



Somerdale Educate Together  
Primary School  
'Learn Together to Live Together'  
Newsletter (Term 1 Week 8)  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Value of the Month  
for  
October  
**Respect**

Dear Families,

As we wrap up Term 1, it's inspiring to look back on all the growth, learning, and achievements our children have made over the past **eight** weeks. This term has been filled with exciting new learning experiences, from engaging classroom projects to outdoor adventures, and it's been wonderful to see each child's curiosity and enthusiasm.

The children have put in tremendous effort, not only academically but also in developing strong friendships, teamwork skills, and a greater sense of responsibility. We are so proud of their achievements and progress and appreciate the ongoing support from our school community.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights from Term 1, updates on upcoming events, and resources to support your child's learning journey at home. We look forward to another successful term ahead and wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

### **Goodbye and Thank You!**

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jenna Garcia who has been an invaluable part of our school community. Over the years, she has supported our children with unwavering dedication, compassion, and enthusiasm. Her ability to connect with and encourage each child has left a lasting impact on countless children, fostering their confidence and love of learning. We are incredibly grateful for the time, patience, and warmth Jenna has shared with us all, and while we are sad to see her go, we wish her all the best in her next adventure. Thank you, Jenna, for everything—you will be greatly missed!



We would also like to thank Chelsa Porter for her contribution to the pre-school team this term. We wish her the best of luck in her future teaching career.

### **Halloween Disco**

A huge thank you to FOSET and everyone who supported the Halloween disco. We have received very positive feedback from the school community. We are now £477 closer to our £16,000 target.



## **Wraparound Care**

We have made the following changes to our provision based on feedback we received from the Wraparound Care survey:

- Increased after-school places from 30 to 35.
- Published an activity timetable, snack menu, club timetable.
- Introduced a new wraparound care email to ensure prompt response to enquiries.
- Introduced new procedures for booking wraparound with Universal Credit or Child Care vouchers.
- Purchased new targeted resources for Key Stage 2.

More details can be found on our school website:

<https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/new-page-2/>

## **Parent/Carer Forum**

The recent parent/carers forum was a great success, with a strong turnout. The event provided an opportunity for open dialogue, allowing parents and carers to voice their thoughts, share feedback, and engage in meaningful discussions. Notes and slides from the forum are published on the [school website](#).

Future forum dates:

<b>Term</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time/Location</b>
2	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	2:30pm/school hall
3	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	4pm/school hall
4	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	9am/school hall
5	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	2:30pm/school hall
6	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	9am/school hall

Parents/Carers can contribute towards the agenda via the [online form](#). The form will close on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. An agenda for meeting will be distributed on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Statutory Assessment Meetings**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Statutory Assessment Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Year 1 & 2	Phonics	13.11.24	9am	Hall
Year 4	Multiplication	12.11.24	9am	Hall
Year 6	SATs	18.11.24	3:30-4:30	Hall

## **Staff Training – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Following the practice of our other Educate Together schools, we will be closing at 1:15pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December to allow our staff the time for essential training. Therefore, it is important that all children are collected at 1:15pm. On this day, there will be no after school childcare provision available, so it is crucial that arrangements are made for your child to be collected at the earlier time of 1:15pm. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter as it is important for the continued professional development of our staff.

## **Website Update:**

We would like to make you aware of the following updates to our website:

Parent and carer forum	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/parents-and-community/family-and-community-voice/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/parents-and-community/family-and-community-voice/</a>
Pre-School	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-preschool/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-preschool/</a>
Approach to assessment (including assessment dates)	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-curriculum/assessment/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-curriculum/assessment/</a>
Class Pages – Year group specific information.	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-classes/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-classes/</a>
School Calendar	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/parents-and-community/upcoming-events/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/parents-and-community/upcoming-events/</a>
Approach to teaching Maths	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-curriculum/maths/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-curriculum/maths/</a>
Wraparound Care	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/new-page-2/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/new-page-2/</a>
Attendance	<a href="https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/attendance/">https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/attendance/</a>

## **Rights Respector Update**

As we work towards our gold re-accreditation this year, the rights respecters have been busy looking at the criteria and deciding which parts to focus on. One of the areas chosen is around the wider community knowledge of rights, so expect to hear from the ambassadors over the coming year with more information on our rights. In the meantime, Year 3 have been busy creating some posters to help explain the rights in more detail.

