

4 Actions for Parents in June 2024

1) Complete or check the information your child's Arbor profile.

This is to ensure we have the correct emergency information and other important information such as allergies/medical needs. Amy, our administrator, will send out links for you to access Arbor to add this information in, or, if your child attended our pre-school, then please access your Child's Arbor account to check and update information where required.

2) Apply for Pupil Premium Funding (also known as Free School Meal funding)

If you qualify for any of the benefits listed on the BaNES website, you can apply for pupil premium funding. This provides school with an additional £1455 of funding per eligible pupil. We highly encourage all eligible families to apply for this funding. To apply fill out the online form on the EnTrust website, the office will email you with details shortly. We encourage **all** families to check eligibility and apply.

3) Register your child for free school milk

www.coolmilk.com/register

If you would like your child to receive free school milk up to the age of 5, please register via the Cool Milk website. Parents of children aged five and over can also order and pay for school milk via the Cool Milk website.

4) Indicate your preference for Home Visit days/times

Use the following link, or QR code below to indicate your preference:

<https://forms.office.com/r/z7hFvpQVZz>

Becca will confirm your home visit time in the summer term.



Pupil Premium
Application



Home Visit Form



Somerdale Educate Together



Your child's Reception year at
Somerdale Educate Together
2024-2025

Learn Together to Live Together

We are a Rights Respecting school



Welcome to the Educate Together Community!

We are looking forward to the time when we can welcome you and your child to Somerdale Educate Together. We are a happy, friendly, and hardworking school providing an environment in which each individual can learn and develop their full potential, a place where we learn together to live together and where no child is an outsider.

Our school is a place where every child:

- is called by his/her own name
- is valued for her/his uniqueness
- is included in all school activities
- is safe, happy, friendly and helpful
- is heard and taken seriously
- has his/her privacy and belongings respected
- has their rights respected and upheld

Starting primary school is a major milestone in you and your child's life and there are a lot of new challenges ahead for you both— some exciting, others perhaps a little bit more nerve-wracking! Hopefully this booklet will help to prepare you and your child for the great adventure of starting school.

What is the Educate Together Academy Trust?

The Trust is a not-for-profit organisation, a charity regulated by the Department for Education. It is responsible to the Department for Education to ensure that its schools deliver an excellent education to children and value for money to the taxpayer.



Induction Timetable 2024-2025

Autumn Term

If your child was born before 31st January 2020 they are in Group A

If your child was born between 1st February 2020 – 31st August 2020 they are in Group B

Monday 2nd September

INSET Day – school closed to children

Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th September

Home Visits

We will confirm home visit timings in the Summer term. It is expected that all families sign up for a home visit slot.

Friday 6th September

Group A: 8.50am – 11.50am

Please arrive via the pupil entrance to the side of the school. Please walk your child across the playground where the reception team will greet your child outside the reception classroom.

Pick-up will be via the pre-school entrance located at the front of the school.

Group B: 12.45pm – 3.10pm.

Please wait at the Pre-School entrance located at the front of the school where the reception team will greet your children and bring them into the classroom. Please pick your children up from the playground, accessed via the pupil entrance to the side of the school.

Monday 9th September onwards

Children will attend school full-time. School gates open at 8.40am and all children must be in the classroom by 8.50am. Pick-up is at 3.20pm prompt.

Educate Together Ethos and Principles

The Trust has core principles that determine all its activities. These principles are that all its schools and educational operations must be:

- Equity based - Through being equitable in our work, all children and staff will have equal access to their rights and, regardless of background, all will be equally respected.
- Aspirational - All of our children have the right to a holistic world class education. All of our work aims to ensure that every child can make progress and achieve well in every aspect of their education.
- Child-centred - Children are at the heart of every decision and activity. Their voices are actively sought and listened to. They play a lead role in shaping their education.
- Collaborative - Our schools aim to be central to the communities they serve. As such, we look for opportunities to give voice to and work in partnership with all stakeholders of the schools.

Our Ethical Education Curriculum

In an Educate Together school a daily period of time is set aside for the ethical education curriculum. This programme is called the “Learn Together” curriculum and is published by Educate Together. It defines the core values of all teaching and learning in the school. All children take part in this curriculum and may not be excluded from it. Parents understand that this is a core feature of the school. A copy of the curriculum is available from the Trust and the Educate Together website.

