

Term 5 Newsletter (Turtles)

Dear Families,

I hope that you've all enjoyed a restful break and are looking forward to the start of Term 5, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the new families who are joining our preschool community.

This term our enquiry will be framed by two texts *The Darkest Dark* by Chris Hadfield and *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers. Our traditional tale will be *The Emperors New Clothes*. In maths we will be indentifying and creating our own patterns, using objects from the world around us as well as maths resources. Our Learn Together theme is Fair and Unfair, we will be working towards an understanding of what both of these look and feel like, and understanding that these is sometimes a grey area in between.

This term our Outdoor Learning days will be Monday and Friday, and we will be doing PE on a Thursday in the hall.

Enquiry Questions this term: How can we get to space?

In asking How can we get to space the Turtles will start by developing their understanding of what space is, and that our home is planet Earth. We will be reading *The Darkest Dark*, a book written by astronaut Chris Hadfield about his childhood and fear of the dark, the book introduces themes of courage and determination. This supports the school's values which this term are courage and dignity. As well as providing some historical context to space flight. Later we will consider, what we will need to take with us to space as explored in our second book *How to Catch a Star*, in which the protagonist runs out of petrol and finds help from an unlikely source. We will be making our own planets, rockets and space helmets.

Rights Respecting Schools

This term we will focus on the right:

- Article 16: every child has the right to privacy

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 or in pre-school, 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

<p>Class Page You can access information, long term and medium term overviews as well as other resources on the class page on our website.</p>	<p>Nature Area We try and spend as much time as possible outside and will be visiting the nature area on Monday and Friday afternoons. Children will need waterproof coats in school on these days.</p>	<p>School Clothing Guidance Please see the page on our website for more information on appropriate clothing for school.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>What does my child need to bring into school every day?</p> <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.
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For example, Bear Fruit Yoyo, strawberry contains 8g of sugar. This equates to one third of the recommended daily allowance.</p> <p>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.</p>	