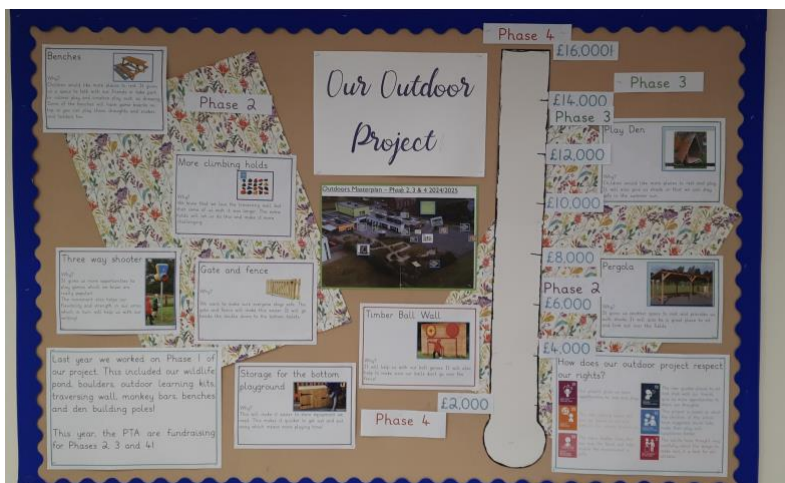
## **Our Outdoor Project**

With Phase 1 successful during the last academic year, we are looking ahead at the next three phases of improvements for our outdoor area.

As a reminder, last year, the majority of money was raised by our incredible Friends of Somerdale Educate Together PTA and we were able to improve opportunities including these below:

- A new traversing wall
- Wildlife pond installed
- Climbing boulders added
- Monkey bars installed
- Benches installed
- Den building poles added





This year we are looking at Phase 2, 3 & 4 of our masterplan. This includes more resources to provide more shade for the summer months, more opportunities for active play and places for calmer play and rest. More information can be found on our display in the atrium area.

FOSET are working incredibly hard to raise £16,000 to enable us to complete these wonderful improvements. Please do support in any way that you can, you can find out more information about the FOSET and how you can support on our website.

## **Class News**

### **Turtles (Pre-school)**



Turtles have had an amazing first term! We have been doing lots of fun group activities such as ribbon dancing, wellie walks, dough disco, and much more. It has been lovely to see the children begin to form friendships, develop their counting skills, and engage really well with our focus text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' (this has been a particular favourite).

Turtles have also worked super hard to get all the stars in our jar so that we could go to the park for our class treat. Well Done Turtles!

### **Otters (Reception)**

What a busy first term of school Otters have had! Over the last few weeks, we have enjoyed starting our phonics journey and beginning to apply this within our play. Developing meaning to marks is always such an exciting time for the children as they begin to express their thoughts and ideas. We have been working hard on developing hand and finger strength through all kinds of activities.



The children have also enjoyed our focus text, 'Peace at Last,' exploring this book and all the links to the world around us. The children particularly enjoyed the maths link we made last week where we prepared cups of tea (capacity), weighed food for a teddy bears picnic for the bears (mass) and compared beds for the bears (size). Also our link to science, where we explored the moon/sun and Earth.

We have been so busy! Enjoy your half term and I look forward to seeing you all again for more fun and learning in term 2!

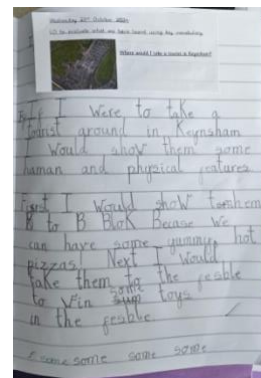
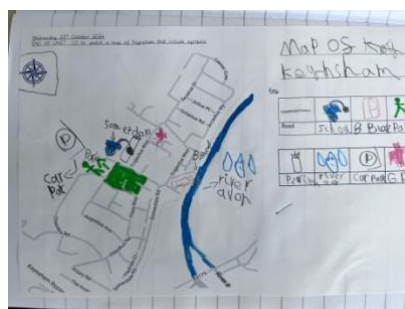
### **Wildcats (Year 1)**

We have had a great start to the year in Wildcats! We have loved getting stuck in with DT learning about different mechanisms. The children have learnt about sliders and levers and had a go at making each of these. They then designed their own moving picture and made it independently – they look amazing! We have also really enjoyed our history enquiry which took us on a trip to Blaise Castle to look at the old toys. We had a brilliant time and have enjoyed writing postcards about what we got up to!



### **Hedgehogs (Year 2)**

Year 2 has had an exciting and productive term! As part of our enquiry, we've been exploring mapping skills and learning about the physical and human features of our local area. The children put in a great effort, sketching detailed maps of Keynsham, complete with symbols. They also wrote a brief description of our town, using simple geographical terms. Well done, Hedgehogs!



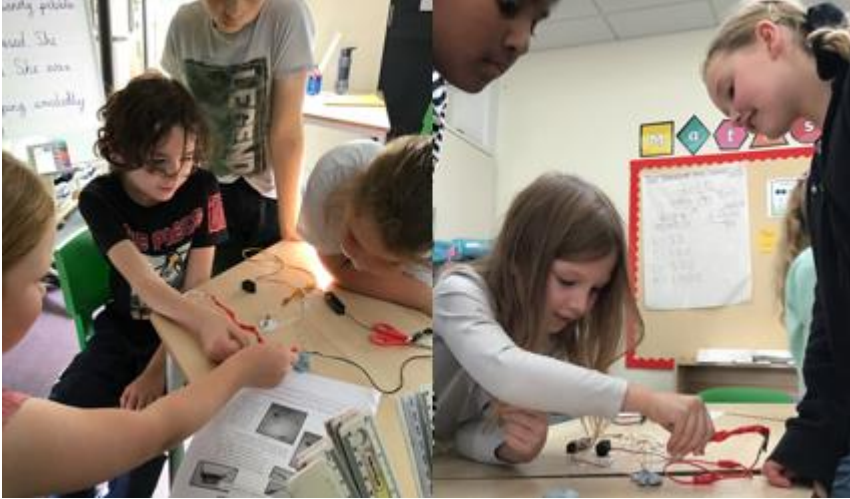
### **Bumblebees (Year 3)**

This term one of our enquiry questions was based on local geography. We were so impressed with their map skills and questioning of sources of information. Each child wrote a geographer's report based on how the area of Somerdale has changed since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In Learn Together, we have been looking at human rights, wants, needs and children's rights. The children made some posters.



### Puffins (Year 4)

Wow, what a busy term we have had, full of amazing learning! We have been **blown away** by the writing in Puffin class, with some great descriptions of The Black Dog and really detailed diary entries based on the short video 'The Catch.' In the last week of term, we have been writing our own short stories as Puffins are keen story writers at the moment. We are aiming to make The Puffin Book of Short Stories and publish this, so stay tuned. We have been conquering some tricky column subtraction with exchanges and Alice and Hannah are so proud of the perseverance and resilience shown. As scientists, we've loved learning about electricity and finished off our unit by making buzz wire games – see pictures below. We may have some budding electricians on our hands.



### Elephants (Year 5)

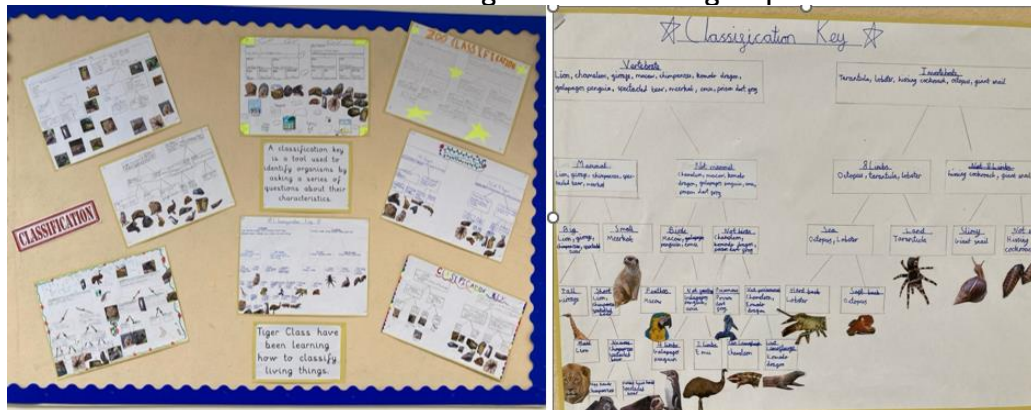
This week has been a busy one for Year 5. Hopefully those of you at home have caught wind of our lithography monoprinting art project.

It has been a very ambitious undertaking, requiring us to practice a wide variety of skills. We learned about artistic hatching for shading, how to use acid to etch onto kitchen foil and have growth mindset as the margin for error was razor thin. However, you'll no doubt agree the results were well worth it!










