



**Somerdale Educate Together
Primary School**
‘Learn Together to Live Together’
Newsletter (Term 3 Week 6)
9th February 2024

Value of the Month for

February:

Kindness

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another enriching term at Somerdale, I am delighted to reflect on the achievements, growth, and joy that have defined our learning community in these past six weeks. In this edition of our school newsletter, we focus on January’s value of the month (perseverance) through the children’s engagement in Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day, NSPCC Number Day and much, much more.

Lily King

On behalf of everyone at Somerdale I would like to thank Lily King for her hard work and dedication in Year 3. I am pleased to announce that Lily, whilst leaving her teaching role, will remain at Somerdale as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

New Year 3 Team

Sam O’Regan and Caprice Fox will take over the Year 3 teaching role until at least the end of Term 5.

Attendance – Advanced Notice

Attendance at Somerdale has always been consistently high and above the national average. In the past 8 weeks we have seen our attendance **plumit** from 96.9% to 94.9% which is only 0.5% above the national average. Attendance at Somerdale for the past two years has never dipped below 95%, with end of year attendance for last year being above 96%. Analysis of absence trends indicates a number of reasons for absences, many of which are very valid. However, there has been an increase in children being taken out of school during term time or picked up at the end of the week to go on a long weekends. Whilst I understand how expensive it is to take holidays out of term time this cannot continue. A letter will be sent home in the first week back explaining our school’s attendance policy and how fines may be issued. I am in the process of meeting with all families with attendance under 90% and letters are being issued to anyone who has had a significant drop in attendance. I would like to remind you of the following statistics and thank you in advance for your support in significantly improving attendance in Term 4.

“Every Day Counts”

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem that much but...

If your child misses	that equals...	which is...	and over 13 years of school that's...
1 day a fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

The effect of absence on progress					
A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.					
No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	151 days of education	132 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80.00%
Very Good	Worrying		Serious Concern		

Turtles (Pre-School)

Pre-School really enjoyed a trip to Keynsham Library this week! We listened to some stories about the library and then got a chance to explore the books, colouring and puzzles! We then got given a tour of the library and went upstairs to look out over the high street. The children walked really carefully to and from the library, whilst practicing their road safety skills too! Thank you to the parents who helped us have a great time!



Wildcats (Reception)

Last week the children explored buildings. This was initiated from the children's interests. We looked at buildings in our local area, buildings around the world and what Somerdale looked like in the past and in the present. Children enjoyed labelling buildings, making building plans, role playing builders, applying their maths skills through the use of measure and mass and much more. The children loved talking about buildings in their local area specifically and what the buildings are used for. Our local walk was a great opportunity to further deepen these discussions and explore new vocabulary with their peers.



Hedgehogs (Year 1)

'Rainbows and Waves for Grey Days'

What an Art Day! In Hedgehog's we started off by discussing the importance of Children's Mental Health Week and how our mental health is just as important as our physical health. We looked at this year's title 'My Voice Matters' and spent time telling each other about the things that are important to us. We then linked this to our school art day and thought about how art can help our mental health. It was then time to get very messy and creative!

A truly lovely day to spend together to mark the half-way point of the school year! How quick it is going...



Bumblebees (Year 2)

This term, we explored our enquiry questions 'How can we help animals survive in Winter?' Bumblebees wrote letters to Jacob-Rees Mogg, advocating against hunting endangered species. We also investigated habitats/microhabitats, created bird feeders, and explored the fascinating world of food chains!



Bumblebees Art day



Puffins (Year 3)

This term, we have been learning all about forces and magnets in science. We went outside to investigate the force friction and looked at how a toy car travels differently on a variety of surfaces in the playground. In art, we have been exploring stencils and using them to create some wonderful work!



Elephants (Year 4)

Year 4 have been working so hard over the past couple of weeks! We have completed our multiplication and division topic in Mathematics and are now starting to think about measurements and perimeter. In VIPERS, we have been exploring different tales from Greek Mythology which the children have really enjoyed. We have been working outside more often since it has started to warm up! Have a look at these pictures of us recreating the first ever Olympic Games and using our bodies to build electrical circuits in Science.



The children thoroughly enjoyed our Art Day for Children’s Mental Health Week. Elephants constructed papier-mâché hot air balloons and collaged their own puzzle pieces which we then put together to create a bigger picture. This was to demonstrate how we all have our place in Elephants Class, even though we all have different ideas, appearances, and strengths. Have a look at what we got up to!



