



# Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter May 2025



*"Proud to Make a Positive Impact"*

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PTA Newsletter

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## Fabulous Fun Fundraising Run!

We would like to give a HUGE “Thank You!!” to everyone for their kindness and enthusiasm when supporting our sponsored Fun Run before the Easter break. With generous donations from families, governors, staff and local businesses we have raised an incredible £3,525 which will be divided between a donation to the Lily Foundation to support their work with Team Leo, and the installation of the school pond. In both cases, the money will have a real impact on lots of young lives and we hope that you are all walking with a happy spring in your step, knowing that we have helped (in a small but meaningful way) to make the world a slightly better place!

## Upcoming Events

The summer term is always busy with a variety of trips, activities and events to look forward to across our different year groups. We hope you have all put Sports Days, Meet the Teacher presentations and the Summer Fair on your calendars.

The children are carefully tending their raised beds and hoping that our “Anti Pigeon” devices will allow our peas, beans, carrots and more to survive, thrive, blossom and bloom in time for our special Farmer’s Lunch in the penultimate week, where we hope that one of our Facetime Farmer friends might be able to make a special appearance!

Everyone should have received a letter advising of our new approach to “Meet the Teachers” meetings this year. We will be giving parents the chance to come to a short presentation with their teachers for next year in the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Then, the following Tuesday (after school), there will be a chance to come in with your children and explore your new classroom and meet the teacher between 3.30-5pm. This will hopefully give you all the important information ahead of the children’s transition to their next year group, and give the children a chance to familiarise themselves with their next classroom with you.

Following a very well attended workshop in school this morning on supporting children with anxiety around transition, we are pleased to be able to share this link for an online version next Thursday evening at 6pm.

<<https://zoom.us/j/92870475207?pwd=FtGREqi7hChzMB3GPR8DYl4oDDuNnB.1> Meeting ID: 928 7047 5207  
Passcode: 107271>

## Our Nature Pond

The installation of our nature pond by John Grundy’s Wilderness Tamed will hopefully be completed by the end of the half term holiday. Despite the Herculean efforts of all the volunteers who helped with the excavations, we have still been put behind schedule somewhat by the extent of the roots that required removing. It will all have been worth it when it is finished and we see our first frog!

# Having a positive impact on our environment

Our children have been enthusiastically composting organic waste from snack time and the school kitchen (and even teachers' old teabags) to make compost in our three lovely composters (named Christie, Colin and Mr Christopher Nibbles). As our composters can only take so much composting material each day, the children put the rest into our special bin that is collected each week and goes off to make biofuel - nothing goes to waste!

Despite the unseasonal dry weather, the wildflower seeds that children sowed along the Butterfly Path in the autumn, have begun to germinate and grow. Fingers crossed that they continue to grow and that they produce some blooms to bring in the butterflies, bees and other little beasties.

At the start of the month, the children enjoyed a Recycling assembly with Joel Barrow from Groundworks who reminded us what can and cannot be put into the recycling bins in North Tyneside. We discovered that as long as we drink all of our milk, the tetra pack cartons can go into the recycling bin.

Following the encouragement from our Ambassador for the Environment (Ambassador Ross), we are taking part in a Walk to School initiative where the children are able to log each day how they have travelled to/from school. We know that not everyone can manage it every day, but we aim for every small change and contribution to make a difference. Find out more here <[WOW - the walk to school challenge](#)>

## Our Social Ambassadors

We were happy to welcome David and Julian from the local Rotary Club to be our latest ambassadors to join us. They are our Ambassadors for the Community and talked to the children about how their voluntary organisation supports local charities and initiatives. They also suggested things that the children might be able to do to help the local community. These ranged from taking part in litter picks and donating to the local foodbank, to coming up with ideas for projects that the Rotary Club might be able to sponsor or support. We are sure that the children will have some great ideas!

## Road Safety

The children throughout school have benefitted from some recent training sessions with North Tyneside Council's Road Safety team. Our Year 3 children have been out and about in Beaumont Park learning about the importance of crossing the road safely and ensuring they have the skills to do it. Meanwhile our Year 4s have had a refresher session, and our younger children have had an informative assembly. See more information on the Go Smarter flyer at the end of this newsletter.

# Online Safety

Online safety features within each topic of our Computing syllabus and is woven through the daily lives of the children. However, we know how tricky it can be as a parent when more and more technology at home is enabled to allow us to access online content whether it is a smart speaker, such as Alexa, or internet enabled televisions and games consoles.

If you are looking for a little extra help or guidance, there are some excellent websites that are freely available and give extremely useful practical advice.

For a useful guide to different internet-enabled household technologies and how they are best understood try visiting [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

“Internet Matters” have a handy ‘Little Digital Helps’ questionnaire (9 questions; approx 8 minutes) that can be completed and produces you a tailored toolkit to help keep your devices safe. [Little Digital Helps Toolkit | Internet Matters x Tesco Mobile](#)

While CEOP ([Home Safety Activities](#)) has a selection of very short (40 seconds) videos on a range of topics from online gaming, to image sharing with practical tips on steps you can take.

# School Council

Our school councillors did an excellent job at impressing Elaine Robson from the Local Authority when she came to discuss our Healthy School accreditation last week. They talked about all the sports opportunities that they enjoy, our PSHE lessons, our healthy school dinners and more!

One thing the children identified was that fewer children seem to be taking advantage of the fresh salad bar that is available every day for our children who enjoy a school dinner. It has a selection of different offerings including sweetcorn, cucumber, tomato, beetroot, salad leaves and more. Perhaps you could try asking your child about it while they are having their evening meal and see if they can tell you what they have tried.

