



**Somerdale Educate Together  
Primary School**  
**'Learn Together to Live Together'**  
**Newsletter (Term 2 Week 5)**  
**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

Value of the Month for  
December:  
Peace

Dear Families,

It's starting to feel a lot like Christmas. The trees are up, and the school decorations are nearly finished. Wham's last Christmas is on its 1000<sup>th</sup> play and the staffroom is filled with mince pies! With two weeks to go there is a lot of festive fun ahead of us. Please can I draw your attention to the whole school events below:

Year Group	Event	Date/Time	Description
<b>Key Stage 2</b> Year 3-6	Songs by Candlelight <i>Top Playground</i>	Christmas Carol Concert (07.12.23)  4.30pm – 5.30pm	Join us for some festive songs chosen by the children in the top playground. Wear your best Christmas jumper and Christmas hat!
<b>Key Stage 1</b> Year 1-2	Christmas Rhyme <i>School Hall</i>	KS1 Christmas Play (12.12.23)  2.15pm – 3pm	<i>Max of 2 adults per family. Nobody Wraps Like an Elf!</i>
<b>EYFS</b> Pre-School & Reception	Nativity Play <i>School Hall</i>	EYFS Nativity (13.12.23)  2:15-2:45pm	<i>Max of 2 adults per family. Christmas Nativity</i>
<b>All Children</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>	14.12.23 12:00-1:00pm*	<i>Pre-school children not attending school on 14.12.23 are invited to attend the Christmas dinner.</i>

### **FoSET Event – 07.12.23**

FoSET will be running a Christmas event on the 7<sup>th</sup> December between 3:10-4:30 leading into the KS2 Christmas Carol service. All are welcome to attend, and there will be refreshments, tombola, and craft activities for the children. There will also be a 'books for Somerdale' store where families can purchase books for the school.

### **KS2 Christmas Carol Concert**

Please could all KS2 children arrive at school at 4:15 and head straight to their classrooms. Please wear warm wintery clothes, hat, scarf, and gloves.



### **New School Stage**

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank FoSET and the community for their fundraising efforts. Over the past year you have raised nearly £7000 through grants and school events. On Wednesday of this week, we received delivery of our new top of the range stage which is big enough to host the sort of productions that we want to put on in the future, starting with KSI Christmas play on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.



### **Jenna Hall**

On behalf of the school, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jenna Hall who will be leaving Somerdale at Christmas to join an international school in Malaysia. Jenna started at Somerdale in September 2020 has taught across the school both as a class and PPA teacher. We wish her the best of luck in her new venture.

### **Richard Vanstone – School Governor**

Richard has been a governor at Somerdale since it opened in 2017 and is stepping down from the Deputy Chair Role at Christmas. We would like to thank him for his significant contribution to the development of the school and wish him the best of luck in the future.

### **Turtles (Pre-School)**

Pre-School have been exploring our key text “Blue Penguin” this term. We have enjoyed helping the animals escape from the ice, getting messy with some sensory snow play and discussing what we thought it would be like to live in the South Pole! We found out that penguins huddle together to keep warm and this helped us to think about the ways that we can keep warm now it has turned cold. We also thought about the birds that we might find in our local area and discussed that it can be tricky for them to find food and water in the winter. The children then decided to make bird feeders that they can take home to help the birds!



### **Wildcats (Reception)**

Wildcats really enjoyed sequencing the pictures of the story Blue Penguin, and retelling the story to one another. They were confident and excited to bring their sequence home to share with their families.



We have also enjoyed exploring 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in maths this week. Children have explored different ways to make five and finding 1 more and 1 less.



Well done, Wildcats!

### **Hedgehogs (Year 1)**

Last week Hedgehogs were introduced to our new English text 'Mixed'. We have spent time as a class doing lots of book talk linked to our new story. This has then led into many of our learn together sessions where we have had in depth discussions about standing up for what we believe, having a different opinion to someone else and the feelings/emotions that can come as a result of this.

In maths we have been working hard on Subtraction, with a particular focus on fact families and finding all 8 related facts- this is tricky! The children have shown great perseverance and determination with this!

Christmas production practise for Y1/2 is in full swing and the children have brought such fantastic energy and enthusiasm to this. We can't wait to show you!

## **Bumblebees (Year 2)**

This term, we have been looking at 'How has Transport changed?' in our Enquiry lessons and to support our learning, we were able to visit Aero Space Museum. We explored the rich history of the aerospace industry and some of the most important aero heroes through history. We also learnt about the Concorde and then had the opportunity to make and fly our own Concorde. This was a brilliant opportunity for us to learn more about how transport has changed and developed over time.



## **Puffins (Year 3)**

This week in Puffin class, we have started our non-fiction unit in English. We have been working hard researching the Stone Age in preparation for writing our own 'How to Survive the Stone Age' reports! In art this week, we have been busy making clay characters in the style of Quentin Blake.

## **Elephants (Year 4)**

Over the past two weeks, Elephants have been working hard plan and write their retellings of 'The Great Kapok Tree'. We have been working really hard on using ambitious vocabulary to make our warning tales more captivating for the reader. We have also continued our research into plastic pollution as a part of the Environmental Strand in the Learn Together curriculum. The children have shown great enthusiasm towards this research, and we are now planning to write a letter as a class requesting governmental action.

## **Tigers (Year 5)**

For the last two weeks, Tigers have been digging into Beowulf. An Anglo-Saxon tale of a Viking who overcame the dreadful monster Grendel, then Grendel's mother and finally a mighty dragon. We have been working really hard to develop our inference skills and the vocabulary involved in this gory story!

