



# Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter September #2 2025



*"Proud to Make a Positive Impact"*

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## September 2025

Well what a busy month we have had. First day nerves and haircuts feel like a distant memory as we find ourselves half way through the first (and longest) half term of the year. We have managed to fit an awful lot in, with School Councillor elections in Years 2-4, a European Day of Languages Celebration, fundraising for Mitochondrial Awareness Day and an amazing visit from researchers at The Centre for Life in Newcastle who shared some of their world leading work that the Lily Foundation helps to support, as well as much much more.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents of the following:

- As we have children in school with severe nut allergies, we ask that no foods containing nuts come into school. Thank you for your understanding.
- In the mornings, Year 3 and 4 children can be brought to the school gate and, once inside the school grounds, they may walk to their classes independently. We ask that all other younger children are accompanied by their adult to the classroom door.

- We ask that at drop-off and pick-up for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 that you only enter the school yard via the Nursery gates and not via Year 1. This is purely to avoid any collisions around the blind corner between Year 1 and Year 4. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Harvest Assemblies

We look forward to welcoming you into school to enjoy the assemblies performed by children in Years 1-4 next week. The children are practising a lovely selection of songs to sing and will share information they have learnt about this special time of year.

One of the ways we help the children to see how we can have a positive impact on our local community is by collecting donations to the Whitley Bay Foodbank. We are already seeing lots of donations arriving at school and look forward to having a bumper crop for the foodbank to collect on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Please continue to bring in donations right up to next Friday morning.

To find out more about the Whitley Bay Foodbank and the wonderful work they do, please [<click here>](#)

Please can we also remind families that, due to the limited size of our school hall, we only have space for **two** family members to come as audience - we appreciate your understanding and ask that families respect this rule.

## Our Local School Partnership

We have a strong history here in Whitley Bay of first, middle and high schools working closely to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our children. This is seen through professional staff networks, opportunities for inter-school sporting events, visits from middle and high school teachers and more. As such, both families and schools alike have been surprised by the announcement this week regarding a consultation to close Monkseaton Middle School and merge Appletree Gardens and Langley first schools. Although Southridge is not directly affected by this announcement, we want to signpost you to the North Tyneside website where you can find more information and, if you wish, leave feedback [- click here to find out more.](#)

## Our new Ambassador for Mental Health & Wellbeing

We were joined by our latest special Ambassador for Mental Health & Wellbeing, Ambassador Melanie, for an assembly on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. Melanie works for Connect Mental Health and is a walking embodiment of kindness, positivity and fun. She shared a little of what she does with the children and challenged them to develop the mindfulness technique of “Noticing Five” where they had to spot five different things around them along a certain theme (the theme could be a colour, smell, shape or anything else you can think of). This grounding activity is designed to help children to regulate their feelings if they are becoming overwhelmed or anxious. She was very impressed by everything the children knew about recognising their emotions and the strategies they have learnt

to be able to help themselves. We look forward to catching up with Ambassador Melanie again later in the year.

## Wonderful Wellies!

We have been busy labelling them and identifying what sizes we have most of. Unsurprisingly, we have a surplus of small sizes (smaller than a size 1) and are a little short on larger ones (size 1-3). If you happen to have any of these larger sizes gathering dust, we would very much appreciate them as donations (just pass them to your class teacher). This will ensure that the children are able to access the wider school site throughout the wetter months of the school year.

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!

## Friends of Southridge

Thank you to everyone who attended the Friends of Southridge AGM on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to see how many kind volunteers braved the weather to join us.

There have been one or two changes in our committee with our amazing Chair (Angela Lange) stepping down to Vice-Chair for her final year here at Southridge and April Ainsley stepping down from her Vice-Chair role. Jess Johnson was nominated to take on the Chair, and Julia Mohamdee to be Secretary. Considering that they raised almost £18,000 last school year, I am sure you will join us in thanking the committee and their members for the amazing service they give our school. Working together with our staff, they ensure that the various events across the year run smoothly. The funds raised last year, went towards the installation of our nature pond, the development of the allotment area, providing the Christmas Pantomime, purchasing our Year 4 Leavers' Hoodies, supplying craft activities across the school and more. It really does have a positive impact on our children's experience.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with what the Friends of Southridge are working on, or to volunteer your services, then please check out their Facebook page:



# Friends of Southridge - Front Row Raffle

We held the grand draw in assembly yesterday morning and are pleased to announce the winners who will have front row seats to their child's performances this year:

Reception - Miss Flitcroft: Otilie K

Reception - Mrs Gendler-Watson: Rory T

Y1 - Mrs Pringle: Winter N

Y1 - Miss Cassidy: Elsie B

Y2 - Mrs Dunn: Edie F

Y2 - Mr Price: Elliott A

Y3 - Mrs Statham/Mrs McIntosh: Ayla T

Y3 - Mrs Burton: Essie Mc

Y4 - Miss McIntyre: Tilly W

Y4 - Mr O'Hara: Amelia T

We look forward to seeing you enjoying your reserved seats at next week's Harvest Assemblies.

## Attendance Reminder

We know that all parents want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school or alternative provision regularly.

**We are very proud of our children and our school community, that last academic year Southridge had the best recorded attendance rate across the Local Authority.**

With this in mind, we know that you really do care about your children's success at school and are keen to avoid some of the difficulties that poor attendance can lead to.

These can include:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. In a busy school day it is difficult for schools to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

- Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life.

### **Authorised Absence**

There may be times when your child has to miss school because she or he is ill. This is to be expected and you should follow the school's procedures for notifying illness. Children may also have to attend a medical or dental appointment in school time. However, PLEASE try to make routine appointments such as dental check-ups during the school holiday or after school hours. Any absence must be requested as far in advance as possible.

Absences can only be authorised by the school and this will only be agreed for **exceptional circumstances**.

### **Unauthorised Absence**

To dissuade families from taking unauthorised absences during term time and to put us in line with other partnership schools, our school adopts the North Tyneside's approach to unauthorised absences. This will include the introduction of penalty notices for an unauthorised leave of absence during term time where:

- a leave of absence has been taken without the permission of the Head teacher
- a leave of absence has been agreed and the pupil returns to school after the agreed date without explanation
- no application for leave has been made
- the child has been removed from school for 10 or more sessions (each school day consists of one morning session and one afternoon session)

### **Help us to make every minute count**

Attending school every day = 100% attendance

Attending 4½ days a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year

Attending 4 days a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year.

Attending 3½ days each week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.

An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.

## **Helping with Head Lice**

We know that head lice (nits) are a perennial problem in schools and can be extremely frustrating. One of our members of staff recently shared their positive experience of using something with their children that they had discovered through an organisation called Community Hygiene Concern

(CHC). CHC offers a solution that avoids using expensive chemical treatments. To find out more - please see below.

Community Hygiene Concern

To help parents and healthcare providers achieve a lasting solution to the persistent problem of head lice and nits, the charity developed the “Bug Busting” wet combing method.

The Bug Buster and Nit Buster combs work with shampoo and conditioner, there is no dependence on louse-killing formulated products.

The Bug Buster Kit instructions explain precisely how you can break the life-cycle by periodically removing lice over the hatching period. Simultaneously you learn how to recognize any new incoming lice.

For further information :

[What is Bug Busting? - Community Hygiene Concern](#)

## Nexus metro announcement

We have been asked to share the information below regarding a temporary closure of the metro line between Benton and Wallsend, later in October - please see below for more information.



October 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

I am writing to advise you that a busy section of Metro line in North Tyneside is to close for six days to allow for major track renewal work.

The planned closure will take place between Benton and Wallsend from Sunday 26 October to Friday 31 October.

The affected route will re-open to Metro services on Saturday 1 November.

The works involve renewal of a key track junction at Monkseaton, which is vital for the operation of the Metro system and carries hundreds of train services each and every day.

This project forms part of our Asset Renewal Programme – which involves the modernisation of key items of Metro infrastructure including tracks and overhead lines.

To make the most of the closure, we are also carrying out a range of other works at the same time, including landscape management, track maintenance, and station repair work at Tynemouth and Whitley Bay.

Buses will replace trains during the closure and provide a frequent service for customers. The buses will operate from Four Lane Ends Interchange to Wallsend, calling at or near all Metro stations on the route.

Customers are advised to plan ahead and allow extra time when travelling through the affected area.

There is no good time to close sections of line, but we need a six-day window to get these works completed safely, and have carefully planned to minimise disruption and ensure a vital section of the Metro system is renewed.

