

Term 5 Newsletter (Turtles)

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school, we hope that you enjoyed the holidays. Welcome to all our new preschool families, we are so pleased that you have decided to join us at Somerdale. As you will have seen we have been busy in the preschool garden, building our decking and more excitingly the verticle garden. The plan is to construct a growing screen of trailing plants and herbs around the decking area. We would really appreciate any empty 2L plastic bottles to help us realise this project. This term we are introducing a poem of the week, this week's poem is called Names and the children have been doing a very good job of learning it.

We are going to be practising our sports and activities in advance of Sports Day at the end of this term, further details about this will follow.

Class Teacher- Jocelyn Learning Support Assistant – Sharon PPA cover- Jo (Monday pm), Becky (Wednesday pm).

Enquiry Questions this term: I wonder what changes can happen to materials and why?

This term our core texts are *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. We will be using these to explore themes around space, travel and the properties of different materials. We will be considering: magnetism, which has been very popular so far; light; strength and flexibility; liquid and air. In Learning Together we will talking about fair and unfair, and how sometimes this can be subjective. We will continue to develop our phonics skills through songs, poems and the Littlewandle program.

Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus on the right:

Article 16: Every child has the right to privacy.

We will be looking at this right through the lens of kindness, fairness 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. \(PS\)](#)

Home Learning

Reading

We would encourage you to read to your child every day. Any opportunity to read stories, or to look at picture books with your child is greatly encouraged. Reading stories together is a great way to foster a love of reading and to build listening and attention skills as well promoting language skills and the development of a vivid 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.

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 Thursdays 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](#) for more information on appropriate clothing for school.

Library Day

Our Library Day is on a Friday.

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.

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.