The programme is divided into four strands: An Ethical Approach to the Environment, Equality and Justice, Values and Ethical Perspectives, and Belief Systems.

From Reception to Year Three, Ethical Education is taught using a thematic approach, encompassing the four strands.



An Ethical Approach to the Environment

Within this strand, pupils are enabled to develop a knowledge, understanding and respect for the natural environment and an appreciation of its fragility and vulnerability. Children explore the interdependence of life and recognise the importance of active citizenship in attempting to redress the impact of human over-consumption on the environment.

Equality and Justice

The general aim of this strand is to develop in children a critical knowledge, understanding and awareness of issues relating to human rights, equality, culture and diversity, social justice and social inclusiveness and to empower them to become informed, ethical and active citizens.

Values and Ethical Perspectives

In this strand, Pupils develop a critical knowledge, understanding and awareness of right and wrong and a heightened awareness of social, ethical, and moral standards through reflection on life itself. They learn to explore their own identities and in doing so, strengthen and enhance their self-worth and self-esteem. Children engage in philosophical discussion and enquiry, exploring, understanding and identifying appropriate responses to the multitude and richness of human emotions.

Belief Systems

Within this strand, pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of the richness of belief systems and worldviews, both religious and secular, and relate these to the human experience and day-to-day life. Children develop an understanding of the right to hold and practise a belief or worldview and to change that belief at any time. They develop their knowledge of conceptual understandings and relate aspects of religious and secular beliefs to individual experience, leading to enhanced mutual understandings.



Thursday 11th July – Stay and Play Session

Group B: 12.45pm – 1.45pm.

Please wait at the Pre-School entrance located at the front of the school where we will greet your children and bring them into the classroom. Please pick your children up from the Pre-School entrance.

Group A: 2pm – 3pm

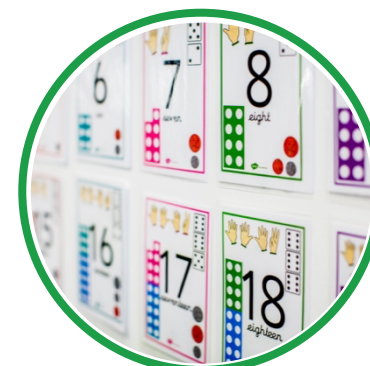
Please wait at the Pre-School entrance located at the front of the school where we will greet your children and bring them into the classroom.

Please pick your children up from the main pupil entrance located to the side of the school. We will meet you at the pupil entrance gates.

If your child currently attends our Pre-School and will be in during this time, pre-school staff will take your child to the Reception classroom and bring them back to the pre-school classroom at the appropriate times.

Monday 15th July 2pm onwards – Family Teddy Bear Picnic on Somerdale Green

This a lovely opportunity for families to meet together and begin to get to know each other. Bring your own food, rug and teddy bear and settle down on the Green in front of the school. It is another chance for your children to see the Reception team and other members of staff from the school team.



Induction Timetable 2024 - 2025

Summer Term

Please see the timetable below for more information on the planned induction activities. For the short induction period children are split into two groups. This is so that the adults and children can build strong bonds and relationships and to ensure that every child has a successful and settled transition.

If your child was born before 31st January 2020 they are in Group A

If your child was born between 1st February 2020 – 31st August 2020 they are in Group B

Friday 28th June – Virtual School Tour

We will send a link out to a video featuring Becca & Kelly who will take your child on a virtual tour of the classroom and the school.

Thursday 4th July – Stay and Play Session

Group A: 12.45pm – 1.45pm.

Please wait at the Pre-School entrance located at the front of the school where we will greet your children and bring them into the classroom. Please pick your children up from the Pre-School entrance.

Group B: 2pm – 3pm

Please wait at the Pre-School entrance located at the front of the school where we will greet your children and bring them into the classroom.

Please pick your children up from the main pupil entrance located to the side of the school. We will meet you at the pupil entrance gates.

If your child currently attends our Pre-School and will be in during this time, pre-school staff will take your child to the Reception classroom and bring them back to the pre-school classroom at the appropriate times.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

When your child starts in Reception this September, they will be part of the Foundation Stage, moving on to Key Stage One of the National Curriculum in Year One. The Foundation Stage begins from as soon as your child is born, and finishes at the end of the Reception year.

