



Somerdale Educate Together Primary School
'Learn Together to Live Together'
Newsletter (Term 1 Week 5)
Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of Our School Community,

As we come to the end of Week 5, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has already been a purposeful and positive start to the school year. Classrooms are full of energy and enthusiasm, children are settling into routines, and it has been a real pleasure to see so much excellent learning taking place across the school. I am incredibly proud of the way our pupils continue to show kindness, resilience, and curiosity in all that they do.

I would also like to update you on an important development for our school community. At the start of this academic year, we committed to becoming a *Smartphone Free School*. Following the parent consultation last year, a great deal of work has been happening behind the scenes to ensure this initiative is introduced in a thoughtful and supportive way.

Looking ahead, in Term 2 we will be launching a new section on the school website dedicated to our commitment to being smartphone free. This will provide information and updates as we move forward together. I would like to extend my thanks to the parents who have kindly agreed to join our *Somerdale Smartphone Free School Working Party*—your input and partnership are invaluable as we shape this important journey.

Further updates will follow in Term 2, including the launch of the website page, practical advice for parents, policy details, and information sessions designed for both children and families. We are excited to continue this work with you, building a community that supports our children to thrive, free from the challenges and pressures that smartphones can sometimes bring.

As part of this wider commitment, we are very excited to be welcoming **Jess Van Delft** to Somerdale Educate Together Primary School on **Monday 13th October**. Jess will be leading our KS2 pupils in engaging, age-appropriate workshops on the theme of "*Me and My Screen – how to get a healthy balance with technology*". While these sessions will explore technology use more broadly, they will also focus on children's relationships with smartphones. This valuable opportunity has been organised through [Smartphone Free Childhood](#) and [Papaya](#) and we are delighted that our pupils will benefit from Jess's expertise and experience.

School Development Plan

A summary of the School Development Plan (SDP) is now available on our [school website](#). In the coming weeks, *The Listening Team* will be working alongside Chris and Sam to create a **child-friendly version** so that pupils can engage with and understand the school's priorities too.

Parent/Carer Forum

Thank you to everyone who attended the most recent Parent/Carer Forum. The **minutes and actions** from the meeting can be accessed [here](#). We are grateful for the continued partnership and open dialogue these meetings provide. The **next Forum** will take place on **Tuesday 2nd December at 2:30pm** in the school hall, and we hope to see many of you there.

Class Pages

Our [class website pages](#) have been updated this week. They now include:

- An overview of planned assessments for the 2025–26 academic year
- Statutory assessment booklets to support parents in understanding the process in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, and Year 6

Dates for upcoming statutory assessment information meetings will be shared shortly.

Statutory Data

An updated overview of the 2024-25 statutory data has been published on the [school website](#).

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Firstly, thank you to all the children who took the time to complete an application to become an anti-bullying ambassador. We were really impressed with the thought and effort that went into them. Congratulations to Nala, Jacob, Maya, Roman, Alys, Clara, Amber and Robyn who have been selected as this year's ambassadors. We will be meeting soon to discuss the role and begin to decide on our focuses for the year. I will be in touch over the next couple of weeks regarding some training that we have been invited to on Tuesday 25th November.



The UK's biggest story writing competition is back...

500 Words, the UK's largest and most successful children's writing competition is open for entries until 9pm on Friday 7 November. Children are encouraged to write a story they would love to read in 500 words or less. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked. 50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final, where they could see their story read by a superstar celebrity! See all the details

on [the BBC website here](#).

Christmas Dates

We wanted to highlight a couple of important dates that have been planned in for Term 2. We will write in a later newsletter to confirm timings.

Key Stage Two Songs by Candlelight: Thursday 11th December 2025

Key Stage One Christmas Performance: Friday 12th December 2025

EYFS (Pre-School & Reception) Nativity Performance: Tuesday 16th December 2025

News from around the school

Preschool – Turtles

We've had our first pom-pom jar celebration this week as a reward for all the hard work and listening that the children have been doing, please don't worry if your child attends later in the week – there will be a second edition. The Turtles have been enjoying playing listening games, we have had some rather tricks sounds, to identify and it has been super to see the children persevering and thinking of their own, unique ideas. We've enjoyed exploring more of the school's site, especially picking and sharing the apples that we found. The Turtles took great care in planting the seeds from these apples in safe places, we look forward to seeing if they grow. In maths we have been talking about and practicing making collections, the Turtles particularly enjoyed the collections that we made for our very own zoo. Over the last week the children have made autumn playdough, using lavender flowers which they carefully picked, mixed and kneaded. This week we have been thinking about some of the practical elements of our own self-care, including the importance of our privacy in toileting and ensuring that our pants are on before we come back into the

classroom. We've also been playing games that help us refine the movements needed to help keep ourselves clean. We have continued to talk about our fabulous families, and the children have been delighted to share their pictures and introduce their families to the class. Thank you for sending these in.



Reception – Badgers

Badger Class have enjoyed exploring Autumn and seasonal changes last week. We went on lots of walks in our local area to create pictures and crowns with colourful leaves, we went on listening walks to listen for signs of Autumn. We got creative with clay making hedgehogs and investigated patterns and design through natural resources we found outside. We have enjoyed exploring fictional and non-fictional books based on Autumn, we even found some interesting insects on our adventures. And so much more! Well done Badgers for being inquisitive and challenge –takers.



Year 1 – Otters

Otters have really enjoyed getting stuck in with our key text 'Dear Greenpeace' over the past two weeks. We have thought really carefully about some of the new vocabulary in the book and this week we wrote our own letters in the style of the story. I have loved seeing the children's imagination and creativity come through in their writing and they have worked so hard to remember their capital letters, full stops and finger spaces! We have also been enjoying finding out about our enquiry question 'I wonder what it was like when our parents and grandparents were younger?'. We started off by exploring different types of houses and how the

items you can find in a home have changed over time. Next week, we will begin to look at how toys may have been different, and we are very excited for our trip to Blaise Castle to learn more about this!

Year 2 – Wildcats

This term, Wildcats have been exploring the question “Where would I take a tourist in Keynsham?” As part of our geography learning, we went on a walk around Keynsham to spot some of the important features in our town. The children identified both physical features, such as fields, and human features, including shops, churches, and the memorial park. They really enjoyed making connections between their classroom learning and the local area.



Year 3- Hedgehogs

The children have really been enjoying the learning around the history of our school. Last week, the children thought about what it means to be part of our school, and how they feel. Here is a selection of what they have said:

“I feel proud as there are only 2% of Gold Rights Respecting Schools in the UK”

“I feel lucky because we have very nice teachers and lots to do, like Learn Together which other schools don’t have.”

“I feel really happy and grateful because we have an enjoyable school”

“Even though we have different needs or disabilities, Somerdale says yes, come and join our community.”

For the rest of this term, we will be focusing on Human Rights and the difference between wants and needs.

Year 4- Bumblebees

Bumblebees have been looking at air pollution, clean air zones and traffic on the roads in geography this term. Last week we did some fieldwork and surveyed how many cars enter and exit the Somerdale estate on a Tuesday afternoon during a half hour period. We also broke it down further, categorising the vehicles. We were particularly interested to see how many electric vehicles there were. We have been making graphs based on our results and are planning on designing a questionnaire to send out based on our findings.



Year 5- Puffins

Year 5 continue to explore the amazing Philippe Petit and his wire walk across the twin towers in New York city. To get inspired, we thought we would imitate his circus skills antics by attempting our own tight rope walk experience. We have been retelling his incredible feat using a range of fronted adverbials alongside dialogue to convey character – Puffins have delivered some top notch writing already so be sure to take a good look on the fast approaching parents evenings!



Year 6 – Elephants

Elephant class have been immersing themselves in their enquiry on the British Empire learning all about how the different colonies were impacted when the British arrived. We have discussed the transatlantic slavetrade or the ‘triangle trade’ and who benefitted from it and started to consider the impact of the Empire on Africa, Australia and India. The children have now chosen their black heroes to write biographies to celebrate Black History Month.

Lots of our families have enjoyed visiting ‘Bob’ our Somerdale gnome at Cribbs Causeway.





Parent and carers training

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Healthy Relationships On-line delivered by Alice from Tender this week. You can find out more [on the Tender website](#). Details of the next training session for parents and carers can be found below:

Managing Emotions; Tuesday 18th November 9-10am School Hall (hot drinks and biscuits provided)

Session Aims:

- To develop knowledge around supporting children to manage their emotions.
- To explore and share ideas about how we can talk to children about healthy friendships.
- To learn about where we can get additional help and support for parents/carers and children.

FOSET plays a vital role in supporting the school community through fundraising events and activities. We warmly invite all parents and carers to get involved and help us continue making a positive impact. This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 14th October 2025 and we would love to see as many of you there as possible. Whether you would like to join the committee or simply find out more, everyone is welcome! For more information and updates, please visit our [school website](#).

FRIENDS OF SOMERDALE EDUCATE TOGETHER COMMITTEE 2024/2025

Member Name	Role
Lynette	Treasurer
Rosie	Committee Member
Caroline	Chair
Annemarie	Committee Member
Lisa	Committee Member
Natalie	Committee Member
Amy	Grants Lead
Becks	Committee Member
Laura	Secretary
Alice	Committee Member

Term 1

Dates and times are available on the school website: <https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/parents-and-community/upcoming-events/>

Week Beginning	Week	Rights Focus	Global Goal Link	Event(s)
(w/c 01/09/25)	1			Value of the Month: Responsibility INSET Day (02.09.25) Term 1 (Y1-Y6) (03.09.25) EYFS – Home Visits
(w/c 08/09/25)	2			Reception AM/PM split (08.09.25) All Reception children in school (09.09.25) Year 6 Welcome Meeting (08.09.25) (2:50pm) Year 4 Welcome Meeting (09.09.25) (2:50pm) Year 3 Welcome Meeting (10.09.25) (9am) Year 2 Welcome Meeting (10.09.25) (2:50pm) Year 5 Welcome Meeting (15.09.25) (2:50pm) Year 1 Welcome Meeting (12.09.25) (9am)
(w/c 15/09/25)	3			Listening Team Election Week Pre-School Welcome Meeting (15.09.25) (2:50pm) Day of Democracy (15.09.25) Reception Welcome Meeting (16.09.25) (2:50pm)
(w/c 22/09/25)	4			
(w/c 29/09/25)	5			Value of the Month: Respect Day of Elders (01.10.25) SEND Coffee Morning (30.01.25) (9am) Tender Parent Workshop (01.10.25) Poetry Day (02.10.25)

				Parent Forum (02.10.25) (9am)
(w/c 06/10/25)	6			Local Governing Board Meeting (07.10.25) FOSET Committee Meeting (07.10.25)
(w/c 13/10/25)	7			FOSET AGM (14.10.25) World Food Day (16.10.25) FoSET Disco (16.10.25)
(w/c 20/10/25)	8			Parents/Carers Evening (20.10.25) Individual Photographs (22.10.25) Parents/Carers Evening (22.10.25) United Nations Day (24.10.25)
End of Term				

Friends of Somerdale Educate Together



Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved.

Enjoy a drink at the **Somer Dining bar** from 5:30pm,
help elect the new committee and hear how your generous
donations have helped our school!

**Somer Dining, The Chocolate Quarter,
Trajectus Way, BS31 2GJ
6:00pm, Tuesday 14th October**



Parentkind
Member Association



YOU'RE INVITED TO FOSET'S
**HALLOWEEN
PARTY**

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER

PRESCHOOL/RECEPTION 3:20PM - 4PM

YEARS 1 TO 3 4:15PM - 5PM

YEARS 4 TO 6 5:15PM - 6PM

£3 PER TICKET

FREE OPTION USING THE CODE: BOO

DISCO, CRAFTS, FUN & GAMES

FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL

BUY TICKETS HERE!

