

## TURTLEWATCH INFORMATION

The main turtle protection season runs from May - Oct, however the Ordinances (Laws) that prevent activities i.e. dog walking, vehicles, camping overnight and fires on SBA beaches run all year round. There are some things you can do to help protect the endangered species of turtles that nest and hatch on our beautiful beaches:

**It is illegal to take your dogs on the beaches**, not only are they a danger to the turtles and the eggs, their scent may dissuade a female turtle from laying a nest. Under the Seashore Protection Ordinance offenders are liable for a €854 fine or a three month custodial sentence if caught.

**No vehicles are allowed on the beaches** - as these could destroy turtle nests and affect ground nesting birds. Tyre tracks hamper turtle hatchlings from reaching the sea and increase their chance of being caught by a predator.

**Fires/Barbeques are not allowed on any beaches** - use designated areas for these activities.

Please do not leave litter on the beaches, as this can hinder the turtles as they try to find a suitable place to nest - as well as providing an obstacle for the hatchlings as they make their way to the sea. The juvenile Loggerhead turtles eat jelly fish and sometimes confuse plastic bags with food; this could result in death of the turtle.

If you do see any turtle tracks please report these, either via the students'/OIC's telephone numbers below or through the Facebook Page "WSBA Turtlewatch". The faster the information is relayed the greater chance we have of protecting and accurately recording nests.

Do not interfere with nesting females, eggs or hatchlings. The disturbance of turtles and their nests is an offence under the

Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife Ordinance - punishable with a fine up to €17,000 or imprisonment up to three years. Please leave nests, protective cages and signs undisturbed.

If you find a dead or injured turtle please report it immediately to any of the SBA Police on 1443. A dead turtle, because of its protected status, is a crime scene.

If you require any further information, or would like to help with Turtlewatch, please contact the OIC, SBA environmental team, call into the Turtle watch shop on Akrotiri, or join the Facebook page "WSBA Turtlewatch".

Useful numbers :

SBA Police: 1443

Turtlewatch students: 97632445 or 97796084

SBA Environmental team: 25962482 or 99560035

Wardens: 99367337 or 99561076

OIC: 97853344 or 97794869