



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

Mrs Sue Hall, Headteacher
Cranleigh Place, Beaumont Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE25 9UD.
Tel: 0191 2008709 Fax: 0191 2008710
e.mail: southridge.first@northtyneside.gov.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter 3 - 13th October 2017



Disco - the disco on Tuesday evening was very well supported by the children. Thanks also to our PTA and parent helpers who organised the tuck shop and refreshments.

The PTA have also organised Christmas cards which the children have designed themselves. The orders have been sent off to the company and will be with us after half-term. We are also pleased to let you know that Gift Aid of £770 has been claimed following the sponsored fun run last term. Planning is under way for the Christmas Fair and further information will follow in school bags next half-term.

Healthy School Award - as mentioned in the last newsletter our school was reaccredited for our Healthy School Status in July. One of our recommended actions is to encourage a healthy diet and ensure that sweets and cakes are not given out on a regular basis. Please help us and do not send in sweets, cakes and biscuits on birthdays. The children do have treats on special occasions e.g. discos, Christmas Parties. In addition please do not include sweets and confectionary in packed lunches. We have a small number of children with nut allergies so please do not send nuts or food containing nuts to school. This also applies to packed lunches.

Bikeability - the children in Year 3 and 4 have taken part in Bikeability sessions. (Mrs McIntosh's class will have their training next Friday 20th October.) We have been offered this because the Council have identified our school as a priority due to the congestion at drop off /pick up times. We have also been visited by the Highway's team who have asked a group of Year 4 children for suggestions to improve congestion.

Local Democracy Event - Mrs Rosario took the Year 3 and 4 School Council members to Cobolt for a session on Democracy. They have been tasked with seeking the views of other children on developing our International Links.

Educational Visits and activities - this half-term a number of trips have taken place. Reception will visit Richardson Dees Park next week, Year 1 are at the Centre for Life today enjoying a Fossil Workshop. Year 2 have already visited St Mary's Lighthouse and Year 3 have enjoyed a Stone Age Day in school. Year 4 are looking forward to an Ancient Egyptian Day next half-term. Thank you to all the adults who help support us on these activities, as it is much appreciated. If numbers are limited staff will make a note and contact you for the next event.

Year 4 - during the course of the year our oldest children take on roles of responsibility around school. We have lunchtime buddies, sports leaders and Eco - warriors. We can report that they have risen to the challenge and are doing very well this term.

Sports Festivals - A full programme of sports competitions are offered to Key Stage 2 during this academic year. All the children will have the opportunity to take part in coaching sessions and then a team will be selected to represent the school. Class teachers will try to ensure that all children have had the opportunity to take part in at least one competition a year.

Year 3 Football tournament - Last week a team of 10 Year 3's took part in a football competition and brought back a trophy for joint first place - well done to Year 3.

Year 4 Rugby Tournament - this is taking place this afternoon for a team of Year 4 pupils.

Year 2 have also had a Skipping training session in preparation for a Skipping Festival next term.

Our Sports Premium Funding is used to support all these activities.



Governor update- This term our new parent governors have joined the governing body - Mrs Lindsey Massie and Mr Steve Williams. This term the governors will review our data looking at the high standards of attainment achieved last year and our performance tables can be found on our school website. They will also be working with staff to set priorities for this academic year - your responses from the parent questionnaire last year and reply slips from annual reports will inform this.

Attendance - The Local Authority and the Department for Education set all schools the **minimum expected target of 95%** attendance over the school year. **Our school is currently above this target and overall our attendance is good - our children love coming to school. Thank you for your support** in maintaining our whole school attendance levels.

Attendance Management

- **Mrs Reilly in the office** is our Attendance Administrator and she will ring parents to find out about any unexplained absence. **It is important that you call the office and let them know if your child is poorly.**
- The parents of any child falling below 95% attendance will be sent a letter of concern to make them aware that their child's attendance is slipping and ask for their support in ensuring that it improves.
- Any child whose attendance is below 90% will be asked to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss the ways in which we can work together to ensure it improves.
- Pupils who have consistently low attendance may be referred to Anne Oldham, the Local Authority Attendance Adviser for further investigation.
- In line with Local Authority and National policy our school **does not authorise any holiday during term time.** If you wish to request leave during term time you must complete a form which you can collect from the office. Leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.



Lateness: Being on Time Matters Too!

School begins at 8.55am when the whistle is blown on the yard and children line up in their classes.

If your child arrives after 9am they must go to the school office to register. We monitor late arrivals and parents will be asked to come in and discuss this if their child is persistently late for school. If your child is late it can lead to missed learning, an unsettled day and disrupts the learning of all the other children too.

Our children only have one chance in school and every second counts. If you would like any support or advice on attendance then please contact the school office and we will do our best to help or signpost you to someone who can.

Half-term:

A reminder that we break up for school on Friday 20th October and return refreshed on Monday 30th October.

Diary Dates:

NOVEMBER	
30 th October	Return to School Clubs start this week for 5 weeks Parent's Evening - Pupil Progress Updates - Reception to Year 4 - 3.45 - 5.45pm Nursery - 1.00 to 3.15pm and 3.45pm to 5.45pm
31 st October	Parent's Evening - Pupil Progress Updates - Reception to Year 4 - 3.45 - 5.45pm Nursery - 1.00 to 3.15pm and 3.45pm to 5.45pm
7 th	Flu Vaccination Programme. Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4
8 th	Year 1 Pirate Day
10 th	Egyptian Workshop - Yr 4
13 th - 17 th	Anti-Bullying Week begins
17 th	CHILDREN IN NEED

