



Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter March 2025



"Proud to Make a Positive Impact"

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"No one will protect what they don't care about and no one will care about what they have never experienced."

David Attenborough

Our School Development Partner

We were visited earlier this month by our School Development Partner (our SDP) for their termly visit. As a very experienced former headteacher and school advisor, she is able to skilfully identify those areas where our actions are having tangible success and also offer advice on how we can make our school even better.

Her feedback from the visit focused on our curriculum and our Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision.

On our maths and outdoor learning curriculum she noted:

- The delivery of the curriculum enables them to know more and remember more, because they are taught content that specifically builds on their prior knowledge.
- In maths, the vast majority of pupils are currently working securely at year group expectations with a quarter working above year group expectations.
- During a pupil activity, all pupils demonstrated resilience.
- Meaningful outdoor learning opportunities that will support pupils to retain and apply key knowledge from across the curriculum.

- Pupils speak enthusiastically about the positive impact of learning outside the classroom and staff report numerous benefits to delivering lessons outside.
- Benefits of outdoor learning include:
 - Improvements in pupils' confidence and wellbeing, resulting in them being more motivated and eager to learn.
 - Pupils having a growing appreciation of nature and interest in protecting it.
 - Learning is more inclusive, catering for different learning styles. Staff understand that pupils learn in different ways and for some, especially for children with special educational needs, learning outside the classroom can support them to manage stress.
 - Curriculum learning has been enhanced, because delivering lessons in a practical way is making concepts easier to understand and more memorable.
 - Outdoor learning is also enhancing problem solving, teamwork and thinking skills.

On our SEND provision she identified that:

- We put strategies in place to support groups and individual pupils, especially around transition points, where their social and emotional needs have been identified as a barrier to their learning.
- The school's SENCo, has the relevant mandatory qualification and significant expertise in effectively supporting high quality outcomes for pupils with SEND.
- Pupils with SEND get a broad curriculum offer and the delivery of the curriculum enables them to know more and remember more, because they are taught content that specifically builds on their prior knowledge.
- Leaders have emphasised the importance of an ethos and environment that promotes trust and respect, with empathy for individual circumstances and a flexible approach to meeting specific needs.

The visit concluded with observations that Southridge has a “golden thread” running through it, with our pupils at its centre and a clear objective to help them develop to be the best version of themselves that they can be.

STEM Week

The children accessed and enjoyed a wide range of wonderful learning opportunities during our STEM week, where Mrs Pringle had carefully designed activities and visitors to develop children's critical thinking skills and understanding of science, technology, engineering and maths, all under the umbrella of caring for our environment and recognising our impact upon it.

The week included:

- A visit by Sarah Elkin of OASES (Outdoor And Sustainability Education Specialists) who spoke to all the children about the impact of climate change on our planet and what we can do to help.
- Workshops on Green Skills including Wind Turbine Design with Dan Smith of Newcastle College.

- Nature Mapping workshops led by Fiona Greenwold of Education Nature Parks and the Royal Horticultural Society.
- A range of interesting ‘Scientists of the Day’ including Fangxian Fang, Dr Emanuele Bevacqua and Dr Rabi Chhantyal-Pun whose work showed children how some scientists are working to help improve the health of the planet.
- A wonderful day with Dr Meryl “Doccy B” Batchelder where every year group tackled a different “Big Question” such as *What does it take to make a cup of tea?* and learnt to think more deeply about the world around them. This included the children presenting their findings to the rest of the school at the end of the day.

We hope the children came home enthused and eager to share some of what they had learned.

Our Social Ambassadors

We have been excited to launch our Social Ambassador initiative this half-term. This is designed to show our children some of the things that people do to make a positive impact on our local society and more widely. So far this term we have been visited by Nick Smith, a sports coach and advocate for children’s mental health, who talked to the children about how his sports work impacts positively for both the people involved and also himself. He then got the children to think about what new exercise they could do to have a positive impact on themselves and how they could involve others to have a positive impact on them.

We have also been joined by Ross Lowrie, the Net-Zero Lead for the North East Combined Authority. As our Ambassador for the Environment, he told the children about North East England’s world leading offshore wind farms where each rotation of the huge turbine’s blades creates enough electricity to power a whole household for two days. He was very impressed to hear that the children are already actively involved in making our own compost, and suggested that two further things we could do to have a positive impact on the environment would be to try and travel to school without using a car, and to make some bug hotels for our school environment’s smallest inhabitants. Everyone agreed that we would give it our best go!

