

SUMMERHILL NEWSLETTER

A better way to educate!



A.S. Neill
Summerhill School

Welcome to the 37th Edition of the Summerhill School Newsletter!

Grab a cuppa, take a comfy seat, enjoy catching up on all the wonderful things happening in Summerhill and getting to know the opportunities to support and stay connected.

The autumn term has been fantastic, with some lovely projects and celebrations in our community!

Thanks for being part of it – we couldn't do it without you!

**With love,
Montse**

This issue:

Welcome

PAGE 01

Job opportunity!

PAGE 02

Celebrating A.S. Neill's
Birthday at Summerhill

PAGE 03

Speak Now
Apple Peel!!

PAGE 05

Foreword to "All the
Best, Neill" letters
from Summerhill,
edited by Jonathan
Croall

PAGE 07

A.S. Neill Summerhill
CIC

PAGE 09

The Summerhill
Support Team

PAGE 10

Opportunity to Double
Your Impact

PAGE 11

A.S. Neill
Summehrill Trust

PAGE 12

Easy Fundrasing

PAGE 13

Job opportunity!

Join our team!



Are you passionate about inspiring young learners? Our school is looking for a dedicated Primary Teacher to join our vibrant team.

Apply by Friday 24th April, 2026

To start working 23rd September, 2026

An exciting opportunity to work in the oldest children's democracy in the world, with a mixed age group of students.

Primary Teacher

Teaching experience is essential, especially the ability to offer Maths and English to first and second language students.

In addition, the ability to offer more primary level subjects, maintenance of a beautiful atmosphere in the classroom and management of materials for lessons.

A yellow pill-shaped button with a black outline and a white mouse cursor arrow pointing at it from the bottom right.

MORE INFO

Please email office@summerhillschool.co.uk for application forms

A blue circular button with a black outline and a black mouse cursor arrow pointing at it from the bottom right.

APPLY NOW

Celebrating A.S. Neill's Birthday at Summerhill

By Montse

Every year on October 17th, the Summerhill community comes together to celebrate the birthday of our founder, A.S. Neill – the visionary educator whose ideas continue to inspire our school and countless people around the world.



As is tradition, students and staff take a walk to the cemetery, where we lay flowers, light incense, and sing songs to honour Neill's life and philosophy. It's always a special, reflective moment that connects us to our roots and to the values that make Summerhill such a unique place.



“Honouring Neill, Celebrating Freedom”

This year, we also reached out to our online community and asked how they celebrate Neill's birthday. The response was wonderful – people shared creative and heartfelt ways to join in, such as:

- Sharing their favourite A.S. Neill quotes
- Wearing orange as the school colours are orange and black
- Sharing memories of Neill or Summerhill
- Practising Neill's philosophy in daily life
- Reading his works and reflecting on his legacy
- Or even raising a glass in his honour



It was really inspiring to see how many people – from all over the world – joined in and shared their thoughts and celebrations. It made us feel connected to a much bigger Summerhill community!

We loved seeing everyone's ideas and hope to get even more people involved online next year. Celebrating Neill isn't just about looking back – it's about keeping his spirit alive in what we do every day at Summerhill.

SPEAK NOW APPLE PEEL!!

By Duncan



It started with an idea to make a radio show, then someone said, "We could make a newspaper!" That was the spark!

We ran with the idea and six kids and two staff jumped on board and the bus hit the road ... where will it head to? Nobody can say for sure because there's always something new being created at Summerhill and natural energy on tap!

What to call the newspaper? Way back in history, about '45, the children were affectionately chanting, "Neill, Neill! Orange Peel!" and there evolved a periodical named "Orange Peel" *



This came up in discussions about a name and a suggestion popped out of the ether : we could call it "Apple Peel"!

“Speak Now” was another and so the group, the editors, decided to amalgamate the two and get on with the first edition. It may morph again, but that’s the name right now.

At present, it’s published weekly and articles etc from anyone in the Summerhill community can be submitted for inclusion by the editors. These could include reports, photos, art, puzzles, original stories (one is currently being serialised) cartoons, jokes, recipes, etc! Each week the reporters are writing, collecting material, then every Friday comes the job of collating it all, making decisions of what can fit in and where, integrating photos, working our IT network hard (!) and, publishing!

We aim to keep to keep publishing weekly as so much is happening!



* THOUGH NEILL HIMSELF REPORTEDLY SAID THE CHANT SHOULD'VE BEEN "NEILL, NEILL, BANANA PEEL"!

