



Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter



May 15th 2026

Summer term is well underway

What a busy few weeks we have had here at Southridge. From a fabulous sunny Fun Run, to a super STEM week with trips and sports festivals thrown in for good measure. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to the recent questionnaire - it was lovely to hear how much the staff are appreciated.

STEM Week

What a time the children had during STEM Week. Mrs Gendler-Watson and Mrs Pringle did an amazing job coordinating a whole range of amazing activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We were thrilled to welcome so many fabulous volunteers into school to share their expertise and passion in everything from baking to using AI, and tessellating 'The Spectre' to using a flight simulator to land an aeroplane. There was something for everyone and we couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to Ivo & Philippa's dad, Bobby and Cleo's mum, Charlotte's dad, Edie's mum, Edward's mum and the wonderful volunteers from our local RAF Air Cadets corp.

A Quick Reminder

Please remember that if your child has an upset stomach or vomits, we need them to stay at home for 48 hours after the last occurrence. This helps to prevent any infections spreading.





A Fond Farewell

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Price at the end of this term, following his successful appointment as Deputy Headteacher at a school in Newcastle. Despite his firm allegiance to SAFC, we are confident that his new school will value and appreciate him just as much as we have. We are currently in the process of recruiting his replacement and will keep you fully informed in due course.

A Warm Welcome

We were all thrilled to welcome six beautiful little Sebright bantam chicks into the world in Year One this week. There is something about baby animals that brings out the best in everyone. A big thank you to Kevin and Jill Wharf of Windyside Farm who kindly gave us the eggs to incubate and will be welcoming back the baby bantams at half term to live a free range life of luxury in the Northumberland hills.

Fun in the sun for a Fundraising Fun Run

The children had a wonderful time taking part in our Fun Run where the sun joined us to help everyone dry off after they'd been through Water-Pistol Alley! It was a lovely occasion with endless smiles and lots of laughter. We also managed to raise an amazing £3246! This money will be used to install stages and musical equipment for our outdoor play over the summer break.





Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to all families who took the time to complete our recent parent questionnaire. We had a lot of responses and are incredibly grateful for the thoughtful, honest feedback you shared.

We are delighted that feedback from across the school was overwhelmingly positive. Parents consistently told us that children at Southridge are:

- Happy and safe
- Well cared for by supportive, approachable staff
- Benefiting from a nurturing, inclusive school culture

One of the clearest messages was your strong support for our outdoor learning and play opportunities. Many parents shared how much their children enjoy learning and playing outside, and how this has supported confidence, wellbeing, friendships and engagement with learning.

We were also pleased to hear that families value:

- The school's ethos and sense of community
- Strong relationships between staff and pupils
- The wide range of experiences and opportunities available in school

Alongside the many positives, you also gave helpful suggestions which we will continue to work on. Common themes included:

- Continuing to improve clarity and consistency of communication, particularly around dates and events

continued below...





Questionnaire Feedback Continued

- Providing clear reassurance about children's progress and next steps
- Reviewing clubs, enrichment opportunities and affordability

We appreciate this feedback, which helps us reflect, refine and move forward together.

Your responses show strong confidence in Southridge and its direction. We're proud that families feel their children are thriving here, and we remain committed to listening carefully, celebrating what works well, and improving where we can.

Thank you again for your support and for being such engaged partners in your children's education.

See the outcomes of our Parent and Carer Questionnaire [here](#)

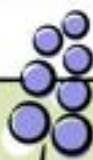
Play Sand Update

Following recent warnings regarding asbestos in certain play sand products, we would like to reassure you that we have taken immediate and precautionary action.

We have carefully checked all school resources against the list of recalled products and can confirm that none are held or used on our site. As an additional precaution, advised by North Tyneside's Health & Safety Team, we have temporarily covered and cordoned off all outdoor sand play areas, including those operated by Kids Planet.

These measures will remain in place until we receive further guidance from the Health & Safety Team confirming that it is safe to resume normal use.

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always our highest priority, and we will continue to keep you informed of any updates.





Upcoming Dates

May:

Sat 16th - Early Years Open Morning (9.30-11.30am)

Weds 20th - Big Maths Day (more details to follow)

Thurs 21st - Last Day of Summer 1

Fri 22nd - Teacher Training Day

June

Mon 1st - First Day of Summer 2

Weds 3rd - Y2 Gibside Trip

Thurs 4th - Y3 Glendale Countryside Day Trip

Thurs 4th - Y4 Bikeability

Fri 5th - Y4 Bikeability #2

Fri 5th - Y2 Skipping Festival

Mon 15th - Y2-4 Sports Afternoon (2pm)

Tues 16th - Nursery-Yr1 Sport Afternoon (2pm)

Weds 17th - Choir & Strings Concert (4.30pm)

Tues 23rd - New to Nursery Meeting (4.30pm)

Mon 29th - New to Reception Meeting (5pm)

Tues 30th - Y4 Middle School Transition Day 1

Tues 30th - "New to Year 1-4" Classroom Drop-in & Meet Your New Teacher (3.30-4.30pm)

July

Weds 1st - Y4 Middle School Transition Day 1

Weds 1st - Nursery-Y3 Transition Day

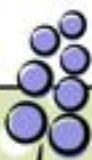
Thurs 2nd - Y1 Glasshouse Trip

Fri 3rd - Summer Fair

Thurs 9th - Y4 Leavers' Assembly

Thurs 9th - Y4 Leavers' Disco (4.30pm)

Fri 10th - Whole School Booknic (2pm)





Upcoming Dates Continued

July cont'd

Tues 14th - End of Year Report Drop-In Opportunity
(3.30 - 4.30pm)

Fri 17th - Last Day of Summer term
(more details to follow)

September

Tues 1st - Teacher Training Day

Weds 2nd - First Day of Autumn term

Tues 15th - Individual Photographs

Spooky Aperiodic Tiling is Coming to a Beach Near You...

For those of you who just can't get enough of cool tessellating shapes, why not join Ivo and Philippa's dad, Christian, for a trip to the beach with a difference on the 6th and 7th of June. Be a part of this huge, fun maths event with a difference! Find out more [here](#)





Outdoor Play Donation Wishlist

Thank you for the wonderful sofas that were donated. They are now part of our snug reading den. The pallets will be used to make a huge bug hotel - if we had some more we could make it a bug skyscraper with a penthouse suite!

Things we currently need:

- any CDs with child appropriate pop songs.
- wooden pallets (x3);
- soft outdoor seating;

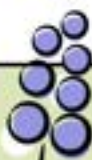
Please remember:

Donations are not expected to be new / unused but should be clean and in safe working order – they also need to be given rather than loaned.

If you have something and you are not sure if it is appropriate, please speak to Mr Willcock or Mrs Statham on the school yard, or email office@southridgefirst.org.uk

PTA Event

Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets to attend tonight's PTA Bingo event at Whitley Bay High School. Fingers crossed that your numbers come up and you get to shout "House!" at the top of your voice.





easeINTO is a programme that has been created as part of the Holiday Activities and Food programme backed by the Department for Education.

Children and young people across North Tyneside can take advantage of a free programme of activities, created to help them be healthy and active during the school holidays. The programme runs in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

Activities are free for children and young people who are eligible for income related free school meals, but all children and young people can attend activities where paid for places are available.

Activities are usually available to book around a month before each holiday period, with all the information available on our website. Just scan the QR code and check the page for further information.



North
Tyneside
Council



Department
for Education