Within the Foundation Stage Curriculum there are seven areas of learning;

Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design



Play is a very important part of your child's development and most learning is introduced through play and carefully planned activities. Don't worry if your child says they have been playing all day—it just means that we have made their learning fun and enjoyable! As the Reception year progresses, the learning gradually becomes more formal, whilst still being predominantly play-based, in preparation for Year One and the National Curriculum.

The School Day

School gates open at 8.40am and children must be in by 8.50am for registration. Pick-up is at 3.20pm prompt.

Children get anxious when brought into school late or collected late so please remember it is important that you are on time. We will only release the child to someone if you have specifically authorised us to do this, so please keep us informed of any changes to pick-up routine. Late children will have to enter school by the front entrance.

Uniform, Outdoor Learning and PE

There is no school uniform in Educate Together schools, however we do have guidelines which can be found on our website:

<https://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/school-information/school-clothing-guidance/>

Children will have plenty of opportunities to run, climb and jump so make sure their clothes let them.

We value outdoor learning, and the children will have free access to outdoors. Your child will therefore need a coat every day. Please provide a pair of wellington boots and spare clothes in a named drawstring or carrier bag that can be left in school. On PE days children should come dressed in their PE kits.

We do not allow jewellery in school for health and safety reasons. If children must have earrings they should be small studs (no dangly earrings!) and the child will have to be able to remove them themselves for PE.

A book bag will be provided in September for all children.

First Name Policy

It is school policy that all staff and children are addressed by their first names.

Home/School Partnership

We really value the importance of strong partnerships between school and home at Educate Together. We have an 'open-door' policy; if you ever have any questions or worries, please don't hesitate to come and talk to either your child's class teacher or teaching assistant. There will also be formal opportunities throughout the school year at parent consultation evenings.

We are very keen for parents to get involved in the life of the school. Some ways of doing this are:

-Become a Governor

-Join the PTA fundraising group (Friends of Somerdale ET)

-Attend parent information afternoon/evenings, community events & SEND Coffee Mornings

up to help out. We are always looking for parents/family members to listen to readers, help with odd jobs or with skills that they would like to offer! We usually start parent helpers in Term 2 once all the children are full-time and settled into the routines of the school day.

I have a question that's not been answered!

At Somerdale Educate Together we have an 'open-door' policy. If you have a question, query or a worry, then please let us know. There is also a wealth of information available on our website at www.somerdaleet.org.uk

And finally...

We, at Somerdale Educate Together, look forward to many years with you and your child/children. Our community is best served by its members becoming fully and actively involved in the growth and development of this school.

Our aim is to have a safe and happy school; working always in partnership with you, to give your child the best and broadest education possible.

Chris Thomas-Unsworth—Headteacher

Sam O'Regan—Deputy Headteacher, EYFS Phase Lead

Becca McDonald – Reception Class Teacher

Somerdale Educate Together <http://www.somerdaleet.org.uk/>

Twitter: @SomerdaleET

(If you need this in a different language, please ask. Translations provided through Google Translate)



How can I help my child at home?

Each class has a Google Drive which we update termly with what we are currently learning about. There is also a home learning section with ideas of things you may wish to do at home with your child. School expectation is that children spend 10 minutes per day doing home learning activities. This should include an element of reading daily. More information of ways you can help your child at home will be provided in September.

What is my child learning at school?

We update our Google Drive termly with what we are currently learning about. More information on how to access this will be given in September.

We also run a 'Meet the Teacher' session in September where we explain how your child learns in Reception. We will also run an 'Introduction to Phonics' and 'Mathematics' session at the beginning of the year. The Early Learning Goals which we assess the children against at the end of the year are available to download on our class page.

How can we be part of learning?

As parents, you have a key part to play in your child's education and learning doesn't stop at twenty past three! Our online learning diary system, Tapestry, is a great way for parents to celebrate and share their child's learning moments at home with school. Your contributions on this are used as part of the overall assessment of your child. More information on Tapestry will be available at the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions in the Autumn Term.

I'd like to know more about what happens day-to-day.

To follow our Twitter feed, search for @SomerdaleET on Twitter.

