

Term 1 Newsletter (Turtles)

Dear Families,

Welcome to another exciting year at pre-school! For those families who are returning I hope that you've enjoyed a superb summer and a very warm welcome to all of our new families, it's been really nice to meet you all over the last few days. We are looking forward to having the children back in pre-school, it's very quiet here without them.

The pre-school team this year is myself, Jocelyn Gillard, with Sharon Fisher and Jenna Harrington. We will continue to have Jo Devine and Becky Howell providing cover.

I theme this term is This is me! What makes me special? To support our learning we will be using the texts What makes me a me? The Colour Monster and our traditional tale will be Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Each week we will learn a new rhyme to build our vocabulary and oracy, it would be great if you could encourage your child to practice this with you at home.

Enquiry Questions this term: What makes me special?

We will be using this theme to explore our similarities and differences, our preferences and tastes, our families and to celebrate our own individuality but also that of our classmates. From this starting point we will begin to develop positive and respectful attitudes and friendships.

Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus on the right:

- Article 2- We should all be treated equally.
- Article 28- You have the right to an education.

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 encourage any opportunity for reading either at home or in pre-school, it doesn't matter what you're reading but rather that it is a quality and enjoyable interaction between you and your child. The children will be visiting the library once a week and will have a free choice of which book they choose to withdraw.

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

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 try and spend as much time as possible outside and will be visiting the nature area on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Children will need waterproof coats in school on these days.

School Clothing Guidance

Please see the [page on our website](#) for more information on appropriate clothing for school.

Library Day

As a class we visit the library on a Friday afternoon, but for those children who are in earlier in the week we ensure that they have the opportunity for a brief visit each week.

PE Day

Our hall slots are on a Mondays and Thursdays, we use this time to develop our gross motor movement skills. It's helpful if children are wearing comfortable clothing and trainers on these days.

What does my child need to bring into school every day?

- A waterproof coat.
- Sun hat if required
- Filled Water Bottle-containing water.
- 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 Chelsea 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.

Ultra processed snacks are high in sugar, even those that are advertised as '1 of your 5 a day'. NHS advice states children aged 7-10 should have no more than 24g of free sugars a day. Due to the processing, reconstituting and reblending of ingredients to create fruit winders, these snacks contain high amounts of free sugars.

For example, Bear Fruit Yoyo, strawberry contains 8g of sugar. This equates to one third of the recommended daily allowance.

For this reason, with consideration to Article 24 (children have the right to healthy food) we ask that these are not brought to school as they are not considered a healthy snack due to the high sugar content. It also creates littering problems with the excess packaging.