



Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter February 2026



"Proud to Make a Positive Impact"

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Magical Mischief

What a way to finish our half term! The children (and staff) have had bundles of fun today breaking school rules with abandon, while replenishing the coffers of our PTA. We've had multi-coloured mohicans, tattoos, zany socks & tops, playtime snacks that would make Willy Wonka blush, and much much more. Thank you to everyone for getting into the spirit of this fun day and for your support of our Friends of Southridge.

Exciting Lunchtime Play

We've published a special *Lunchtime Adventures* newsletter this week (sent with this Whole School Newsletter), sharing exciting updates about the new outdoor play opportunities being introduced across the school. It explains what activities our children themselves have helped design, how we support safe, active play, and how families can get involved through our new "Wish List." Please take a moment to read it – it gives a great overview of how we're enriching children's lunchtime experiences and helping them thrive outdoors.

The children are very excited to see how it will all look after the half term break.

Help with Online Safety

[How to “Layer-up” your children's online safety with Internet Matters](#)

To support families in keeping children safe online, we're sharing this helpful short video from **Internet Matters**, which explains their simple “*Layer Up*” approach to online safety. The idea is to build protection in three layers – **network controls**, **device controls**, and **app or platform controls** – so children have consistent safeguards wherever they go online. Using these layers together, alongside regular conversations at home, helps create a safer and more positive digital experience for your child.

Thank You for Joining Our Year 1–4 Book Looks!

A huge thank you to all the adults who joined us for the Year 1-4 Book Looks last week. There was a wonderful buzz of excitement in the hall, and it was fantastic to see so many families engaging with the children's learning. The children were absolutely thrilled to share their work with you, and your support made the event feel truly special. Thank you for helping make it such a positive and memorable experience for everyone.

Amazing Waste Warriors!

Our wonderful, enthusiastic year 3 Waste Warriors have certainly been Proud to Make a Positive Impact this half term. Their excellent work with Georgie from Eat Smart has seen our food waste being slashed through initiatives such as:

- Sharing any left over fruit snack from key stage one and early years with the older children during afternoon play.
- Encouraging children to ‘Try something New’ at lunchtime, especially from the daily salad bar.
- Encouraging those with smaller appetites to ask for smaller portions at the kitchen hatch when collecting their meals.
- Offering second helpings at the end of service for those with bigger appetites.
- Raising food waste in everyone's consciousness through an amazing poster campaign (thank you to all the children who created a poster and a big well done to our 6 winners!)

We could not have done it without the enthusiasm and dedication of our Waste Warriors!



Our proud year 3 Waste Warriors

Parent Governor Vacancy

Don't Forget to Vote

This is a reminder that voting is now open for the **Parent Governor election** at Southridge First School.

A **ballot box** is located in the school office, and all parents or carers with a child attending the school are entitled to **one vote each**, regardless of how many children they have enrolled.

 **Voting closes at 4:00pm on Monday 2nd March.**

Please make sure your ballot is submitted before this time.

Thank you for taking the time to support the governance of our school.

Friends of Southridge

Friends of Southridge: Supporting Our School Community

We are delighted to share that the Friends of Southridge, our fabulous PTA, will be fundraising this year to create **two brand-new outdoor stage areas** for our children to enjoy during playtimes and outdoor learning. One stage will be built on the **playground**, and the other on the **school field**, providing even more opportunities for performance, role play, collaboration, and imaginative play across the school day.

These new spaces will support creativity, confidence-building, and lots of child-led play, and we are incredibly grateful to the PTA for their commitment to enhancing our outdoor provision. More information about upcoming fundraising events will follow soon – thank you in advance for your support!



Southridge First School
Tread to Make a Positive Impact

Positive Impact Update

Newsletter No. 2 February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you with your continued support in helping the children to make a positive impact in their communities. We're really gathering steam now and lots of children are heading towards having a passport full of stickers. Once they have collected all 6 available stickers, they will be able to choose one of our very special 'Positive Impact Prizes'!

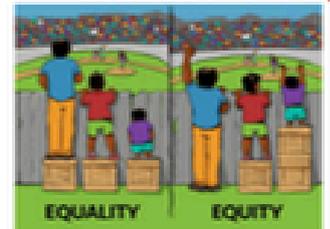
Remember, a Positive Impact can be made for yourself, your school, your local community or the wider world. It can be something small you do over and over, or a bigger gesture you do just once.