This week, we diverted away from the book adaption written by Michael Morpurgo to listen to a spoken word retelling in actual Viking! You can listen for yourselves here:

[https://www.audible.co.uk/pd?asin=B085RLVXLR&source\\_code=ASSORAP0511160006&share\\_location=pdp](https://www.audible.co.uk/pd?asin=B085RLVXLR&source_code=ASSORAP0511160006&share_location=pdp)

## **Leopards (Year 6)**

This term, Leopards have been learning all about Humans and other animals particularly the circulatory system. To make the learning as interactive and meaningful as possible we have been very practical. We have made blood smoothies to understand the different components of blood using raspberries to represent red blood cells, mini marshmallows for white blood cells, chocolate flakes as platelets and mango juice as plasma. We also used real animal hearts for the children to dissect and discover the anatomy of the heart and how it pumps blood around the body and lungs.



## **St John's Christmas Tree Festival**

Please pop along to see our beautifully decorated tree at the St John's Christmas tree festival next weekend. All decorations hand made by our wonderful children. Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec (Fri 3-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12pm-5pm). Admission is free, programmes available for £1. Refreshments available.

## **Somerdale Football Team – St Stephen's Juniors vs Somerdale**

This week, the Somerdale Football squad played against an experience team from St Stephen's Junious School. After an exciting first half, the score sat at 1-0 to Somerdale. Following some tense moments at both ends of the pitch, Somerdale pulled an incredible finish of 6-1 by end time.

A huge thank you for all players for their efforts and graceful sportspersonship on the field, as well as those supporting families enduring the cold.

## **Sports at Somerdale Board – photos request**

Thank you to all those who have submitted their photos already – the board is already showcasing some of those achievements for Term 2. We are now building a collection ready for Term 3! If you have a photo of your child that you would like showcased on our Sports Board, check out the details below:

Do you have a sporting achievement outside of school? Do you regularly attend a club that involves lots of physical activity such as Cubs/Brownies? Then we would like to celebrate your children's physical literacy and active lifestyles by hosting their photos up on our school Sports Board. Simply submit a photo at: [info@somerdaleet.org.uk](mailto:info@somerdaleet.org.uk) (FAO: Sports Board Photos) to have a chance to be featured in the main hall of our school for all to see!

## Reading volunteers

Calling all volunteers! If you, or a family member (such as grandparent) have a few hours to spare regularly each week and you would like to help us out then that would be really appreciated!



### **We would love some adults who can help with:**

- listening to children read across year groups
- developing reading resource packs and our library

If you are interested then please fill in the online form via the link: <https://forms.gle/HcSTVaKetKyasohZ7>

Volunteers will need to have a DBS check completed for safeguarding reasons. Amy or Rachel in the office will organise this and there is no cost. Once you've indicated your interest, we will get back to you as soon as we can.

## Term 2 Events

Week Beginning	Week	Rights Focus	Global Goal Link	Event(s)
4 <sup>th</sup> December	6	Article 23: Children who are disabled have the right to special care and support so that they can lead a full and independent life.		International Human Rights Day (Focus on Disability History Month) KS2 Christmas Carol Concert (07.12.23)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	7	Article 1: All children under the age of 18 have the rights outlined in the UN Conventions for the Rights of the Child.		KS1 Christmas Play (12.12.23) EYFS Nativity (13.12.23) Christmas Dinner (14.12.23)
<b>Half Term 16<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>				

## Christmas Jumper Day – 14.12.23

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December we will be raising money to support Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. Whilst we encourage children to wear Christmas clothing on the day we will be marking the event by making special Christmas dinner hats. The children will have the opportunity to make their hats in school but we welcome home-made entries. Details of our Save the Children Just Giving Page to follow in Term 2.





# **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.**

# 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.



# The Chocolate Quarter Block D

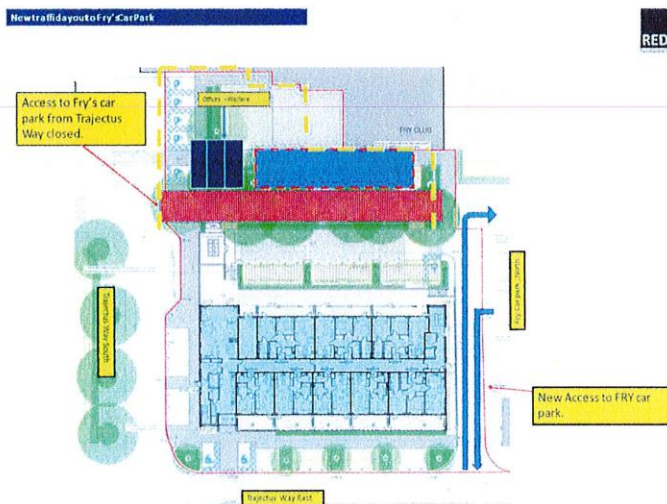


## Dear Resident

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the planned works for the construction of the Chocolate Quarter Block D which is due to commence on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

The construction period is scheduled to last until Autumn 2025 and throughout this period RED Construction will do it's utmost to minimise disruption and inconvenience to local residents and community.

Prior to the main construction works ( starting 13/11/23) we will be carrying out some changes to the surrounding roads and installing our welfare and office facilities which will be positioned in front of The Pavilion, this will mean the current access to the Fry Car Park will be closed for the duration of the contract, an alternative access will be opened adjacent to Trajectus Way East with new parking restriction and cameras to be installed.



If you require any further information regarding any of the future works please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the RED team.

Kind Regards,

Richard Witcombe

Project Manager – Red Construction Ltd

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