

# 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](mailto:info@somerdaleet.org.uk)), or at the end of the school day.

## The Year Six team:

Jim McLaughlin  
Class Teacher  
Monday - Friday

Lottie Simpkins  
Class Learning Support Worker  
Monday to Friday (AM)

Chris Unsworth  
PPA Cover Teacher  
Friday (PM)

## Enquiry Question: What impact did the British Empire have on its colonies?

This term we will be learning all about the British Empire and the impact it had on the world. If you have any books or artefacts, you would be happy to lend to the class for this term, we would be very grateful. Make sure they are named. We will be historians as we explore big questions about colonialism. In week one, the children will pose their own questions relating to this and throughout the term we will explore and answer these.

## 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: You have the right to an identity – an official record of who you are. No one should take this away from you.
- Article 14: You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs. Your parents should help you decide what is right and wrong, and what is best for you.
- Article 12: You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.

## Teaching and Learning This Term

Our medium term overview is now available on the class page of our website. For the Year 6 class page – [click here](#).

## 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 now fortnightly on Friday 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 Wednesday (Badminton) and Friday (Netball).

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.

**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.