We had done so well, but this final match was to be against the only team to have beaten us in the entire competition: local rivals, West Buckland. It promised to be a tough contest ... and fully lived up to expectations! **The boys had to fight tenaciously for every point,** rallying back and forth to deny their opponents any points advantage. Harry's match was so hard fought and went on for so long after the final whistle that, as the final point was scored, the watching schools erupted in appreciative applause at such an amazing display of exceptional tennis. Both the Southmead boys had lost ... but by the smallest of margins. While over on the girls' courts, **Amelie and Mia were once again dazzling their opponents** and this time both of them won their games comfortably, 10-6 and 14-2. Although West Buckland had held us to a 2-games-all draw, the superb Southmead team had all contributed to an incredible score that finally clinched the championship: **we had won 33-24!**



"I won my first and second matches. But then Freddie (my opponent from West Buckland) beat me 8-2. His serve was a bullet. Then I won another 12 matches. When I faced Freddie again in the final, I halved his lead from our last game, so our final score was 7-4." **Leo P.**

"At the ceremony, West Buckland came 2nd and we came 1st! So me, Mia, Leo and Harry are the best Yr4 tennis team in the county! I really enjoyed the day! It was awesome!" **Amelie B.**

"At the tennis competition we each played 15 individual matches. I won all my matches against all of the children from the other schools. Although it was two games each way in the final, we won on points. We were all jubilant that we had won!" **Mia L.**



"When the scores were read out, they told us that we had won! Everyone was very proud!" **Harry B.**

"We won! We won! We won!" **Leo P.**

Quadkids

The Quadkids athletics competition is made up of elements from four different athletics disciplines: 400m distance, 50m sprint, vortex throw and standing long jump. The adults accompanying the Quadkids team were so impressed with the behaviours and sportsmanship of the Southmead competitors. "They were supportive of each other, demonstrating really positive behaviours. They competed well against the other schools, were patient with the event delays, and were very helpful all the way through the competition. The team were a pleasure to lead!" **Mrs Woollam.**



"When I got to the school games there were about 14 other schools there (all regional finalists, like us). It was very competitive and every team did well, including us." **Sid S.**

"The first activity was the short 50m sprint. You could see the amazing spectacular finish so you had to run as fast and as powerfully as a cheetah.

The second activity was the amazing whizzing and fast vortex that zoomed in the sparkly, shimmery aquamarine sky. The third activity was the long jump where the sand was as grainy as rocks and when you land on it, the long jump trips you up, as though it doesn't like you." **Lyra W-D.**



"In my 50m I had a really tough heat, but I was so determined to come top 3 in my race. I came 2nd! I beat my goal and I got points for my team!" **Ruben C.**

"In the leaping standing long jump the judges were very strict about going over the line!" **Alfie H.**

"Finally we did the magnificent 400m and I came 4th in my heat. It was scary at the start of the event, but then at the end it wasn't, and I had a great time!" **Bebe J.**

"At the ceremony they announced which schools came in which place. We came in a fabulous 6th. It was so much fun and I loved it! Thank you." **Marcie J.**

C4L

The **Personal Challenge Arena** provided a self-led opportunity to attempt to improve **individual performance**. As part of the School Games' mission to help give more young people the opportunity to compete and achieve their personal best, there was a focus on improving personal performance. Once the children had competed in the Personal Challenge Arena, they were free to explore the various **taster activities** provided around the Arena and across the Saracens pitches. Taster sports available included Athletics, BMX, Fencing, Football, Rugby, Skate park, Skateboarding, Tai Chi, Taiko drumming, Volleyball and the exciting sounding Street Surfing!



Leon S-B said that the skate park was his favourite and he has already bought a board and been to another skate park, to carry on. Well done Leon!

"The activities we did were athletics, vortex, spiked dart, BMXing, drumming, fencing, and skate park." **Brook S.**

"I really enjoyed the skate park, because we went down the ramps."

Freya M.

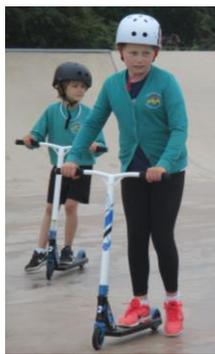
"After we did the 50m sprint we did street surfing: it was really hard!"

Bebe J.



"The whole day was amazing and I really enjoyed it!"

Ben A.



"When I finally completed all the events, I was tired, aching all over ... and wanted to do it all over again! I didn't want it to have ended! It was one of the most fun days of my life! Thank you for taking me: I really enjoyed it!" **Aimee H.**



It made **Alex D** really happy that he had a chance to try all the activities.

Another brilliant event!

Just getting to the Summer Games was an achievement: qualifying meant competing against and beating teams from across North Devon ... before having to go up against the very best teams from around the county. **So to come 6th in the Quadkids championship AND 1st in the Tennis tournament is a brilliant achievement!**

Well done to ALL of the Southmead competitors, including all of those there is not space to mention here. You took part in very competitive games with perseverance and self-confidence, performed spectacularly and behaved brilliantly! We are all very proud of you! ☺



George O liked the fencing, the football and the skate park. George said he had never been so excited!

Thank you!

Events like the Summer Games take a lot of organising, but we really can't attend events like these without the brilliant support of very helpful DBS-checked parents, and we would like to thank all those who came along and helped our teams participate across the different Games sites, keeping the children safe among all of the other competitors and adults. So a huge thanks to: Mr Howard, Mrs Langley-Walker, Mrs Latu, Mrs Silver and Mrs Woollam.