

Term 1 Newsletter (Puffins)



Dear Family Members,

Welcome back Somerdale families. Hopefully you all had a great break and found some time to relax. We've already been hearing about so many of the exciting adventures over the holidays.

This newsletter aims to provide you with an overview of the main learning planned for this term, alongside other useful information. If you have any questions, concerns or worries, do come and talk to me. I am available via e-mail, (info@somerdaleet.org.uk), or at the end of the school day.

The Year Five team:

Jim McLaughlin
Class Teacher
Monday - Friday

Lottie Simpkins
Learning Support Worker
Monday to Friday

Elizabeth 'Lily' King
PPA Cover Teacher
Tuesday (AM)

Enquiry Questions this term: How did our universe form?

This term our enquiry question is all about the solar system, our universe and all manner of things space! We will be exploring our solar calendar describing the movement of the spherical bodies in our system, including our home planet. We will continue to develop our scientific approach and testing. In Geography we will identify human and physical characteristics across different landmarks. In History, we will explore the history of space travel and draw parallel timelines to our lives and famous events. In art we will use lithography to create Chesley Bonestell inspired Sci-Fi works using ink (and aprons... many aprons).

Rights Respecting Schools

This term our Learn Together Sessions will focus on values and ethical perspectives: ethical issues/dilemmas, values/dialogue and children's communication philosophy.

This will focus around the following children's rights:

- Article 8 a right to an identity
- Article 12 a right for children's views to be respected and heard
- Article 14 a right for freedom of thought and religion

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. \(Y5\)](#)

Home Learning

Reading

It is our recommendation that children should be reading daily where possible. The expectation is that children read **a minimum of 4 times a week**.

Spelling

Children are expected to log in to Spelling Shed and play the games set as Assignments by their teacher. A new spelling list and set of assignments will be set each Monday after followed by a spelling quiz the following Monday in school.

The focus for spelling patterns are found on our medium term overview (see above link). Please follow the link on the overview to see the word lists for each week.

[Spelling Shed Home Use \(For weekly spellings including interactive games\)](#)

[Access Letter Join at home to practice letter formation and spelling. Available on desktop, laptop and tablet.](#)

Maths

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

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, the expectation is that children practise their time tables at home. In Year 3 we learn 36 facts, in Year 4 we learn 21 more facts.

Year 3: 2x, 5x and 3x.

Year 4: 4x, 6x, 8x, 7x, 9x, 11x, 12x

[TTRS for Key Stage 2](#)

In upper key stage 2, children should continue to practise these facts to help with automaticity.

Your child has a log-in for Times Table Rock Stars so that they can practise their time tables at home.

The White Rose 1-minute maths app can also be used to practise 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. They also have downloadable workbooks that can be used at home.

[Early Years](#) [Year 1](#) [Year 2](#) [Year 3](#) [Year 4](#) [Year 5](#) [Year 6](#)

[Free Downloadable Workbooks for Year 1 – 6](#)

[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.

Reading Records

Please date and sign yellow reading record when your child reads at home. Children reading over 4 times get a golden ticket for a chance to win a book.

School Clothing Guidance

Please see the [page on our website](#) for more information on appropriate clothing for school.

Library Day

Our Library Day is on Thursday afternoons.

Please ensure your child has their book on these days. Automated emails are sent for overdue books. If you feel a book may be lost or damaged in your care, we ask for a donation to cover the cost of replacement.

PE Day

Our PE days are Tuesdays (Dodgeball) and Thursdays (Swimming).

On these days, please ensure your child is wearing a loose-fitting top and shorts/jogging bottoms which allow them full movement of their bodies. Children should also wear suitable footwear such as trainers. Ear studs should be removed or covered with medical tape for health and safety purposes.

Class Assembly Date

Keep the date in your diary! Our class Y5 assembly for this academic year is on:

Monday 10th November 2025

Please read the whole school newsletters regularly as they include other important dates.

What does my child need to bring into school every day?

- Bookbag with reading record and reading level book inside. (Bookbags are then put into children's drawers. If you need a replacement bookbag, contact the office for the price.)
- Filled Water Bottle
- Library book on library days

Healthy Snacks for Playtime

In Key Stage Two, children need to bring a piece of healthy snack for breaktime. This should be a piece of fruit or vegetable.

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.