Tigers (Year 5)

“Alert the village elders! The Vikings are here, and they’ve taken over the school!” cried an anguished headteacher but it was too late. They had come in full force, tenacious and well-organised. Like the unyielding tide, they crashed upon the Somerdale school pillaging and rampaging as they went...



Amongst the sheer carnage, a lonely Year 1 emerged from their classroom bottom lip quivering, “When will it end? Have mercy!” Yet for these mighty warriors, valkyries and champions all, there would be no relenting.

“Fram!”, cheered one.

“To the fields!”, jeered another.

Clad in the finest weaponry with intricately ornate shields of the finest A3 card Hobbycraft could provide, these voracious Vikings went valiantly on to vicious victory.



Lo, as the dust and destitution lay bare across the battlefield, the same Year 1 child, who had wisely chosen to hide, crawled forth from the wreckage with Papa's tunic in hand. Under a red sky, she swore vengeance upon the horde that had beset them.

Yet, it would be years later before that terrible fleet would return. For now, they sat gleefully amongst their spoils glistening in gold and silver around a roaring fire. Many a cheerful and boasting song was sung that night of how Viglaf had pilfered one classroom and how Sigyn had raided another.



Just to say a massive thank you for all your help, Year 5 families with your donations of materials, costumes and time with our Viking Art Day. Our young people had an amazing day, and it was only possible out of all your support. A special thank you to Nicola Sharm-McAuslan who helped put together our sail on the day.



Leopards (Year 6)

Year 6 have been creative this week! During Art Day children analysed the work of Luba Lukova, an American artist who creates thought provoking images and striking posters. Then children created their own designs based on the issues of peace, war, censorship, and social justice. Children then explored these topics more in their own work making 'Zines' (mini publications like magazines). They chose to use drawings, words, colours, paper, card, stickers, parts of magazines to create amazing collages.



As part of their Design Technology project, Year 6 designed, created and evaluated their own bread. They chose their own flavours including herbs, spices, and fruit. The smell, whilst cooking, was delicious and the breads looked beautiful when baked! The variety was wonderful as children chose to plait, roll, or shape their breads like dinosaurs.



Broadlands Experience Day



As part of our growing PE drive across the school, KS2 visited Broadlands secondary school last week for a range of games and challenges to experience what it is like in the secondary setting. Broadlands PE Lead Teacher James Evans summed up the day perfectly.

“A fantastic morning was had by all, staff and students alike. All of them went back to school tired but all with smiles on their faces!!”



Many thanks to Broadlands school for our on-going partnership and special mention to our Y5 family helpers on the day, Hayley Jones, and Rebecca Harrison.

Keynsham Swimming Gala 2023-24 – Year 4/5/6

This week, for the first time in Somerdale history, Years 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Keynsham Swimming Gala competing against 7 other schools. Our young people were amazing demonstrating incredible sportsperson qualities cheering on each other as well as other schools in other heats. The kindness and healthy attitude towards competition was outstanding and we couldn't be prouder.



Unlike other schools in attendance, we didn't choose our strongest or our most experienced swimmers, we took those who wanted to give it their best attempt and enjoy the experience. Despite the odds, some of our Year 4 swimmers beat out the competition against Year 6 seasoned club swimmers! An absolutely amazing result by all!

A huge thank you to all who came along, young people and supporting families, and to all who competed. Onward to next year!

NSPCC Number Day (02.02.24)

During NSPCC Number Day Somerdale explored, investigated, and solved mathematical problems. Key Stage 2 participated in the TTRS NSPCC competition, whilst donning their best rock 'n' roll attire. Congratulations to Elephant class who answered the most correct answers over a 60-minute period.



Safer Internet Day (06.02.24)

On Tuesday, we joined the rest of the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day. Children across the school thought about what they enjoy doing on the internet, the change they would like to make and how to stay safe. We also announced the winners of our Safer Internet Day Competition.



Well done to Holly in Bumblebee Class and Addy in Elephant Class. Their winning entries will be used as desktop images on our chromebooks and iPads over the coming year and both children have won a £10 gift voucher.

Child Voice

This term we introduced the Somerdale Voice Box, where children can pop their thoughts in about how we can make school an even better place. These are reviewed weekly, and a summary with a response from an adult is put up on the Rights Respecting display. We've had some great, thoughtful contributions so far!