I'd like to help out in the classroom, or have a skill/contact that might be of use!

If you would like to help out, or have a skill/contact that you feel would be beneficial, then please let your class teacher know. During the September 'Meet the Teacher' there will be an opportunity to sign

-Volunteering in the classroom (E.G. listening to children read, sharing a skill, filing, playing maths games etc.)

-Attending curriculum meetings.

School Dinners

The government has provided funding for all children in the first three years of school to have a free school dinner. These will be cooked in school by our chef and will follow the relevant nutritional standards for school meals. They will also cater for all diets provided you let us know. Menus are updated every term, and these are sent via e-mail to parents.



Healthy Eating Policy

A fruit snack will be provided each day for all children. Your child should bring in a named water bottle each day filled with plain water. No juice or squash please as they are not good for children's teeth and when spilt can cause irreversible damage to classroom resources. Milk is provided free of charge to all children under 5 so please sign up with Cool Milk. After your child is 5 years old Cool Milk will contact you to ask if you wish to continue to have milk.

Medical

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child has a medical condition or allergy we need to be aware of. If they need medication in school you will be given a form to sign authorising us to administer it.

Should your child catch a contagious disease such as chicken pox please let the office know immediately as it may be necessary to inform the whole class or school community. Your name will not be shared.

If a child vomits they must be kept at home for 48 hours to prevent infection of other children and staff.

Special Educational Needs

If you believe your child has special educational needs please speak to our SENCo, Becky Ware. You can get in touch via info@somerdaleet.org.uk or call 0117 3790888. We need to know if any agencies are already providing support for your child. The inclusion of all children is a priority for us and we will make appropriate provision for all children where reasonably possible.

Communication

In September we will have parent workshops so that we can run through the Early Years Curriculum and class procedures.

We communicate through various means throughout the year, usually via e-mail. Please make sure we have your up-to-date details so that you receive all our communications. If you need any translations, please let us know.

Party invitations

In keeping with our ethos and to ensure no child feels like an outsider, we do not distribute cards and invitations in school. We request that treats and cakes are also not brought into the school to ensure no-one is left out.



Some Frequently Asked Questions

Can our children bring scooters?

Children are able to leave their scooters and bikes in our bike racks on the school playground. We ask that children do not ride scooters and bikes within school grounds due to it presenting a health and safety risk at drop-off and pick-up times. Instead, children can push their bike/scooter whilst walking alongside it.

What should my child bring into school each day?

Your child will need to bring a named, water bottle each day. This should be filled up with plain water. Children will be able to refill their water bottles at school. In September, we will provide your child with a bookbag, free of charge. This should be brought in every day with any reading books from school kept in here. On PE days, children should come to school already dressed in their PE kits.

Do I need to bring in anything for snack time?

No. A piece of fruit is provided by school for all children in Reception and Key Stage One.

When is PE and what does my child need?

You will be informed which day your child will be doing PE nearer the time. We usually start PE sessions in Term 2. Your child should come into school dressed in their PE kit on PE days. Your child should be wearing comfortable clothes that they can move about in. For example, t-shirt and shorts or jogging bottoms. **On PE days, please make sure your child is not wearing earrings and that any long hair is tied back.**

Does my child need spare clothes for school?

Yes please. We do not hold a supply of spare clothes, so it is essential for your child to have a clearly named carrier bag with spare clothes inside, in-case your child gets messy or has a toileting accident when at school. Within this carrier bag, please include a spare pair of socks, pants/knickers, top and jogging bottoms. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named.

- Plan short periods of separation from you such as playing with friend or staying with a relative.
- Provide stimulating imaginative play experiences. E.g. Dressing up, making dens, painting etc.
- Help them to understand right and wrong and appropriate ways of playing. E.g. Sharing, taking turns, tidying up, looking after toys and books etc.

Mathematics

- Help your child to count (actual physical counting e.g. fingers and toes.)
- Teach them to recognise numbers to 10.
- Look for opportunities to use words such as up, down, between, wide, narrow, light, heavy, fast, slow, few, more etc.
- Help your child to recognise shapes and colours.
- Help your child to sing number rhymes.