We celebrate our Positive Impact actions each Friday in assembly and it is wonderful to see the wide variety of activities our young people are undertaking in order to have a positive impact on themselves or on those around them.

Ambassador for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Hilary

Hilary is our ambassador for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). She is part of our Southridge family because she came here herself when she was younger, and her nephew is a pupil at Southridge just now.

Hilary works in DEI in South Africa, and travelled all that way to share her ideas about inclusion with us in a special assembly last summer. Hilary helped us to understand the difference between equality and equity, and challenged us to think about how we can make sure everyone feels included here at Southridge.



Some examples of things that the children have been doing to earn their 'Inclusion' Positive Impact Award are:
- creating 'kindness cards' to share with anyone feeling left out, writing letters to the council to raise awareness of a lack of play facilities for disabled children and request that more is made available and doing a reverse advent calendar for a local food bank.

An important part of our 'Positive Impact' approach is that the children are able to reflect on the wonderful things they have done and recognise the significance of the impact they have had.

We do ask that in order to achieve their Positive Impact sticker awards, the children produce some evidence themselves, rather than parents emailing evidence and photographs directly to Mrs Statham or the class teachers.

Many children are choosing to keep a scrapbook, so that all of their achievements can be read about in one place and reflected on over time. Some children are choosing to celebrate each achievement individually, through pictures, stories or letters. Please enjoy the lovely examples shown below.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Positive wishes,

Mrs Statham





Upcoming Dates & Notices

February

- **Mon 23** – First day of Spring 2 half term

March

- **Fri 6** Reception trip to Whitehouse Farm
- **Mon 9** Year 4 Dance Festival performance at Whitley Bay Playhouse
- **Wed 18** Year 2 trip to Discovery Museum
- **Thurs 19** Easter PTA Disco
- **Mon 23 to Fri 27** - Year 4 High Borrans Residential
- **Fri 27** Year 3 trip to Winter Gardens
- **Fri 27** Year 4 (Mr O'Hara's class) Skipping Competition
- **Mon 30** Reception Easter Assembly (2:30pm)
- **Tue 31** Year 3 Easter Assembly (2:30pm)

April

- **Wed 1** Year 2 Easter Assembly (9:15am)
- **Wed 1** Year 4 Easter Assembly (2:30pm)
- **Thu 2** Year 1 Easter Assembly (9:15am)
- **Thu 2** Last day of Spring term
- **Mon 20** First day of Summer term

May

- **Fri 1** Year 4 (Miss McIntyre's class) Trail & Challenge @ Riverside
- **Fri 8** Reception trip to Stephenson's Railway Museum
- **Mon 11** Class Photos
- **Thurs 21** Last day of Summer 1 half term
- **Fri 22** Teacher Training Day

June

- **Mon 1** First day of Summer 2 half term
- **Thurs 4** Year 3 trip to Glendale Countryside Day
- **Mon 15** Sports Day Year 2-4 (2-3pm)
- **Tues 16** Sports Day Nursery, Reception & Year 1 (2-3pm)
- **Tues 30** Year 4 Middle School Transition Day #1

July

- **Weds 1** Year 4 Middle School Transition Day #2
- **Weds 1** Move-up Day (Reception - Year 3)
- **Thurs 2** Year 1 trip to Glasshouse
- **Fri 3** Summer Fair
- **Thurs 9** Year 4 Leavers' Assembly (2-3pm)
- **Mon 13 - Fri 17** Year 4 Activities Week
- **Fri 17** Last day of summer term

September

- **Mon 1** Teacher Training Day
- **Tues 2** First day of Autumn 1

Young Carers Action Day

CARERS TRUST

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Help us give young carers a fair future.

Young carers are people under 18 who help look after someone - often a family member - who cannot cope without their help. Does this sound like you? Young carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders. They need more support.

We want to ensure every young carer has the same chance to learn, grow and thrive as their friends who are not carers.



Find out how you can get involved in Young Carers Action Day:
carers.org/ycad
[#YoungCarersActionDay](https://twitter.com/YoungCarersActionDay)





YOUNG CARERS ACTION DAY 2026

Wednesday 11th March 2026

Howdon Community Hub
Denbigh Avenue, NE28 0PP
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

We are hosting a network drop-in event to celebrate and raise awareness of Young Carers Action Day 2026.

The event will bring together organisations from across the borough who provide a wide range of local youth services, offering an opportunity to connect, share information, and support young carers.

You do not need to book in advance – just turn up on the day.

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.northyneside.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