In partnership with the Department for Transport (DfT), Nexus has been able to invest close to £1 billion in upgrading the Tyne and Wear Metro over the past 15 years. This includes the new train fleet and works to remove single-track operations in South Tyneside, together with hundreds of other projects to replace life expired assets and equipment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Relations Team on 0191 202 0747 or email [customerrelations@nexus.org.uk](mailto:customerrelations@nexus.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

**Paul Welford**  
**Major Projects Director, Nexus**

# Earsdon Road Crossing

For those families that have to cross the Earsdon Road to get into school, North Tyneside Council have requested that we share the following information:

The crossing, located between the pedestrian footway from North Ridge to Wilton Close and shown below in red, is currently out of operation due to an irreparable fault. The Authority are working with the Traffic Signals team at Newcastle City Council to fully upgrade the crossing. Unfortunately, there is a lead in time with the equipment which means the crossing is likely to be out of operation until October half term.

There are two existing controlled crossings on Earsdon Road that remain in operation. The first controlled crossing point is at Earsdon Road's signalised junction with Coanwood Drive. The second controlled crossing is a zebra crossing located on Earsdon Road, near its roundabout junction with Rosemount Way and Sandringham Drive. Both crossings, which are shown in green, are between 180 & 250m from the existing faulty crossing.

I would recommend you direct any queries you may receive from parents on this matter to North Tyneside Councils Go Smarter team ([gosmarter@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:gosmarter@northtyneside.gov.uk))





## 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.northhyneside.gov.uk](http://www.northhyneside.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](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.



## 2025/2026 HOLIDAY SOCCER CAMPS

### DETAILS

VENUE: BLUE FLAMES, BENTON. NE12 9SF

GIRLS AND BOYS WELCOME, AGES 4 TO 12.

CAMP TIMES: 9.15AM TO 3.30PM

**FANTASTIC INDOOR FACILITIES!**

**WEEK 1** OCTOBER: MON 27TH, TUES 28TH, WED 29TH, THURS 30TH, (4 DAYS)

**WEEK 2** DECEMBER: MON 29TH, TUES 30TH, (2 DAYS)

**WEEK 3** FEBRUARY: MON 16TH, TUES 17TH, WED 18TH, THURS 19TH, (4 DAYS)

Star Strike Soccer have been conducting soccer courses for the past 25 years, all our coaches are experienced and F.A. Qualified and are D.B.S. checked. Our courses provide a fun, relaxed atmosphere for all children to learn and enjoy their skills and make new friends.

- Free medal for all children
- Take the Shaboom Challenge (Power Shooting Game)
- Skills, Techniques, Shooting, Goalkeeping, matches and lots more!
- All coaching indoors and outdoors
- Girls and Boys welcome

**FANTASTIC INDOOR & OUTDOOR VENUE**

**PAYMENT CAN BE MADE ON FIRST DAY OF THE COURSE TO BOOK A PLACE TEXT CHILD'S NAME TO 07887 766 460**

Follow us on twitter

SINGLE DAY BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

### COST:

1 DAY - £20.00

2 DAYS - £40.00

3 DAYS - £60.00

4 DAYS - £60.00



Discount price can't be spread over more than one week.

**Contact Graeme Doyle for Details or register your child on 07887 766 460**  
**info@starstrikesoccer.co.uk**  
**www.starstrikesoccer.co.uk**



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**Do you want to improve your child's health?**

**Physical activity**

**Lifestyle topics**

**Healthy snack**

**A free 10 week programme** to support you and your family to make healthy lifestyle changes.

There are family programmes for two different age groups; ages 4-7 years old and ages 8-14 years old.

**Register:**



North Tyneside Council



**CHAT@northtyneside.gov.uk**



Healthy  
• 4 Life

In **10 weeks** we cover:

- Simple **food swaps** to reduce **fat** and **sugar** intake
- The right size **portions** for children and adults
- How to understand **food labels** and afford healthy options
- **Opportunities to add** run and play into your daily routine
- How to grow foods and **make healthy meals**
- Learn about key factors to **improve your wellbeing**

**Sessions  
take place  
once a  
week, after  
school**

**Register:**



Eligibility criteria applies,  
please ask for more details.



North  
Tyneside  
Council



**CHAT@northtyneside.gov.uk**

*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**

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOLMILKSCHEME