

# Term 2 Newsletter (Turtles)

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 2!

This term, whilst we recruit for a permanent pre-school teacher, we are delighted to have Holly joining us to teach Pre-School on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with Becky, our SENDCo, teaching the class on a Friday.

Both teachers are highly experienced, and have experience working within the Early Years. Holly also worked at one of our sister Educate Together schools for four years, so knows our core principles and ethical curriculum extremely well.

Holly and I have had an in-depth induction this week, and have planned some wonderful learning opportunities for the term ahead. We will also be making more use of our wonderful outdoor space, and Pre-School will be visiting the nature area twice a week with Holly and the team.

Within this newsletter is a brief introduction from Holly and Becky. Please do let them know if you have any questions at all.

Sam O'Regan

*Deputy Headteacher & Early Years Foundation Stage Lead*

## **An introduction from Holly:**

I have been teaching for more than 17 years and I'm very excited to be joining your children on their learning journey this term. I can't wait to get to know all of your children and find out what their interests are! I've worked in an Educate Together school before in Year 1 and Reception classes and I love the ethos where we teach children about respecting others, themselves and their environment.

## **A (re)introduction from Becky:**

Hello!

I am so happy to be working in pre-school on a Friday with your wonderful children. I am currently the SENCo at Somerdale Educate Together Primary School and in my 11<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and 8<sup>th</sup> year of being a SENCo. I have two children (ages 2 and 4) that keep me very busy whilst I'm not in work and enjoy nothing more than reading a good book with a cup of tea to relax. I have really enjoyed working alongside your children in term 1 and look forward to continuing my work in pre-school this term.

## **The Pre-school team:**

Holly Edwards

Class Teacher

*Mon – Thurs*

Becky Ware

Class Teacher

*Friday*

Sharon Fisher

Learning Support Assistant

*Monday - Friday*

Jo Devine

PPA cover

*Mon pm*

## **Enquiry Questions this term: What kind of jobs do adults do?**

This term Turtle class will be looking at different occupations and develop their sense of the community around them.

Our class text for the first part of this term is *Iris and Isaac* written by Catherine Rayner. This wonderful story is all about friendship and sharing. The final part of the term will focus on *The Gingerbread Man*.

The children will also begin Helicopter Stories this term, where they will have the chance to tell their own stories, develop their communication skills and see their stories acted out by others in the class.

## Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus on the right:

- Article 2: All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

We will be looking at this right through the lense of fairness, kindness and respecting each other's similarities and differences.

## Teaching and Learning This Term

Our medium term overview is now available on the class page of our website.  
[Please click here to view the overview for this term. \(PS\)](#)

## Home Learning

### Reading

Any opportunities to read stories, or look at picture books together with your child are greatly encouraged. Reading stories are a great way to build listening and attention, understanding, and language skills, as well as promoting their imagination.

### Spelling

Whilst we will not be doing spellings in pre-school, promoting name recognition is a good skill to support children within their everyday experiences, such as finding their self-registration card.

### Maths

Children are expected to practise key number facts at home regularly.

### Pre-School & Reception

[Click here to view our parent guide on how to support with mathematics.](#) This has lots of ideas on play-based activities to help your child with key mathematical skills.

The White Rose 1-minute maths app can also be used to practise early number facts at home.  
<https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths>

White Rose also have videos relating to the main Maths teaching. These can help you to see the methods that are being taught, or can be used as additional practice.

[Early Years](#)

[Busy Things can be accessed from home with useful maths games and activities.](#)

White Rose also have videos relating to the main Maths teaching. These can help you to see the methods that are being taught, or can be used as additional practice. They also have downloadable workbooks that can be used at home.

[Early Years](#)

[Busy Things also have some good games for times table recall practice, particularly miner birds.](#)

## Other important information/notes for the time ahead

### Morning Drop-Offs

This term, we will ensure the gate is opened at 8.45am so that should the weather not be the kindest, you can wait undercover until the doors open at 9am.

<p><b>Class Page</b> You can access information, long term and medium term overviews as well as other resources on the class page on our website.</p>	<p><b>Nature Area</b> We explore our nature area on Mondays and Wednesdays which can get wet and muddy! Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing for this, has a pair of wellies in school and pack spare clothing in case they need to change.</p>	<p><b>School Clothing Guidance</b> Please see the <a href="#">page on our website</a> for more information on appropriate clothing for school.</p>
<p><b>Library Day</b> Our Library Day is on a Friday at 1.30 – 2.00pm.</p> <p>Please ensure your child has their book on these days. Automated emails are sent for overdue books. If you feel a book may be lost or damaged in your care, we ask for a donation to cover the cost of replacement.</p>	<p><b>What does my child need to bring into school every day?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellies and a coat.</li> <li>• Filled Water Bottle.</li> <li>• Spare changes of clothing: top, bottoms, underwear, socks, another pair of shoes.</li> <li>• Nappies and wet wipes if needed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Questions or concerns</b> If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to Holly or Becky during drop off or pick up times, alternatively you can send an email to <a href="mailto:info@somerdaleet.org.uk">info@somerdaleet.org.uk</a>.</p>	<p><b>Healthy Snacks for Playtime</b> In the Early Years and Key Stage One, the children are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable via the Government scheme.</p>	