

Term 4 Newsletter (Turtles)

Dear Families,

Welcome back to pre school, I hope that you've all enjoyed a super break. This term we will be thinking about growing and how things grow and change, this is building on the work that we have done on weather and the seasons. In maths we will be continuing to work on number before starting to think about position and routes and to make our own patterns. In Learn Together time we will be talking about our values, particularly kindness and responsibility and our understanding of the natural world.

Main enquiry question: Things are growing and changing. How do things grow?

This term our enquiry focuses on growing, how plants grow and how we ourselves grow. We will be exploring these themes using the texts *The Enormous Turnip*, *The Growing Story* and *This Tiny Seed*. As the weather, hopefully, improves we will be planting potatoes, radishes and beetroot in our garden and sunflowers and peas in the potting area. We will be thinking about what the plants need to grow and how we can help to take care of them. The Turtles will observe and record how the plants change as they begin to grow. We will also be measuring ourselves to see how much we grow over the term and talking about what we need to grow and stay healthy.

- Article 14: Article 14: children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

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?

- 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.