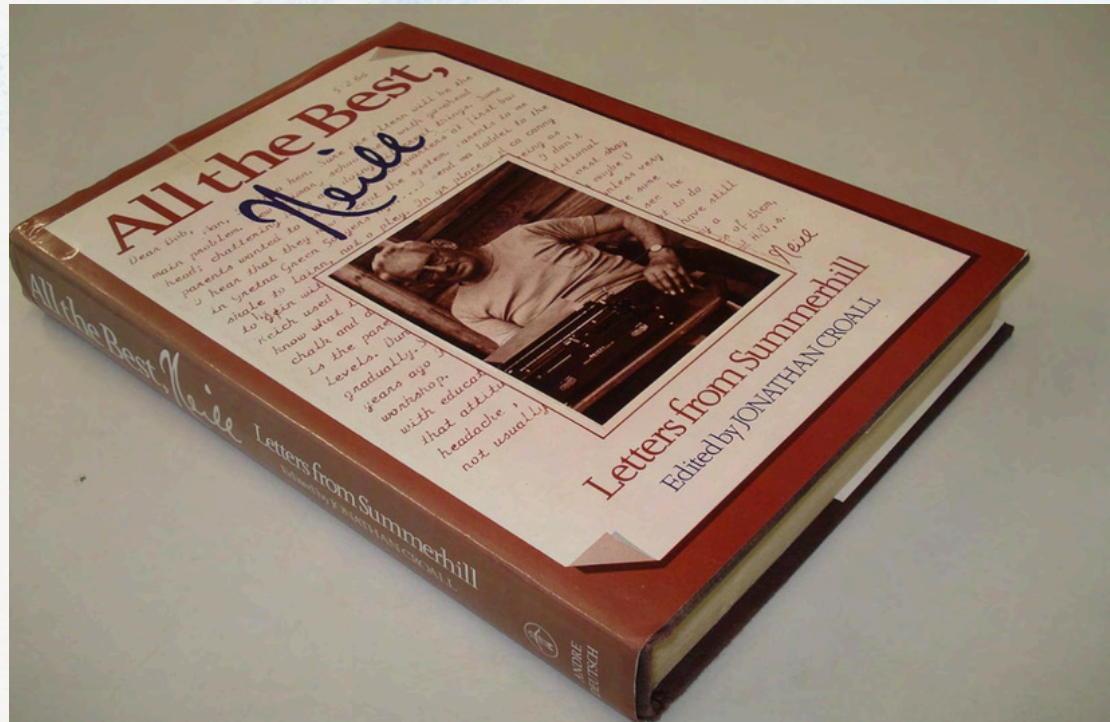
Foreword to “All the Best, Neill” letters from Summerhill, edited by Jonathan Croall

By Zoë, 1983

Thinking of Neill and his writing leads me naturally to the everyday picture of him seated at his desk in the office. Writing was so much a part of his life that he spent many hours there. I think that anybody at all closely connected with him will remember the old office. It had a particular smell, a mixture of pencil peelings, pipe tobacco, paper, and ink.

We still have his desk and it smells exactly the same.

Sometimes I was allowed to grub through the drawers. They were full of odds and ends – cigarette lighters, rubber bands, golf tees, pliers and the occasional Old photograph. I remember my delight when small on finding a picture of Neill age 3 with his mother.



One drawer held masses of typewriter ribbons – a job lot bought cheaply I suspect! Also Neill’s treasures, an old Parker 51 which he bought in America and his Dunhill briar pipe. The rest of the office was full of cupboards and drawers. A Roneo with locking top drawer where the pocket money was kept also had filing drawers underneath, though I don’t remember anything actually being filed.

Neill was frugal but not tidy and his office reflected this. Most of the cupboards were painted a revolting dusky pink, probably a few pots which needed using. There was a battered armchair by the gas fire and beside this two tins. One contained Yale locks, the other one keys. Also a plumber’s bag full of bed springs. When anyone visited Neill for a chat he would sit and take the springs apart ready for bed mending sessions in the holidays, or try keys in the locks until he found one that fitted. The ceiling high bookshelf by the door contained psychological and educational books. Serious stuff with long words and no pictures.

