Somerdale Educate Together Primary School
'Learn Together to Live Together'
Newsletter (Term 1 Week 8)
Friday 23rd October 2026

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

As we reach the end of Term 1, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to all our families for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. It has been a wonderful start to the academic year, and I am immensely proud of how positively our children have settled into school life. Their enthusiasm, resilience, curiosity and love of learning have been a joy to witness, and it has been particularly rewarding to see their confidence grow, friendships flourish and achievements celebrated across our school community.

As we look ahead to Term 2, we have so much to be excited about! This is always a particularly busy and special time in our school calendar, bringing a wealth of enriching learning experiences, memorable events and seasonal celebrations. It is a term filled with opportunities for our children to shine, create lasting memories and come together as a school community.

To help you plan ahead and feel part of all that is happening, we have shared below an overview of the key dates and events for the coming term. We hope you will enjoy joining us for the many wonderful moments that lie ahead.

Thank you once again for the invaluable role you play in making our school such a warm, supportive and thriving community. Your partnership means so much to us, and we look forward to building on the successes of Term 1 as we continue our journey of learning, growth and achievement together.

Wishing you and your families a restful, happy and well-deserved half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term!

Chris Thomas-Unsworth

Headteacher

Safeguarding

As part of our continued commitment to keeping all children safe, we would like to remind parents and carers that we now have a dedicated Safeguarding email address: Safeguarding@somerdaleet.org.uk

This email account is reviewed by members of our Designated Safeguarding Team and provides an additional way for families to share any safeguarding concerns or information with school.

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Chris Thomas-Unsworth
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sam O'Rean
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Rebecca Howell

If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please use this dedicated email address so that the appropriate member of the team can review and respond to your concern.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us to help keep our children safe.

Statutory Assessment Meetings

The annual Statutory Assessment meetings will take place on the following dates for children in Reception, Year 1, Year 4, and Year 6. Notes from each meeting will be uploaded to the relevant class webpages. Information about both statutory assessments and the school's internal systems — including key dates — can also be found on individual class webpages.

Assessment Meeting	Statutory Assessment	Date (Term 2)
Reception	Good Level of Development	9th November (3:30-4pm)
Year 1	Phonics	3rd November (3:30-4pm)
Year 4	Multiplication Tables Check	2nd November (9 – 9:30)
Year 6	SATs	10th November (3:20-4pm)

The whole school assessment calendar can be found at
https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/our-curriculum/assessment/
or individually on the assessment tab of each class page.

Parent & Carer Forum Dates

At Somerdale, we believe that a strong partnership between parents/carers and the school is key to a successful and supportive learning environment. The Parent/Carer Forum aims to provide an open and structured platform where we can discuss important topics, share school developments, and gather your valuable input. We will address areas such as pupil well-being, curriculum improvements, extracurricular activities, and more.
We look forward to seeing many of you there and working together to continue making Somerdale a wonderful place for our children to grow and learn.

Term	Date	Time/Location
1	Thursday 22nd October 2026	9am – School Hall
2	Tuesday 1st December 2026	2.30pm – School Hall
3	Monday 25th January 2027	4pm – School Hall
4	Friday 25th March 2027	9am – School Hall
5	Thursday 13th May 2027	2.30pm – School Hall
6	Wednesday 30th June 2027	9am – School Hall

Turtles (Pre-School)

What a fantastic first term we've had in Turtles! The children have settled beautifully into their routines, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow. We've enjoyed lots of exciting experiences, including our Halloween disco, exploring pumpkins in the classroom, and celebrating our hard work with a well-deserved class treat! The children worked incredibly hard to fill our class jar with pom-poms, and we are so proud of their teamwork and enthusiasm.

This term, we have enjoyed exploring our focus texts, The Gigantic Turnip and There's Only One You. Through these stories and many others, we have been learning about similarities and differences and celebrating what makes each of us special and unique. As part of our Learn Together theme, we created a class family tree and a class handprint to celebrate our families, our individuality and our wonderful Turtles community.

We are so proud of everything the children have achieved this term! We hope everyone enjoys a lovely half-term break, and we look forward to another exciting term filled with learning, laughter, and new adventures!

Starlings (Reception)

Wow! End of Term 1 is already here, and what a busy and positive term it has been for the Starlings!

We have spent the term establishing our classroom routines, learning how to work together and getting to know our new class, our friends and our expectations. The children have settled well and have shown increasing independence throughout the day. They have been fantastic and have already filled their first Pom Pom jar through their teamwork, kindness and positive choices. We will enjoy our special reward next term!

Our Achieveosaurs have also been busy sitting with lots of children who have been showcasing their learning skills. We have seen children demonstrating excellent listening, focus, resilience, problem-solving and curiosity, as well as many other skills. The Achieveosaurs will certainly need a long rest over half term too!

