



**Somerdale Educate Together
Primary School**
'Learn Together to Live Together'
Newsletter (Term 1 Week 4)
September 2023

Value of the Month for
September:
Responsibility

Dear Families,

I cannot believe we are at the end of week four already and what a busy couple of weeks we have had since our last newsletter! It is so pleasing to see how the children are settling into their classes and it has been wonderful to welcome our new starters in Pre-School and Reception. In October our value of the month moves from responsibility to respect. We will also be celebrating Black History Month and Poetry Day.

National Teaching Assistant Day – Friday 29th September

Friday 29th September marks National Teaching Assistant Day. We would like to say a special thank you to our wonderful teaching assistants who work tirelessly to support the children and staff. We would be lost without you!

School tours for families who have children at Somerdale.

As part of our drive to increase opportunities for families to engage with school, we will be offering tours to existing parents for you to see how the school is progressing. There will also be the opportunity to meet with the Senior Leadership Team and to discuss the school's Development Plan. Members of the pupil voice team will be present to provide their perspective. The tours will focus on Years 1-6, as EYFS families have recently toured the school. Please click on the link below to book a tour on Monday 9th October, Thursday 2nd November or Tuesday 14th November. <https://forms.office.com/e/GLvM1aY6MV>

Reading Meeting

It was great to see so many family members attend the reading workshop run by Alice and Jess.

If you would like further guidance with how to read with your child at home, please follow the link below to watch three short videos which demonstrate how we read with children at Somerdale so you too can support at home (Article 3: adults should always do what is best for you). There is a separate example for EYFS, KSI and KS2. In the same google drive, you will find example VIPERS comprehension questions, as well as reading for pleasure 'tube maps' to give some direction on popular books for different age ranges.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1wS6MKCOWRuTXBi3x-FtjWLG4I54KGpYj>



Somerdale Staff Raise Money for Dorothy House Hospice Care!

On Saturday 16th September, Sharon, Amy, Jo, Jenna and Sam took part in 'The Big Avon Paddle', raising money for Dorothy House Hospice Care. This is the second year that Somerdale ET has taken part to raise money for this amazing charity.



Dorothy House provides palliative and end of life care to patients living with a life-limiting illness, and their families and carers. The majority of care is delivered in the home and community and covers an area of 700sq miles. All services are free of charge.

So far the team have raised £330 – if you would like to donate, you can do so via our Just Giving page.

<https://tinyurl.com/2sejfmjf>

Harvest Bath Foodbank Joint Collection with The Chocolate Quarter/St Monica Trust

As part of our ongoing community engagement with St Monica's Trust, we collected donations for Bath Foodbank. Year 1 and Year 2 are also collaborating with The Chocolate Quarter to create a harvest/autumn themed display for The Chocolate Quarter.



Anyone can find themselves at crisis point – please don't leave it until your cupboard is bare before you ask for help. If you feel you are struggling to put food on the table, then we can help you by supplying a food bank e-Voucher where appropriate, or you can speak to another referral agency. More information is available via the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/3xn5r6a5>

Turtles (Pre-School)

It has been lovely to welcome our new children to Pre-School and catch up with those returning! We have all settled back in really well. This week Pre-School have had a go at making nests during our "Wellie Wednesday" session. They thought carefully about what they would need to make a strong and safe nest and used their observation skills to find some special things to put inside! We are planning to have an outdoor learning session every week (in all weathers!) so please send your children in with appropriate weather gear!



Introducing Wildcats (Reception)

Becca and Sam have really enjoyed getting to know the children in our new Reception cohort. Last week, the children learnt about some endangered and threatened species in the UK and then voted for their new class name. They have voted for...

Wildcats!



There are now around 200 Wildcats left in the wild in northern Scotland, but they are at risk of extinction. However, a conservation programme is aiming to release around 40 and 60 European wildcats into the countryside in Devon and Cornwall this year.

Bumblebees (Year 2)

This week, we went outside to collect objects to create "patterns with nature". Using the objects, we found, we created new shapes and patterns on the ground, around branches, leaves and on logs. We looked at how we could play with the compositions, through sorting objects by colour, size, material, and type!



Puffins (Year 3)

Puffin Class have settled into Year 3 extremely well. We have seen some amazing learning – grasping place value to 1000, really impressing Alice with our amazing writing, exploring light in science, discussing feelings in Learn Together and looking at early settlements in our enquiry. Here we are being artists, getting messy and exploring gestural drawing with charcoal!



Elephants (Year 4)

In Year 4, children have been working really hard on their enquiry question – What is a rainforest and which animals live there? They used atlases and Google Maps to locate tropical rainforests around the world and are now using their research skills to find out more about the 4 layers of the rainforest and which animals live in each layer. This research will be used in an ongoing project that they will complete this term.



Tigers (Year 5)

In Year 5 we have been hitting our maths Place Value topic hard and using lots of practical lessons! As one example, this week we used the Chromebooks to access a random number generator to order numbers to 1,000,000.



We've also been making great use of our outdoor space and getting active. We have collected natural resources as place value counters in response to different challenges. 1) Have a digit in every column with only odd numbers except in the ten thousands column. 2) create a number between 100,000-300,000 using only even numbers.

Leopards (Year 6)

Year 6 we have been thinking about setting goals for the year and aiming high! Here is our balloon themed display where the children are flying high already. Apologies for the silhouettes, the mobiles are constantly moving.



In science we have been learning how to group living organisms using the Linnaeus classification system.



Online Safety

As we begin a new school year, we would like to re-signpost our families to resources such as the NSPCC and Internet Matters which provide information on the minimum age requirements for popular apps.

For example:

Fortnite has a PEGI 12 rating

TikTok has a minimum age of 13

Whatsapp has a minimum age of 16

Minecraft has a PEGI rating of 7+.

Whilst we appreciate it's at a parent's discretion what apps their children use, we would remind parents that for many of these services, the minimum age requirement is there to protect children from accessing age-inappropriate content. Where it's clear that underage use of these services is to the detriment of children's well-being in school, we would follow up on this as part of our responsibilities around safeguarding.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/fortnite-battle-royale-parental-controls/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/#>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>








School PE Kit

Children will need to come to school wearing clothing and footwear that is suitable to exercise in on their PE days. Here is a list of things that would be suitable to wear on these days. We ask that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name and year group so that it does not get lost.

PE kit list –

- Short sleeved free moving top
- Jumper (if weather appropriate)
- Shorts or leggings (no denim)
- Trainers suitable for running
- Hair tied up
- No jewellery
-

Term 1 Overview

Week Beginning	Week	Rights Focus	Global Goal Link	Event(s)
4 th September	1	Article 1: All children have rights.		Class Charters
11 th September	2	Article 1: All children have rights.		Rights Respecting Ambassadors – Recruitment process Class Workshops
18 th September	3	Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.		Launch of Outright 2023/24 Campaign International Day of Peace Class Workshops
25 th September	4	Article 7: Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents.		Reading workshop for parents Tuesday 26 th September 6pm with Jess and Alice
2 nd October	5	Article 2: Every child has rights “without discrimination of any kind.” Article 29: You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.		Black History Month Poetry Day Rights Respecting Ambassador Interviews
9 th October	6	Article 2: Every child has rights “without discrimination of any kind.”		Black History Month
16 th October	7	Article 2: Every child has rights “without discrimination of any kind.”		Black History Month Child Consultation Meetings
Half Term 23rd -27th October				



SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

26.09.2023

22.11.2023

17.01.2024

06.03.2024

17.05.2024

21.06.2024

9am in the school hall

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



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

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.