We have also been joined by our Ambassador for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Hilary Davies, who talked to the children about her work in South Africa. Next term from our Community Ambassadors from the local Rotary Club.

World Book Day

The children had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day. They needed little encouragement to share their love of stories and enthusiasm for books. Miss McIntyre had organised a super day with a focus on Emma Carlisle’s book, “What do you see when you look at a tree?” This led to all sorts of wonderful work, from Haikus to Andy Goldsworthy style artwork. The children even created

a school story with each class writing a section and involving all the children from Reception to Year 4. Here's an excerpt from "Charlotte and the Wish-Orbs" to whet your appetites:

"As the storm raged, Charlotte, the last protector of the ancient oak tree, grabbed her rucksack and ran out of her house, her red, curly hair whipping around her face in the wind. Although she was only six years old, Charlotte knew she would need all her strength and courage to keep the tree safe.

Far away in the distance, a fierce dragon roared angrily. Charlotte froze. Bravely, she raced across the dark, dense forest until she reached the ancient oak tree. Above her, stars blinked, and trees moaned as the fiery dragon soared swiftly through the night sky."

To enjoy the whole story please visit www.southridgefirst.org.uk/whole-school-newsletter

Spring Assemblies

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school this week for the children's Spring Assemblies. The school has been ringing to the sound of songs about the Easter Story, spring flowers and the changeable British weather, and children are working hard to develop their oracy skills by speaking loudly and clearly for their prospective audience.

Please can I remind all parents and carers that, due to the limited size of the hall we can only offer invitations to **two** guests per family. We ask that everyone respects the school's hospitality, and our school community by abiding by this rule.

Friendship Finders

Following feedback from children about our Buddy system at playtimes and lunchtimes, we have launched a new improved version called "Friendship Finders". Friendship Finders are volunteers from Years 2, 3 and 4 who take it in turns (a week at a go) to have responsibility for looking out for anyone who might be feeling a little lost, or are struggling to find a game to join in with. Our Friendship Finders have a lovely Southridge themed rosette to wear to help everyone to know who to speak to, and have been doing a wonderful job!

School Council

At the start of the Autumn Term, and at the Spring Half-term we hold elections in school for the children in each class to choose their new School Council representatives. The School Council then meet regularly with Mrs Dunn to help guide school developments and priorities and ensure that the

pupils' voice is heard. One of the first jobs the School Council have at this time of year is to choose the charity that we will support over the forthcoming twelve months. Having previously supported an international animal charity (Four paws) and a local environmental charity (Northumberland Wildlife Trust), the School Council unanimously decided that this year we will be supporting the Lily Foundation (www.thelilyfoundation.org.uk/charity/what-we-do/lilys-story/). The children were particularly keen to support this charity as it will have a positive impact for Miss Heads' little boy Leo, who was born last January with Mitochondrial Disease. The children's feelings of care, compassion and community have made us very proud.

In Other News

Volunteers: Thank you for the kind volunteers who came and helped the Outdoor Eco-Warriors to plant over 300 hedging saplings in the school grounds earlier in the term, and those who signed up to help us dig our nature pond at the end of last week. A special thank you to Mrs Biggins for organising a small army of willing volunteers from Ricoh who came armed with spades, wheelbarrows and endless enthusiasm. We also need to give a special mention to Charlotte's dad Simon who gave the school two days of very hard labour and doubtless needed a good long rest over the weekend!

Our PTA: The Friends of Southridge did another sterling job in setting up and running the Mothers' Day Giftshop last week. We hope all you mums, grandmas, nannas and aunties who woke up on Mothering Sunday with pretty presents in little hands were happy with their choices.

Disco: The school disco for Y1-4 will be this Thursday 10th April with tickets available to buy in advance through Parentpay.

Fun Run: Happening the the same day, is our Sponsored Fun Run - we hope you are being successful in collecting some sponsorship. It is not necessarily about who raises the most, but more about coming together as a community to raise money for school funds and the children's chosen charity.