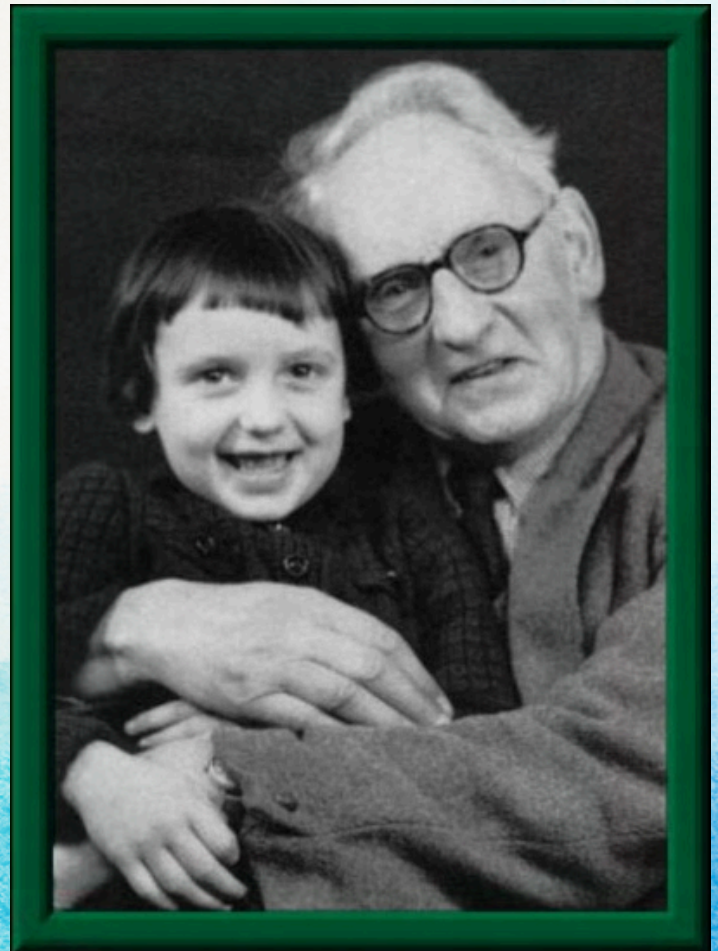
Foreword to “All the Best, Neill” letters from Summerhill, edited by Jonathan Croall - continued

On the shelf by the window was Neill’s wine making equipment. If you were lucky, a glass of elderberry wine might be in the offering. Quite strong, as I recall, and full of sediment but very nice.

In the early days a box by the fire held a knitted toy family made in the needlework class. They were mother, father, son and daughter, complete with penis, pubic hair and an unmentionable family name! I think we were supposed to act out our hidden inhibitions with them but seem to remember playing rude games instead!

As well as being a busy writer Neill also read a great deal. He liked “good” books and crossword puzzles. He was always excited about his morning mail although in later years when it grew to “fan mail” proportions he did grumble a little. It vexed him that people expected a reply without enclosing stamps. But just as he could never pass a hitchhiker without offering a lift, so he religiously answered all his mail, even if it was only a few lines.

Reading through these letters which show Neill’s warmth, wit and flair for writing, I feel it important that we remember not only himself, the man, but more importantly, what he stood for in education and childrearing. This was a man to whom the freedom, confidence, and happiness of children were of foremost importance. He was deeply committed to his ideas for free children and spent his life working for those beliefs. In 1983 - one hundred years after he was born - his school summerhill still leaves the rest of the world standing as far as education is concerned, let us hope that it does not take 100 years for the rest of the world to catch up!



A.S. Neill Summerhill CIC



This is the 3rd year of us running our Role of the Adult online CPD courses and we are very excited to announce our Winter 2026 Course!

We always have a very diverse range of participants from students to parents and teachers to educators and social workers. The core values of Summerhill can be implemented into any situation involving children and young people and this course has enlightened all that have participated. There are different payment options and the group discounts are especially helpful when you are starting up a school or learning community, or if you have a group of students that you would like to introduce A.S.Neill's and Summerhill's ethos to.

Here is a link for more details about the course and it's content:

<https://www.asneillsummerhillcic.co.uk/online-course-overview-role-of-the-adult-2025/>

And this link is specifically for our Winter course including dates, times and registration:

<https://www.asneillsummerhillcic.co.uk/february-2026-course/>

THE ROLE OF THE ADULT

IN FACILITATING A HAPPY
AND FULFILLED CHILDHOOD





50+ HOUR ONLINE CPD
COURSE ON A.S.NEILL'S
AND SUMMERHILL
SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL
PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES
FOR PRACTITIONERS
WORKING WITH
CHILDREN.