# Our PTA - The Friends of Southridge

# FRIENDS OF SOUTHRIDGE PTA

# NEWSLETTER

MAY  
2025



Charity Number: 1076795



## Upcoming Events

- Father's Day Gift Shop - w/c 9 June
- Summer Fair - Friday 4 July

## What's New

### RAINBOW RAFFLE

From wine to washing-up liquid, biscuits to bubble bath — and everything in between! We're collecting donations in your child's class colour, and we'd love your help! If you're able to donate a new and unopened item in your child's class colour, please drop it off at the school office between **2–13 June**.

All donations will be used to create a collection of beautiful, colour-themed hampers, which will be raffled off at our Summer Fair on Friday 14 July.

#### Class Colours:

- **Nursery - Red**
- **Reception - Orange**
- **Year 1 - Yellow**
- **Year 2 - Green**
- **Year 3 - Blue**
- **Year 4 - Pink/Purple**



Ideas for donations include food items (not chilled or perishable), soft and alcoholic drinks, sweets, chocolates, snacks, books, games, toys, household products, health and beauty products.

## Fundraising to Date

### A HUGE THANK YOU!

Your support so far this year has helped us to raise:

- **Autumn Disco - £716**
- **Wreath Workshop - £1031**
- **Christmas Cards - £643**
- **Christmas Fair - £4177**
- **Mother's Day Gift Shop - £894**
- **Spring Disco - £576**

Please look out for more information on what money raised has contributed to.



## Reminders

### CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA



We will be collecting chocolate donations for our summer fair on **27 June**. Children can wear non-uniform in exchange for bringing in a donation.

### PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM

Don't forget you can pick up pre-loved school uniform from the office foyer for **FREE**. All uniform is in a good condition and we have a range of sizes and items available. You can also email us with a request for what you need:

[friendsofsouthridgepta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthridgepta@gmail.com)







# FRIENDS OF SOUTHRIDGE PTA

Charity Number: 1076795

## Summer Fair Celebrations



### SUMMER FAIR

Get ready for some fantastic family fun at the Southridge Summer Fair, taking place on **Friday 14 July!**

Enjoy all your favourite activities and entertainment—plus a few exciting new surprises.

This event wouldn't be possible without your support. Whether you can spare an hour in the lead-up, help gather raffle prizes, run a stall, bake a cake, or donate goodies for the chocolate tombola - every bit helps, and we truly appreciate it.

A volunteer sign-up form will be emailed out soon. If you're able to help, simply let us know your availability. All volunteers will receive:

- A food voucher
- A drink voucher
- Free entry into the colour raffle (if you sign up within the first two weeks of the form being sent out).

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for the latest updates and ways to get involved. You can find us at: **Southridge First School PTA**.



## Sponsorship & Donations

### HOW YOU CAN HELP...

The Friends of Southridge PTA is a registered charity and we'd love to hear from you if you, or someone you know, is able to sponsor key events such as our Summer Fair.

Sponsorship and donations are such an important part of the events we run and we're always grateful for any support we receive in our fundraising activities.

If you are able to support with this, please email:

**[friendsofsouthridgepta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthridgepta@gmail.com)**



## SUMMER FAIR TOKENS

Please note that this year's Summer Fair will be cashless.\* Tokens will be available to purchase via ParentPay from **Monday 2 June**.

- Tokens will be sold in £10 bundles.
- Unused tokens from the Christmas Fair can still be used!
- You can collect pre-paid tokens from the school hall on:
  - **Tuesday 24 June - 8:40 - 9:00am**
  - **Tuesday 24 June - 3:10 - 3:30pm**
  - **Monday 30 June - 8:40 - 9:00am**

If possible, please bring your own bag, purse, or container when collecting tokens. This helps us cut down on plastic waste—thank you!

\*The bar, BBQ, ice cream van and face painting will accept both cash and card payments.



## 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](http://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 Nc Number or your N435 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](mailto: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.

North Tyneside Councils Go Smarter team have visited Southridge First School this week. We would appreciate it if you could help your children understand the dangers near the roads by following the Green Cross Code.

- **On the pavement** when walking near a road hold your child's hand don't let them run ahead.
- **Set a good example** by using the **GREEN CROSS CODE** explain to your child/children to **STOP** at the kerb, **LOOK** right, left and right again and **LISTEN** for traffic before crossing, when it's safe to cross, walk straight across the road and keep looking and listening. **THINK** have you chosen the safest place to cross, look for Pedestrian Crossings, Zebra Crossings and School Crossing Patrols etc.
- **Be Bright and Be Seen** It is important that other road users can see you and your children. Explain to your child how wearing brighter materials helps drivers to see you from further away.
- **Travel actively** Walking, cycling and scooting to school is a great way to start the day. It's brilliant exercise and helps us feel good. It reduces pollution at the school gates and reduces carbon emissions and helps tackle climate change.

Sophie and Thomas,  
from Barkworth




**We pledge to  
walk or wheel  
to school.**

**What's your climate  
action pledge?**

[my.northtyneside.gov.uk/actiononclimatechange](http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/actiononclimatechange)








# Come to St John's Celebration Weekend

Ilfracombe Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE26 3ND

## FREE EVENT!

Come and join in the fun!



### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Discover the wide range of groups, talents, and interests that call St John's home – and meet the people who bring it all to life

**10am – 3pm**

- Try the organ
- Eat some cake
- Gather round a campfire
- Do some sewing
- Bang a drum
- Kids crafts
- Films & popcorn
- Activities
- Games
- Demonstrations
- ...and much more!

*Community!*


*Connections!*

*Creativity!*

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Worship with a difference

**10.45am**



# *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](http://www.coolmilk.com)



Need help?  
**Send us a message**  
at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](http://www.coolmilk.com/contact)  
or give us a call on **0800 321 3248**



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