## Tigers (Year 6)

This term Year 6 have been learning about taxonomy, how to classify living things. They carried out a mouldy bread investigation when they chose different conditions in which to keep the bread to see when most mould grew. Children also created their own classification keys which ask a series of questions about the characteristics of animals to categorise them into groups.



## Term 2

Dates and times are available on the school website: <https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/parents-and-community/upcoming-events/>

Week Beginning	Week	Rights Focus	Global Goal Link	Event(s)
(w/c 4/11/24)	1	Article 15 – Setting up or joining groups Article of the Week for Remembrance		Remembrance
(w/c 11/11/24)	2	Article 2: No Discrimination - All children have rights no matter what their differences are.		Anti-bullying Week Odd Socks Day- 12 <sup>th</sup> November World Kindness Day-13 <sup>th</sup> November Children in Need- 15 <sup>th</sup> November Year 5 Assembly- 11 <sup>th</sup> November
(w/c 18/11/24)	3	Article 12 – respect for children’s views Article 13 – sharing thoughts freely		PTA AGM(FoSET)- 19 <sup>th</sup> November World Children’s Day- 20 <sup>th</sup> November Flu Vaccination- 21 <sup>st</sup> November Christmas Fayre- 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
(w/c 25/11/24)	4	Article 24: Health, Water, Food, Environment		SEND Coffee Morning- 27 <sup>th</sup> November Wombles Litter Pick FoSET Coffee Morning-29 <sup>th</sup> November
(w/c 2/12/24)	5	Article 2: No Discrimination - All children have rights no matter what their differences are.		Peace/International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 <sup>rd</sup> December Internal assessment week  Parent Carer Forum- 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
(w/c 9/12/24)	6	Article 2: No Discrimination - All children have rights no matter what their differences are.		KS2 Songs by Candlelight- 12 <sup>th</sup> December KS1 Christmas Production- 13 <sup>th</sup> December Human Rights Day
(w/c 16/12/24)	7	Article 2: No Discrimination - All children have rights no matter what their differences are.		EYFS Nativity- 17 <sup>th</sup> December  Y6 Life Skills- 17 <sup>th</sup> December  Children’s Christmas Dinner Day- 18 <sup>th</sup> December

## Messages

### Asda Cashpot for Schools



Asda are currently running a scheme where if you use the Asda app, every time you spend at Asda, the school gets 0.5% back in a cashpot. Even if you do not shop at Asda, just selecting our school on their app adds £1 to our cashpot. It currently stands at £80.80!

Please do let others know about this, so we can raise some money to support the children of our school. We have also posted it onto our Facebook page for ease of sharing. For more information, please visit: <https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

The scheme runs until the end of November.

## FOSET

A purple-bordered advertisement for Stikins Name Labels. At the top, it says 'FUNDRAISING WITH NAME LABELS'. Below that is 'STIKINS® Name Labels' with a QR code to the left. A small box says 'Stikins Actual Size'. To the right, it says 'SIMPLY STICK IN NO SEWING &amp; NO IRONING' and 'Save time and money with one multipurpose name label for clothes, shoes, lunch boxes, and all school items'. In the center is an illustration of a school building with children playing in front. At the bottom left, it says 'PLEASE QUOTE OUR FUNDRAISING NUMBER 36296 when you buy Stikins name labels and we will receive 30% commission'. At the bottom right, it says 'TO ORDER VISIT: WWW.STIKINS.CO.UK'. A gold seal says 'MADE IN 11,000+ SCHOOLS'. At the very bottom are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Follow this link to order labels for school clothes and items. We receive 30 percent for the school from every sale. Our fundraising code is 36296.

<https://www.stikins.co.uk/name-labels/>



# make a difference

Work with children  
Connect with your community  
Enrich lives & learn new skills

## Volunteer at Lifeskills

Join us for a taster hour!  
Learn more about lifeskills, get in touch.



**0117 922 4511**

[volunteer@lifeskills-bristol.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@lifeskills-bristol.org.uk)



# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM



Anxiety  
Low Mood  
Anger  
Panic

Self-esteem  
Body Image  
Worries  
Social Anxiety

We are a team of Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) from the NHS. We work with children and young people aged 5-18 years to provide early mental health support within schools for mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

We provide:

## 1 1:1 Sessions

Talk to us about your feelings in a safe space. You will work with us for 6-8 sessions

## 2 Groups

We provide a range of group work to assist young people who are facing similar difficulties



If you would like support from an EMHP, speak to your teacher or a member of the pastoral team.



# SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

9am in the school hall.

Theme for each coffee morning will be announced nearer the time.