Understand the World

- Share everyday experiences with your child such as cooking, cleaning the car, gardening and washing up.
- Talk to your child about cultural differences they may come across and past events in their life.
- Answer their questions and build up their general knowledge about the world around them to encourage their curiosity.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Make available a variety of mark making tools such as pencils, crayons, felt-tips, brushes and paper.
- Sing to and with your child and have music that they can listen to.
- Encourage children to represent their thoughts and feelings through art, music, dance and role play.



Preparing for School

We want to encourage the children to be as independent as possible, especially in being able to cope with the daily routines of school life. As parents you can help tremendously in this process, by encouraging your child over the next weeks and months to practise some of the many skills they will need when starting school in September. Below are some suggestions that may be beneficial for you and your child.

Dressing

Being able to dress and undress independently will be very beneficial for your child, especially for when putting on coats, waterproof trousers and welly boots for outside time. When choosing shoes, Velcro is your child's (and teacher's) best friend!

Toileting, Personal Hygiene & Eating

Teaching your child to go to the toilet unaided and teaching them to flush is invaluable before they start school. Washing and drying of hands and using a tissue independently are also key.

Helping your child to prepare for lunch time is very beneficial. Useful lunchtime skills include being able to use a knife and fork.

Keeping track of clothes and belongings

Labelling your child's clothes will really help your child and us to keep track of their belongings. Don't forget to also label all items of spare clothing, bags, hats, gloves, shoes and welly boots. Knowing the difference between the left and right shoes can be tricky for some children. A great trick is to draw two halves of a smiley face inside their shoes to make a complete smiley face when the shoes are placed together correctly.

Looking after toys

Sharing toys with friends or siblings can help children as they enter school where they have to share with twenty-nine other children. Encouraging your child to tidy away their toys independently after use is also very beneficial.

Don't worry If your child hasn't perfected all of these skills; we do not expect them to immediately succeed at everything! A happy, independent, confident child is 'school ready' and will enjoy it!

First day at school

The night before

Before your child's first September induction visit, it helps to talk about the exciting day ahead with your child. Try to keep to normal bedtime routines and make the bedtime a nice, peaceful, relaxing one.

Coming to school

Ensure that you arrive on time and that the first session isn't rushed at all for your child. If your child becomes upset, try to stay calm. You can stay for a short time and then slip away quietly as a 'big goodbye' could trigger more upset. We tend to find that once parents have left, children soon settle down and enjoy their first sessions at school. Please be assured, that we will always contact you should there be any problems.

After the session

Be prepared for a very tired child, particularly once they start full-time! If they do seem really tired, consider bringing bedtime forward by half an hour for a few weeks whilst they adjust to school life. You may find a few more tears and tantrums at home, but don't panic! If this happens, it is most likely due to all the excitement of starting school, coupled with tiredness. They may just need some extra attention and reassurance for a while.

You may already know some of the parents at the school, but if not, be brave and say hi! These friendships will be a great support over the next few years. Check your child's book bag after every session for any letters or forms from your child's class teacher.



Ideas of how to help your child in each area of learning

Below are some ideas relating to the Foundation Stage curriculum which you may find useful. These are suggestions to support your child over their Reception year. The most important thing that you can do is to share picture books with your child and to read with them every day. Those precious bedtime stories or time spent cuddled up on the sofa together really make a difference, and develop a love for reading, as well as making such a terrific difference to your child's vocabulary and imagination.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Learn and sing nursery rhymes, songs and poems.
 - Listen, read and enjoy stories every day together and show them how to handle and look after books correctly.
 - Visit the library together, read shop signs, road names, labels etc.
 - Talk to your child as often as possible and encourage them to take part in conversations, listen to and answer questions and use talk to organise their thoughts.
 - Play memory games and encourage them to take verbal messages to others.
 - Extend their vocabulary by exploring new words and discussing their meanings.
 - Help your child to learn the letter sounds rather than their names. E.G. /a/ c a t /b/ b a t
- Your child may want to write their name. Encourage your child to write the first letter in capitals and the rest in lower case.

Physical Development

- Encourage your child to play safely outside; running, jumping, climbing, hopping, throwing and catching.
- Enjoy playing games together such as 'Simon Says' and 'Statues'.
- Give your child experience of building with bricks, doing jigsaws, cutting and sticking to develop fine motor skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Encourage independence by giving your child regular contact with other children, such as at playgroup or nursery.