Dear Families,

Happy New Year and Welcome back to Pre School! I’ve been very lucky to meet some of you on the gate but if we haven’t yet had the chance to say Hello, I’d like to introduce myself. My name’s Jocelyn and I'm the new teacher in the Pre School class, I’m very excited to be starting at Somerdale and look forward to working with you all. Our team in Pre School will continue to include Sharon, with Jo covering PPA.

We are lucky to have some new children joining Pre School and I would like to welcome their families.

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| Enquiry Questions this term: How can I meet my own care needs? | | | |
| This term Turtle class will be continuing to develop their independence and learner autonomy by thinking about how we can meet our own care needs. We will use this as an opportunity to develop our practical skills, such as preparing to go outside in the winter.  Our class text for the first part of this term is Julian is a Mermaid by Jessica Love, this fabulously illustrated book is about diversity and choice. We will also focus on the tradition tale The Three Little Pigs. | | | |
| Rights Respecting Schools  This term we will focus on the right:   * Article 24: children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water and a safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.   We will be looking at this right through the lens of kindness, support and how we can help each other to stay safe. | | | |
| 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)](https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-classes/pre-school/) | | | |
| Home Learning | | | |
| **Reading**  Any opportunities to read stories, or to 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.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YxHXPaAfkJBX1f8BalfNOKZ5XSov7TFR/view?usp=share_link) 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](https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=early-years)  [Busy Things can be accessed from home with useful maths games and activities](http://www.busythings.co.uk/).  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](https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=early-years)  [Busy Things also have some good games for times table recall practice, particularly miner birds.](http://www.busythings.co.uk/) | | | |
| **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. | | | |
| **Class Page**  You can access information, long term and medium term overviews as well as other resources on the class page on our website. | | **Nature Area**  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. | **School Clothing Guidance**  Please see the [page on our website](https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/school-clothing-guidance/) for more information on appropriate clothing for school. |
| **Library Day**  Our Library Day is on a Friday at 1.30 – 2.00pm.  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. | | **What does my child need to bring into school every day?**   * Wellies and a coat. * Filled Water Bottle. * Spare changes of clothing: top, bottoms, underwear, socks, another pair of shoes. * Nappies and wet wipes if needed. | |
| **Questions or concerns**  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 [info@somerdaleet.org.uk](mailto:info@somerdaleet.org.uk). | **Healthy Snacks for Playtime**  In the Early Years and Key Stage One, the children are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable via the Government scheme. | | |