



Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter September 2025



"Proud to Make a Positive Impact"

What's Inside

Welcome to a New
Year.

Outdoor Learning
Welly Appeal

Afterschool Care

Welcome to 2025-26

We look forward to welcoming all our children back to school tomorrow to start this new academic year. We especially welcome all our new starters in Reception and Nursery as they start their school life with us at Southridge.

Our Vision and Values - We are looking forward to see how many of our returning children can remember and demonstrate our five core values that are like 'magic dust' around our school. They are friendship, kindness, honesty, respect and responsibility.

We are also excited to hear about how children might have had a positive impact during their summer holidays and any plans they have for earning stickers in their Positive Impact Passports which we will be making available to fill out in the coming weeks.

Outdoor Learning

Today, school staff have taken part in an excellent day of CPD to help develop their skills and knowledge when delivering the primary curriculum objectives outdoors and they are feeling excited and prepared as we continue on our journey to have a fully integrated outdoor learning curriculum offer across the whole school.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the whole curriculum is delivered outdoors, but rather that staff are exploring where curriculum delivery can be enhanced by taking the learning outside of the classroom. Anita Foster (Learning Through Landscapes) who delivered our training was extremely impressed by both the staff's enthusiasm and existing knowledge, as well as how the school grounds are being developed to meet this need.

If anyone would like to learn a little more about the positive impact attributed to learning outdoors I would signpost you to the research of Jean-Philippe Ayotte-Beaudet who has become the world's first professor holding a research chair on outdoor learning at the University of Sherbrooke. There is also much useful information on the Learning Through Landscapes website ([Attainment: The impacts of outdoor learning and play | Learning through Landscapes](#)).

Thank you for your wellies!

Thank you to everyone who donated their outgrown wellies at the end of last year. We are busy labelling them and identifying what sizes we have most of. Wellies will be an important part of our outdoor learning offer as it will allow the children to access the whole school grounds even when the grass is wet. If you have a spare pair and would like to send a pair of wellies into school for your child to keep here that would be very helpful. However, if you do not have a spare pair please do not panic, we are hopeful that we will be able to provide children a pair from the donation bucket.

If you are sending in a pair of wellies for your child to use, please ensure they are very clearly marked with their name so that they do not end up in the donation bucket!

Living Streets

This term, we are hoping to take part in the Living Streets Walk to School initiative again. It is designed to encourage children to get to school by walking, scooting, cycling, or using the 'Park and Stride' method (Park and Stride is where families who need to drive, park a short distance from school and walk the remainder). Children who travel in one of these active ways **2-3 times a week** over the course of a month earn a small reward badge.

The scheme aims to raise awareness of how small, sustainable choices can make a big difference—and it has proved extremely popular with the children! Last year, we were extremely encouraged by the positive response and enthusiasm that the children showed and were particularly proud of leading the North Tyneside Leader Board - especially when we were rewarded with a special visit from Strider in the last week.

Afterschool Care

In light of revised government funding structures for childcare, we undertook a review of our nursery and childcare offer here at Southridge and believe that a full time 2-year old offer, in addition to the current afterschool provision level would benefit our community.

As many of you will be aware, here at Southridge we have had two separate providers of afterschool care for a number of years. These have been Kids Planet (formally Children's Choice) and Good Times Childcare.

To enable the 2-year old offer, we have streamlined the after school care to a single provider (Kids Planet) meaning that as of October 31st Good Times Childcare will cease to provide afterschool care on our site.

To ensure there will be no reduction in our after school care offer, it has been established with Kids Planet that **they will be able to meet all of the current places being offered by Good Times Childcare and that there will be no reduction in the number of places on offer.** If you are currently using Good Times Childcare and would like to arrange a move to Kids Planet from November, please email them at: Southridge.Manager@kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.uk where they will be very happy to help.

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.northtyneside.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**



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