



Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter October 2025



"Proud to Make a Positive Impact"

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Autumn 1 2025

As we reach the first landmark of this school year it is worth reflecting on how far the children have already come. Our youngest children in Reception and Nursery have settled exceptionally well, and are coming into school each morning with the same confidence and assurance of our older children.

We have had trips out of school for many of the classes (The Red House Ramble for Reception, St. Mary's Church for Year 1, The Rising Sun for Year 3, and The Great North Hancock Museum for Year 4), and Year 2 are looking forward to their visit to the Shipley Art Gallery after the half term break.

Our programme of after-school clubs has recommenced with 11 different clubs offering over 250 places for children from Year 1-4. These include sports, crafts, STEM and arts opportunities delivered by a mixture of school staff and outdoor providers.

Positive Impact Passports

It has been lovely to see so many of our children enthused about how they can make a Positive Impact in their local community and beyond.

Remember, children get their official Southridge Positive Impact Passport upon earning their first sticker. If they keep it safe, collect all SIX stickers, then they can choose a special prize!

Areas in which the children can make a Positive Impact and earn a sticker are:

- The Environment
- Sport
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Inclusion
- Our Community
- The Coast

Harvest Assemblies

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our donation to the Whitley Bay Foodbank. It was a bumper year with enough produce to make their collection van creak on its axles. It was also lovely to see so many friendly faces at our Harvest Assemblies where the children excelled themselves with lovely, joyful singing and strong clear voices.

Nursery Update

We are excited to announce a change in Nursery provision here at Southridge, that will come into effect from January 2026. Our school nursery will take over the daytime wraparound sessions currently offered by Kids Planet. This will allow our children to remain in their familiar nursery setting from 8.45am-3.30pm.

Our Breakfast Club (7.45-8.40am) and After school Care (3.30-6pm) will continue to run normally and will be provided by our excellent partners at Kids Planet.

In addition to this, we will be introducing a Flexible nursery offer for children aged 18 months to 2 years here on our school site which will be available from 8am-6pm throughout the year. This will also be run by Kids Planet and will be situated in the green building currently used for playgroup and after school care.

Our popular Holiday Care Club will continue to operate in the same way through every half term as well as the Easter and summer holidays.

Our Local School Partnership

You will doubtless have seen a good deal of reporting, both locally and nationally, on the proposed closures and mergers of schools in our local pyramid, as well as elsewhere in the Local Authority.

You can make your views known via the official North Tyneside feedback portal: [Access here](#)

You can also find more information on the proposed closure of Monkseaton Middle School from their community group: [Access here](#)

The value of reading with your child at home

We know that in our busy home lives with so many extracurricular activities for children and work pressures for parents, that it can be hard to find the time to read with your children. But it is undoubtedly one of the most valuable skills that you can support your children with, and it is not just us who say so. See below for extracts from both the Literacy, and Book Trusts.

The Literacy Trust says:

Regularly reading to a child for the love of it provides a connection between parent and child from the very early days and helps build strong family ties. Lines from favourite stories enter the family lexicon. Families who enjoy reading together have more opportunities for discussion, developing empathy and attachment. Reading to their infant is one of the greatest gifts parents can give. By starting the journey of building a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, parents are giving their child the opportunity to be the best they can be: children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing.

The Book Trust outlines the benefits as:

Better mental wellbeing, social skills and strong relationships

They feel **more secure and develop deep bonds** with parents/carers.

They have **healthy routines and habits**.

They have **better socio-emotional skills**.

They have **better mental wellbeing and self-esteem**.

Speech and language milestones and doing better at school

They have **better brain development, attentional and cognitive ability.**

They have **better school readiness and knowledge about the world.**

They have **better speech and language development and literacy skills.**

They make **more progress across the curriculum.**

Overcoming disadvantages

They will experience **better educational mobility and social mobility.**

Those growing up in poverty are **less likely to remain in poverty as adults.**

Throughout school, they are **more likely to overcome the barriers** caused by disadvantage.

So please do try and build in protected time for reading with your child as regularly as you are able to. It does not have to be long; 5-10 minutes each evening would give your child the best possible start, and in a few short years the window will have passed. So don't look back with regret - seize the moment!

Parent Consultations

Thank you to everyone who booked and attended the Parent Consultation meetings last week. The staff enjoyed the opportunity to share the progress that the children have made so far this year and to discuss how they have settled into their new year groups.

Governor Updates

Following the successful term of office for our outgoing Chair of Governors, Mrs Lindsey Massie, we are pleased to announce that Mrs Laura Davies has been appointed as our new Chair. She is ably supported by the Vice-Chair, Mrs Pauline May-Lennox, and the rest of our excellent governing body. Our governing body is made up of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and with expertise in many different areas that they draw upon to support and challenge the school.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor role, which all parents and carers should have received an email regarding. We welcome applications from any parent or carer who has the time and commitment to support the future strategic direction of the school.

Lost Clothes and Belongings

We have noticed an increase in children's clothes and other belongings (water bottles etc) coming into school without having been named. With over 320 children in our school, this can make it almost impossible to return misplaced items to their original owner. This tends to result in frustration for parents, and also for staff who can spend significant amounts of time trying to locate the owner of these items.

If items have been clearly labelled they will always (unless inadvertently taken home by another child) find their way back to the original owner.

As such, please can we ask that **only labelled clothes and belongings** come into school. Any unlabelled school uniform that is misplaced, will be donated to the PTA uniform stock, while any other items such as jackets, hats, gloves etc will be donated to charity.

There are a wide range of options available for families to label belongings:

- personalised stick-on labels: quick, easy and available from a wide range of online providers
- personalised stamps: use indelible ink and incredibly quick and easy (e.g Stamptastic)
- sew-in labels: the "old school" option for clothing and once attached, almost impossible to remove!
- A fine-line 'Sharpie' or other similar indelible pen: quick, easy and cheap. Just needs to be periodically checked to make sure that it hasn't become faded.

Try not to rely writing on with an ordinary ink pen as these fade incredibly quickly and are likely to become illegible in no time at all.

Thank you for your help.

Friends of Southridge: Pre-loved uniform

The first week after half-term, we have organised two Pre-loved Uniform Drop-in sessions.

Come to the school bungalow (access along the path around the carpark, next to the school office entrance) to restock your children's wardrobes with all their school uniform essentials.

All items are free, clean and in good condition. There are a range of sizes and items available.

Thursday 6th November: 3.20-3.45pm

Friday 7th November: 8.30-9am

REMINDER: Please ensure you **rename** any items you take, otherwise they may be returned to the original owner when lost!

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.northyateside.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 NAXS 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.



HALLOWEEN

PUMPKINS ON THE RAMBLE

31st October 4-6pm

Bring your pumpkins

Treats for the kids

Scary costumes welcome!



North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum cc



North Tyneside
Council



Early Years & Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Workshop

When? 24 November 2025 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Where? Howdon Family Hub

Do you have a child(ren) 0-5 years with additional needs and/or disabilities?

- *Does my child have additional needs?*
- *What can I do and where can I go for support?*
- *What support can I expect my child to receive?*
- *What if my child needs a lot more help?*
- *Who will support my child's transition into Early Years childcare providers, nursery, or Reception?*
- *How can I access the 2-year-old offer if my child has additional needs?*

Come along and find out the answer to these questions! Also, the opportunity to ask your own questions and chat with other parents in a similar situation.

To book your place please use the QR code:



Future events:

5 March 2026 9.30am-11.30am Riverside Family Hub

13 May 2026 9.30am-11.30am Riverside Family Hub

SEND Coffee Sessions

For parents/carers of children 0-5 years old.

Come along to discover how the Early Years Partnership and the Early Years Inclusion Service can support you and your child.

- Learn how we can help children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- Gain advice on supporting your child at home
- Meet other parents and carers
- Ask questions and chat with experienced staff who work closely with children with SEND.

Join Us to Learn
More About
**The
Early Years
Partnership**

Monday 10th November 18:00–19:30 at the Riverside Family Hub

Wednesday 12th November 13:00–14:30 at Hadrian Park Primary School

Thursday 13th November at 15:30–17:00 at St Bartholomew's Primary School

Friday 14th November at 9:30–11:30 at Appletree Garden's First School

Sessions will be running termly

OFFER FOR YOUR SCHOOL

WATCH **EAGLES** BASKETBALL

VS **BRISTOL FLYERS**



FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 7:30PM

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Side view upgrade option of £400 per seat. Offer and tickets are
subject to availability. See the box office for more details.

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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