



### HUNTING FOR TREASURE!

An afternoon walk along the beach can become a treasure-hunting adventure for families and the perfect time to go beach-combing is after a storm when the wind and waves have dislodged and brought ashore all manner of unusual items.

The more romantic amongst us can hunt for 'mermaid's purses' and 'mermaid's tears' (egg cases and sea glass to the more scientifically-minded)

Don't forget to carry a bag for any rubbish you find along the way.



### DID YOU KNOW?:

- Mermaid's purses are in fact the egg cases of catsharks (also known as dogfish) and skates. They are laid in shallow coastal waters where the baby sharks and skates incubate for up to a year before emerging to fend for themselves.
- The case is made of a substance similar to human hair and nails and contains everything the young needs to survive and develop.
- Dogfish and rays are part of the shark family. They are different to other fish because they have a flexible skeleton made of cartilage, not bone.
- The most common egg cases found washed-up on our beaches in Jersey are from the Undulate Ray and Blonde Ray. A smaller number are found from Catsharks.