I feel so proud of the progress the children have made already. They are learning to hold their pencils correctly, beginning to form their letters and making meaningful marks to share their ideas. They have also been developing their confidence when speaking, listening and joining in with group activities.

We have been exploring our core text, *Only One of You*, alongside related stories linked to our topic, *What Makes Us Special*. The children have been learning about themselves, their families, their talents and their unique attributes. We have also explored our own feelings and the feelings of others, discussing how we can show care, kindness and respect.

Well done everybody, have a lovely half-term break and I look forward to seeing you next term!

Badgers (Year 1)

Badgers have had a wonderful start to year 1 this term. They have all thoroughly enjoyed learning about different animals in science and have done some wonderful pieces of writing about their favorite animal facts. After our history trip to Blaise castle the children made postcards to describe their favorite parts of the trip; the overall highlights seemed to be 'the coach trip' and the 'story read aloud'. In Maths they have been exploring their number bonds to 10 and using part-part whole models to partition numbers. I am so proud of all of their eagerness to learn and the wonderful pieces of work they have all made across our curriculum this term.

Otters (Year 2)

It has been such a pleasure to get to know the Otters, they have had a really positive term- what a great start to year 2! In science this term we have been learning about how hand hygiene and a healthy diet support wellbeing. Today the Otters put this into practice and made sandwiches for themselves to enjoy at the pompom treat picnic. In art the Otters have produced some beautiful autumn leaves using wax and watercolour techniques to create pattern and texture. Well done Otters! Have a super half term!

Wildcats (Year 3)

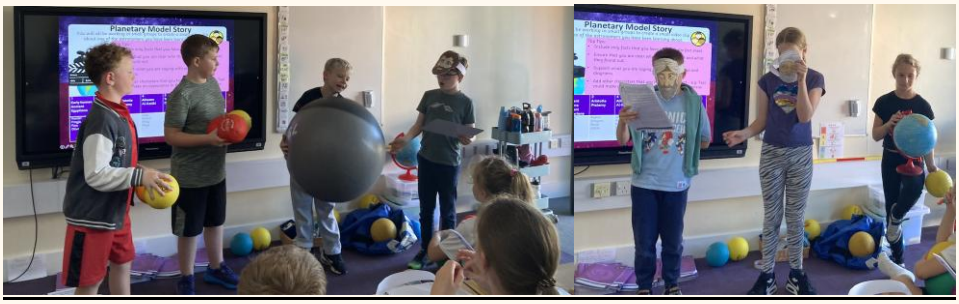
Wildcats have had such a brilliant first term in Year 3! They have enjoyed using the Pixar short film of 'Lifted' to inspire their English, and they have been busy writing persuasive letters. It has been lovely to see the progress already, even in a few weeks! They are even joining their writing now! Wildcats have been working hard in Maths, learning about column addition and subtraction. They have developed their knowledge of the local area, including map and compass reading, and they have produced some lovely collages in Art! Well done, Wildcats! Have a lovely half term!

Hedgehogs (Year 4)

Hedgehogs have had such a great start to the year. A particular highlight was national poetry day – we explored Dandelion by Gita Ralleigh and WOW; they performed it with so much confidence. This week, we studied two poems related to Halloween – Theme in Yellow by Carl Sandburg and Mr Macklin's Jack O'Lantern by David McCord. We had such great conversations about the poets' choice of language and again the performances of the poems were incredible. We have also been buzzing scientists this term, learning about electricity. The children loved building their own circuits, investigating conductors and insulators, and making their own switches. As artists, we've also been storytelling through drawing, using charcoal, pencil and biro to illustrate The Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll – this was an absolute favourite every week.

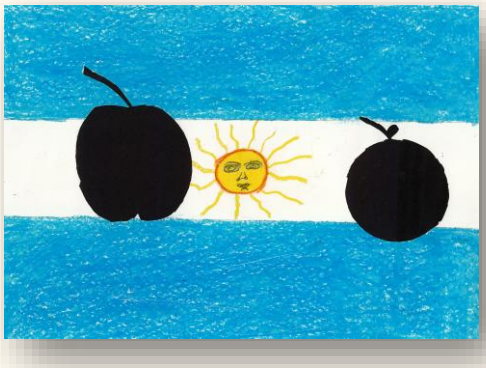
Bumblebees (Year 5)

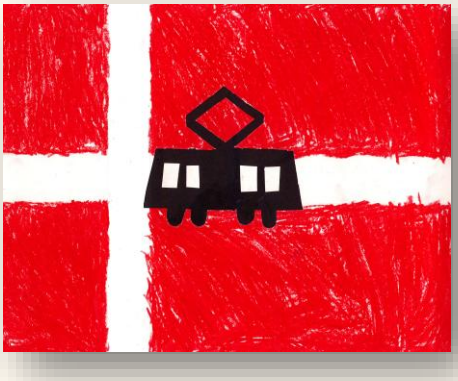
Bumblebees have been learning more about space in Science, by researching ancient astronomers and their theories about whether our solar system is Heliocentric or Geocentric. Ask the children which one is right! You can see them below creating models to show that some believed the Earth rotated the sun while others thought the sun rotated the Earth and the world was flat.