Listening Team

The Listening Team met with Chris this week to discuss the school development plan targets. Chris was subjected to 30 minutes of intensive questioning by the Listening Team before areas of progress were agreed and Term 4 targets set. A summary of the points discussed will be displayed on the child friendly school development plan display outside the hall. The Listening Team have requested that Sam, Jim, Jess and Amber attend the next meeting to discuss the following:

Comments made by the Listening Team on behalf of their class	
Sam	Can you explain the changes made in singing assembly? Why are Year 6 children not automatically allowed to sit on the benches in favour of the class who is singing the best?
Jim	We are pleased with the increased opportunities to play competitive sports, but can you please explain how we can develop other sports such as table tennis and chess during lunchtimes?
Jess	Chris explained the school's approach to writing and how teachers need to model and scaffold writing however the Listen Team want to know how we might have greater 'free' writing choices?
Amber	Everyone loved art week, but we feel that art is always based around copying an artist. Will there be more opportunities to follow our imagination?

The Listening Team also walked around the front of the school looking at road safety. In Term 4 they will talking to the council and applying for grants which can make the surrounding area safer for children.



Coronation Pond Update

We are delighted that Rich (Dougie's Dad) has organised for the Canal & River Trust to help us with the installation of our Coronation Pond. Measurements have been taken, and we aim for the pond to be completed.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors met for the first time this week! We discussed about what the role entails and how we can move forward as a team. The children voted on what they would like to use to show the school that they are the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and they decided on lanyards which we will order to arrive for Term 4. Some children were concerned that their term as the Anti-Bullying ambassador had already gone and decided they would be split among the remaining terms for this academic year. We also discussed what we would like to do as a team and decided that a 'Friendship Bench' may be a good addition to our outside area and have gone away to consider how we may use this.

Jim and the Bath Half marathon



Raising for:
Bristol Sport Foundation

In the last few years working at Somerdale Primary School, I am amazed at how fun, professional and genuine the Bristol Sports Foundation team are at what they do. As a sign of appreciation for their work, I am running the Bath Half to help support this awesome charity and the work they do at our school.

If you are able and comfortably can, please consider donating to a charity half marathon that I am running on their behalf so that they can continue to do all the incredible work around our school alongside many others.

[Bristol Sport Foundation: Jim's page \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.enthuse.com/jim)

Many thanks for all your help.

Reading Records

To ensure that we are able to monitor and support children's reading, it is essential that reading records and books are brought to school every day.



Statutory Assessment Meetings

We will be hosting a series of statutory assessment meeting for families whose children are in Years One, Four and Six. The aim of these meetings will be to outline the types of assessment the children will be undergoing and to explain the school's approach.

Year Group	Date and Time of Meeting
Year 1 – Phonics	29.02.24 – (8.50 - 9.20am)
Year 4 – Multiplication Times Table Check	01.03.24 - (8.50 – 9:20am)

Friends of Somerdale Educate Together

🧹 Are you feeling the urge to declutter and Spring clean after Christmas?

🧦 Did you get just one too many pairs of socks this Christmas? 😊

🌸 With Spring just around the corner, FoSET are organising a Spring Tabletop Sale, which will be 10:30 am - 12:30pm on Sat 2nd March in the School Hall.

☕🍰 It's a lovely opportunity to find a bargain, maybe a Mother's Day gift 🎁, and socialise over coffee and cake.

👕🧸📖 We need donations of good quality pre-loved clothes, toys, books and household items for the sale. Please bring donations to the school reception from the week commencing Monday 26th February.

And if you have a budding car boot style sales person in your family and would like to book your own table for £10 to sell your own unwanted items, please follow the link below. £8 if you bring your own table.

<http://friendsofsomerdale.wixsite.com/website/event-details/table-top-sale-mar-2024>

Unfortunately, we aren't able to include businesses at our Tabletop sale, but keep your eyes peeled for stall holder opportunities at our Summer fair!

Thank you for your continuing support.



FOSET INVITE YOU TO A



SPRING

TABLETOP SALE

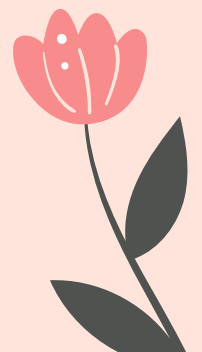


SAT 2ND MARCH

10:30AM - 12:30PM

SCHOOL HALL

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE





SEND COFFEE MORNINGS

26.09.2023

14.11.2023

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



Mental Health Support Team
Bath and North East Somerset

If you would like support from an EMHP, speak to your teacher or a member of the pastoral team.