**** Newsflash - local company First Class have just let us know that they have been so inspired by our Nature Pond project and the children's desire to support The Lily Foundation, that they have donated £300 to be shared between them! ****

Out & About: Our children have been out and about in the North East, and beyond, this half term with trips to the George Stephenson Museum, Windermere's High Borran, The Great North Museum, The Discovery Museum and The Centre for Life. Your support with these activities is greatly appreciated and we know the children get a great deal from these curriculum enrichments.

Year 4 Eco-Warriors: You may well have spotted some changes around our school grounds as our Outdoor Eco-Warriors have been hard at work. They have made nest boxes, offering the local bird population very des-res opportunities around school. They have also been feeding "Christie", "Colin" and "Mr Christopher Nibbles" our school composters with left over fruit and vegetables (and egg cartons) so that raised beds will be packed with nutrients for next year's growing season. They have also been keeping our bird feeders topped up. What superstars!

Cashpot for schools - thank you: Thank you to everyone who nominated Southridge to benefit from Asda's "Cashpot for Schools" scheme. We have received £149.46 from them and will be putting this money towards the installation of our Nature Pond.

Free school meals



Your child may be entitled to free school meals

To check eligibility for free school meals you must apply online at www.northyntside.gov.uk and enter 'free school meals' in the search bar.

If you don't have an e-mail address please call to register for free meals **(0191) 643 2288**

Choose Option 3

Easy to apply

It only takes a few minutes to apply online, you will need your NI Number or your NASS reference to register.

Savings for your family

You could save over £427 per year for every child that qualifies for free school meals.

Your school benefits too

Your school receives additional funding for every child registered for free school meals. So the school and your children will be better resourced.

Please do not struggle in silence

If you are finding that financial pressures are affecting your child(ren)'s ability to access school, please email

financial.support@southridgefirst.org.uk

which is a confidential email address monitored by the headteacher and we will contact you to see what support we may be able to provide and signpost for you.

Is your child registered for **SCHOOL MILK?**

Child **UNDER 5**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



Child **OVER 5**

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com



Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on **0800 321 3248**



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOLMILKSCHEME

North Tyneside Autism Hubs

north east
autism society

For parents / carers of children who are awaiting a referral to the neurodevelopmental diagnostic team, on the diagnostic pathway or post diagnosis of autism.

Children must be living in North Tyneside.

We have the following dates available:

Riverside Family Hub
NE29 6DQ

06/05
03/06
01/07
05/08

Howdon Family Hub
NE28 0AL

13/05
10/06
08/07
12/08

Shiremoor Family Hub
NE27 0TA

20/05
17/06
15/07
19/08



Supporting your autistic child workshop

The workshop will cover:

- worries and action planning
- common misconceptions
- differences in autistic children
- practical strategies to use in everyday life

These sessions will run 10-12 and must be pre-booked.

One to one appointments

These appointments are for families that have questions or would like to discuss any issues in confidence.

These appointments are available between 9-10 and 12.30-4 and must be pre-booked.



**To book please contact Rebecca Weatherstone on
0191 410 9974 or rebecca.weatherstone@ne-as.org.uk**

Easter Activities

A colorful poster for an Easter Family Fun Morning event. The background is a light cream color with a repeating pattern of stylized Easter eggs in pink, orange, and blue, decorated with white wavy lines. Interspersed among the eggs are small green leaves, yellow stars, and clusters of small yellow dots. The text is centered and uses a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Easter Family Fun Morning

Where? Whitley Bay Baptist Church

When? Saturday 19th April

What time? Come any time between 10am and 12pm

How much does it cost? Absolutely nothing!

**Have some
refreshments**

**Come and play
some games**

**Do some
Easter craft
activities**



Easter Break Week One

Our Easter Holidays camp bookings are now live across our website. With three locations across the two weeks, there's plenty to get involved in, so use the QR code below to book now and secure your place!

SESSION DETAILS :

- ✓ Marden Bridge: Mon - Thu
- ✓ 9:30am - 3:00pm
- ✓ Benfield: Mon - Thu
- ✓ 9:30am - 3:00pm



More information :
andy@andrewcartwrightfc.com

**14-17
APRIL**





Easter Break Week Two

Our Easter Holidays camp bookings are now live across our website. With three locations across the two weeks, there's plenty to get involved in, so use the QR code below to book now and secure your place!