Puffins (Year 6)

As some of you will have seen in our assembly this week, Year 6 have been exploring significant figures within Black History month which led us to Tanzanian artist Lubiana Himid who migrated to Britian as an infant. Lubiana creates artwork that uses negative space closely tying to her cultural roots and the historic impact the British Empire had on East African countries. This led us to a journey of discovery around our own history and cultures as we investigated where we have come from. To quote one Year 6 child below "I've done an Argentinian flag because my dad was born there, and I have many family members that lived and live there. I've put fruit as my negative space to create this effect because most of my grandparents were fruit farmers. The fruits are a peach and an orange; this is just like they would grow in Argentina".





Please find below some key Term 2 dates for your diary:

Term 2

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 02.10.26)	1	6 LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT		Value of the Month: Friendship Road Safety Week Statutory Assessment Meeting- Year 4 MTC (02.10.26) Statutory Assessment Meeting – Year 1 Phonics (03.10.26) Reception 27/28 Tour (04.11.26)

(w/c 09.11.26)	2			Reception 27/28 Tour (09.11.26) Reception Good Level of Development Statutory Assessment Meeting (09.11.26) Statutory Assessment Meeting – Year 6 SATs (10.11.26)
(w/c 16.11.26)	3			Anti-Bullying Week Year 5 Assembly (16.11.26) Odd Socks Day (17.11.26) UNICEF Children's Day (20.11.26) Children In Need (20.11.26) FoSET Christmas Fair (21.11.26)
(w/c 23.11.26)	4			Reception 27/28 Tour (23.11.26) SEND Coffee Morning (24.11.26) Local Governing Board (24.11.26)
(w/c 30.11.26)	5			Internal Assessment Week PANTO (supported by FOSET) (03.11.26) Parent/Carer Forum (01.12.26)
(w/c 07.12.26)	6			Value of the Month: Peace Reception 27/28 Tour (08.12.26) Christmas Dinner Day (09.12.26) Key Stage 2 Songs by Candlelight (10.12.26) Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance (11.12.26)
(w/c 14.12.26)	7			EYFS Christmas Performance (15.12.26) School Close 1pm- Staff Training (18.12.26)
End of Term 2: (18.12.26)				

FoSET News

Christmas Fair

FoSET are very excited to announce that we will be hosting a Christmas Fair at the school on **Saturday 21st November from 1-3pm**. We look fporward to sharing some festive cheer with you all and raising funds to progress the playground improvements.

Volunteers Needed

To make the event as fun and sparkly as possible for everyone **we need volunteers to help with set up/pack down and run games/stalls**, please contact us to help at friendsofsomerdale@hotmail.com or catch a FoSET member/class rep on the school run.

Donations Donations Donations

If you happen to be having a Pre-Christmas clear out we would love donations of the following to go to the School office

Tombola prizes – no alcohol please

Pre-Loved Board games

Pre-Loved Christmas items including wrapping paper

Small Party Favours

Please not all soft toys must have the CE mark

As always we really appreciate your support

FoSET Committee 2026/2027

FoSET are excited to announce the new committee for 2026/2027.

We would like to thank the school community for the amazing support you have given over the past academic year.

At our AGM, there were no nominations for a FoSET Chair or Secretary, so we are currently operating without these positions.

If you would be interested in finding out about these roles and joining FoSET, please email us at friendsofsomerdale@hotmail.com or catch a FoSET member/ class rep on the school run.

FoSET

Friends of Somerdale Educate Together

FOSET COMMITTEE 2026/27

Who are we:

Committee member

Treasurer

Grants Lead

Committee member

Committee member

Committee member

FREE ENTRY
Friends of Somerdale Educate Together
CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
1PM - 3PM
JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, STALLS, GAMES AND LOTS OF CHRISTMAS FUN!
SOMERDALE EDUCATE TOGETHER PRIMARY SCHOOL, KEYNSHAM BS31 2FF

Friends of Somerdale Educate Together (FoSET) have signed up to the **Stikins** Name Labels referral scheme, in an attempt to help solve Lost Property at school and at the same time make money for our school.

The school can receive 30% commission on every order placed ***quoting the school reference number 36296***.

- **Easy to use**

Stikins® name labels are made of an advanced material; all you have to do is stick them onto the wash-care label of clothes. They are a one-size, multipurpose label, which can also be used on school items such as shoes, plastic boxes, water bottles, pencil cases etc.

- **Help your school**

For each order placed using Somerdale Educate Together's unique code **36296** we earn 30% commission for the school. You can order online (www.stikins.co.uk), or over the phone (01270 668076).

(Basketball opportunity for Years 3 to Years 6)