

Term 3 Newsletter (Turtles)

Dear Families,

Happy new year! I hope that you've enjoyed a super Christmas break, the children have been delighted to share their stories of the holidays and all seem fully recharged and ready to go. I'd like to welcome those families who are joining us for the first time to our pre-school community.

Main enquiry question: I am an explorer. What can I find in the local area?

This term our enquiry focuses on exploration, we will be thinking about our own agency as explorers and what we can find in our locale. We will consider how seasonality might impact upon our exploration and how as explorers we need to be equipped. For our nature walk this afternoon the explorers had to be equipped with their hats, gloves and coats! We have started reading the traditional tale, The Magic Porridge Pot and will be furthering our enquiry by reading 'We're going on a bear hunt' and 'Where the monsters are' later in the term.

In maths we will be revisiting pattern before looking again at shape and measure. This term in Learn Together we will be considering Special Books, the meanings that they have for us and the reverence that we might show for them.

- Article 24: children have the right to the best health care possible, clean water, and a safe environment to live in. All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.

Teaching and Learning This Term

Our medium term overview is now available on the class page of our website.

[Please click here to view the overview for this term. \(PS\)](#)

Home Learning

Reading

We encourage any opportunity for reading either at home, it doesn't matter what you're reading but rather that it is a quality and enjoyable interaction between you and your child. The children will be visiting the library once a week and will have a free choice of which book they choose to withdraw.

Spelling

Whilst we will not be doing spellings in pre-school, promoting name recognition is a good skill to support children within their everyday experiences, such as finding their self-registration card.

Maths

Children are expected to practise key number facts at home regularly.

Pre-School & Reception

[Click here to view our parent guide on how to support with mathematics.](#) This has lots of ideas on play-based activities to help your child with key mathematical skills.

The White Rose 1-minute maths app can also be used to practise early number facts at home.
<https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths>

White Rose also have videos relating to the main Maths teaching. These can help you to see the methods that are being taught, or can be used as additional practice.

Early Years

Busy Things can be accessed from home with useful maths games and activities.

White Rose also have videos relating to the main Maths teaching. These can help you to see the methods that are being taught, or can be used as additional practice. They also have downloadable workbooks that can be used at home.

Early Years

Busy Things also have some good games for times table recall practice, particularly miner birds.

Other important information/notes for the time ahead

Class Page You can access information, long term and medium term overviews as well as other resources on the class page on our website.	Nature Area We try and spend as much time as possible outside and will be visiting the nature area on Monday and Thursday afternoons.	School Clothing Guidance Please see the page on our website for more information on appropriate clothing for school.
Library Day As a class we visit the library on a Friday afternoon, but for those children who are in earlier in the week we ensure that they have the opportunity for a brief visit each week.	PE Day Our hall slots are on a Mondays and Thursdays, we use this time to develop our gross motor movement skills. It's helpful if children are wearing comfortable clothing and trainers on these days.	What does my child need to bring into school every day? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A waterproof coat.• Sun hat if required• Filled Water Bottle-containing water.• Spare changes of clothing: top, bottoms, underwear, socks, another pair of shoes.• Nappies and wet wipes if needed.
Questions or concerns If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to Chelsea during drop off or pick up times, alternatively you can send an email to info@somerdaleet.org.uk .	Healthy Snacks for Playtime In the Early Years and Key Stage One, the children are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable via the Government scheme. Ultra processed snacks are high in sugar, even those that are advertised as '1 of your 5 a day'. NHS advice states children aged 7-10 should have no more than 24g of free sugars a day. Due to the processing, reconstituting and reblending of ingredients to create fruit winders, these snacks contain high amounts of free sugars. For example, Bear Fruit Yoyo, strawberry contains 8g of sugar. This equates to one third of the recommended daily allowance. For this reason, with consideration to Article 24 (children have the right to healthy food) we ask that these are not brought to school as they are not considered a healthy snack due to the high sugar content. It also creates littering problems with the excess packaging.	