SESSION DETAILS :

- ✓ Marden Bridge: Tue - Fri
- ✓ 9:30am - 3:00pm
- ✓ Cramlington: Tue - Fri
- ✓ 9:30am - 3:00pm



More information :
andy@andrewcartwrightfc.com

22-25
APRIL





**A SAFE SPACE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN
TO KICKSTART THEIR FOOTBALL JOURNEY**

**MARDEN BRIDGE SPORTS HALL
SUNDAY MORNINGS
9:00am - 11:00am
£3 PER SESSION**

**SESSION 1: 9:00 - 9:45am
5 - 8 years**

**SESSION 2: 10:00 - 10:45am
9 - 11 years**

**To book, please contact
secretary@whitleybaysportingclub.co.uk**



JUNIOR EASTER TENNIS CAMP

TUESDAY 22ND APRIL TO FRIDAY 25TH APRIL

BEVERLEY PARK LAWN TENNIS CLUB, BEVERLEY ROAD, WHITLEY BAY NE25 8JH

**Morning session: £12 (10am - 12pm)
Afternoon session: £12 (1pm - 3pm)
Full day: £30 (10am - 3pm)
Full camp: £100 (Tue - Fri, 10am - 3pm)**

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

Includes tennis, multi-sports, team games, and Street Racket - the exciting new sport that is taking the world by storm!

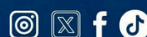
Participants must book in advance as spaces are limited. **To book, please use the QR code.**

We offer a **Members Discount of 15%** and accept Childcare vouchers.

For further information, email hello@net360cic.uk or phone 07793 762 879.



All sessions are run by LTA qualified coaches and we are registered on the Ofsted Childcare Register with registration number 2552846.



Click [<here>](#) to find out more about Raring2go

The poster is for a 'Good Friday Great' event at Newcastle Racing & Events. It features a central shield with the text 'MAKE YOUR GOOD FRIDAY GREAT'. To the left is a jockey on a horse, and to the right is a clown. A man in a red jacket and top hat stands on the left. The text 'NEWCASTLE RACING & EVENTS' is at the top. Below the shield, it says 'FREE FUNFAIR & CIRCUS ENTERTAINMENT' and 'BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC'. A large blue star on the right says 'KIDS GO FREE'. At the bottom, it says 'ALL-WEATHER FINALS DAY FRIDAY 18 APRIL'. There is a QR code and a 'SCAN TO BOOK NOW' button. The top of the poster has a navigation bar with 'ACTIVITIES', 'WHAT'S ON', and 'CLUBS & CLASSES'. The bottom of the poster has a green bar with 'MAGAZINE & WEBSITE', 'THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD', and 'raring2go.co.uk'. The bottom right corner says 'SPRING 2025'.

2go!
Raring2go!

ACTIVITIES WHAT'S ON CLUBS & CLASSES

NEWCASTLE, NORTH TYNESIDE & GATESHEAD

NEWCASTLE RACING & EVENTS

MAKE YOUR
GOOD FRIDAY GREAT

FREE FUNFAIR
&
CIRCUS ENTERTAINMENT
BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC

KIDS GO FREE

ALL-WEATHER FINALS DAY
FRIDAY 18 APRIL

SCAN TO
BOOK NOW

MAGAZINE & WEBSITE THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD
raring2go.co.uk

SPRING 2025



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



BURGER KING

From Monday 7th - Sunday 20th April 2025, Kids Eat Free with every adult meal, via the app.

BILLS

Kids eat free Mondays - Fridays, from Monday 7th - Friday 25th April 2025.

FARMHOUSE INNS

2 kids eat FREE with one paying adult, Monday 7th - Friday 25th of April. Sign Up Required

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

ZIZZI

Sunday 6th - Sunday 27th April 2025 kids eat free with every adult main. (excludes Saturdays)

CAFE EIGHTY NINE @ THE RANGE

Kids eat free Sat 5th April - Mon 21st April 2025

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (monday - friday) during all school holidays, when dining with an adult

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids eat for £1.

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 every, with no adult spend.

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

PREZZO

Kids receive a free, 3 course kids meal, everyday at Prezzo between 31st March - 27th April 2025

COCONUT TREE

One child (under 10) eats free every day, 12pm - 6pm from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April 2025

PIZZA HUT

Kids eat free buffet from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April, until 3pm daily with a £10 spend

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.