FEB
TO
APRIL
2026

CERTIFIED TRAINING
SPREAD OVER 10 WEEKS

COURSE FEES: £475
CONCESSIONARY
RATES AVAILABLE

CONTACT DETAILS
asneillsummerhillcic@gmail.com

If you have any questions or would just like to say hi you can email us at:
office@asneillsummerhillcic.co.uk

Hope you will come and join us!

The Summerhill Support Team



We Want You!!

Dear Friends of Summerhill,

In this digital age where the world seems smaller to us all, it is evident how much more segregated and alone we can all feel! Summerhill School isn't much of an exception to this. We post on social media to share news and events of this lovely little community and we get many likes, but when the school is in need of external assistance, it seems to have gotten harder to send out a call.

And hence the Summerhill Support Team! We Want you...

We are a school of the world with many families and friends from all corners of the globe. We want to reach out to all and put together a list of people that are willing to help the school when in need. This can be promoting for new pupils, helping to find staff to fill positions, donations and fundraising, spreading the word about events, volunteering and interns, social media and graphic design, and probably a whole load of things we haven't even thought of yet!

Click the link, fill out the form and we will put you on our list and you will never escape!! Muhaha!!

<https://forms.gle/qCdKThN7Fkf3MVi67>

AN OPPORTUNITY TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

We are thrilled to announce a remarkable matching gift challenge that offers an incredible opportunity to double the impact of your generosity for the A.S. Neill Summerhill School trust.

Thanks to a group of incredibly generous and dedicated supporters, every donation up to £1,050.00 made will be matched, pound for pound. This means a £50 donation instantly becomes £100, directly supporting essential resources, bursaries, and special programs that enrich the unique educational experience at Summerhill.

This is the perfect moment to ensure your contribution goes twice as far, providing vital stability and opportunity for the students who thrive in this environment.

To take advantage of this fantastic challenge and help us meet our goal, please visit

<https://www.summerhillschool.co.uk/product-category/donations/> today.

Your support is instrumental in maintaining the spirit and success of Summerhill.

By participating in this matching campaign, you are not just making a donation; you are partnering with our most dedicated sponsors to secure the future for these young learners.

Don't miss this chance to multiply your kindness and see the immediate, tangible difference you can make in the lives of the Summerhill community.



THE A.S. NEILL SUMMERHILL TRUST

The A.S.Neill Summerhill Trust is a registered charity whose purposes are:

- To promote the educational philosophy, ideas, life and writings of A.S.Neill
 - To promote the re-publication and translation of existing books, new books.
 - To support overseas visits by school staff to give talks, as well as Summerhill pupils visiting other schools to run workshops on Summerhill values.
 - To provide bursaries or other forms of financial assistance to school pupils.
- Parents should contact the school office for information on how to apply for a bursary from the A.S.Neill Summerhill Trust.

A very big thank you to all our donors who have so generously supported the spirit of Summerhill. Your donations help kids remain at the School who would otherwise have to leave, and provide extracurricular activities that would be beyond the School's ability to provide.

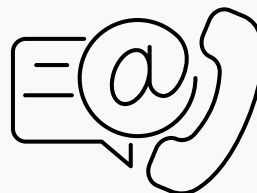
If you'd like to make a difference to a child's life, you too can make a donation to the Trust. Whether it is a one off or regular donation, we will spend it wisely.

- £25 could help a child can join their friends on a school trip
- £50 will pay for two extra-curricular lessons.
- £100 will pay for travel costs incurred by the External Affairs Committee
- £1,000 will provide assistance over two terms for parents who are struggling to pay their child's school fees.

A regular donation made by standing order will become an important part of our 'bread and butter'. To make a gift or regular donation, or for more information about the A.S.Neill Summerhill Trust, please contact the School office on 01728 830540 or email: office@summerhillschool.co.uk.

You can also write to The A.S.Neill Summerhill Trust, c/o Summerhill School, Westward Ho, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4HY.

Summerhill School
Zoë Readhead (Principal)
Tel 00 (44) 1728 830540 office@summerhillschool.co.uk





Did you know you can support the school through easy fundraising look up Summerhill School

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

HOW IT WORKS

Easy fundraising turns your daily shopping into every day magic!

easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra.

The cost is covered by the brand.

Brands pay easyfundraising a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation - magic!



**A.S. Neill
Summerhill School**

**We are looking forward to our
Summerhill Christmas celebration and
end of term party!!**

**Love from
Summerhill!**

**As always, we send our love
and best wishes to all
friends of Summerhill.**

**Thank you so much for all
your support.**



**A.S. Neill
Summerhill School**