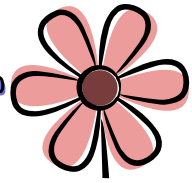




Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter



July 2026

Fun in the Sun

We've had a wonderful and activity-packed few weeks here at Southridge since our last newsletter.

Last week, our Year 3 children visited Valley Gardens Middle School, where they had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a middle school setting and enjoy a fantastic theatre production. We are incredibly grateful to our colleagues over the road for making our children feel so welcome and for putting on such an excellent show.

We are also delighted to share some exciting staffing news. We have recently appointed a new member of our teaching team, and we are pleased to announce that Miss Lauren Wilson will be joining us in September from Darras Hall Primary School. Further information about next year's class teachers can be found later in the newsletter.

This week, children have enjoyed a real 'smorgasbord' of activities as part of our Geography, Sport and Diversity Week (see below for more details). On Monday morning, we were also visited by the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, who led an informative and engaging session. They helped the children understand how to stay safe at the beach and around other bodies of water, and why these safety measures are so important.

With the recent hot and sunny weather set to continue, we kindly remind parents and carers to ensure that children come to school prepared for the conditions. Please apply sun cream before the start of the school day and ensure your child brings a cap or sun hat to wear during outdoor activities.



STOP AND THINK



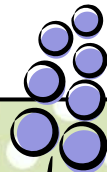
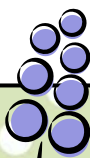
STAY TOGETHER



CALL 999



FLOAT





Geography, Sports and Diversity Week

Last week, the children enthusiastically celebrated the launch of the Men's World Cup with our Geography, Sport and Diversity Week.

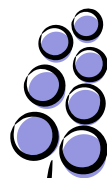
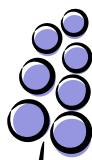
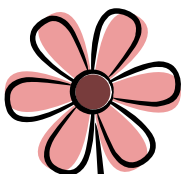
We were fortunate to begin the week with beautiful weather, enjoying sunshine and a light breeze during our Sports Day events. The children gave their all, showing fantastic camaraderie, sportsmanship and a positive mindset as they ran, jumped, bounced and, at times, quite literally threw themselves into the activities. They truly made us proud.

Throughout the week, pupils took part in a wide range of geography activities linked to each year group's chosen country. A particular highlight was the fabulous dances from around the world, led by our specialist dance teacher from Romania, Emilia Stoicescu.

We were also delighted to welcome Ricky from Tempest Martial Arts, who absolutely wowed both children and staff with his powerful and inspiring message about what can be achieved through hard work, resilience and dedication.

The week concluded with a special video message from our Social Ambassador, Hilary, all the way from Cape Town, South Africa. Hilary taught the children how to cheer for the South African football team by shouting, "Bafana, Bafana!" meaning "The Boys, The Boys" – not too dissimilar to our own "H'way the Lads!". Inspired by hearing about our wonderful British Sign Language Club (run by Mrs Smith in Year 3), Hilary was keen to send her message. The children in the club performed our school song, "Southridge's Core Values", while signing the words. Like us, Hilary was immensely proud of their dedication in learning such a valuable and inclusive skill.

We offer a big thank you to Mr O'Hara, Mrs Burton and Miss Parker for bringing subject knowledge and enthusiasm (PE, Geography and PSHE) when organising this lovely week.





Neurodiversity & Anxiety Coffee Morning

A big thank you to Mrs Statham for organising today's coffee morning and to those parents and carers who attended and helped to make it a success. We hope that it has provided useful and reassuring information to those who were able to make it. We will use feedback from attendees to assess whether organising further similar events would prove worthwhile.

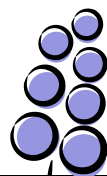
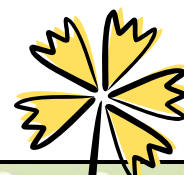
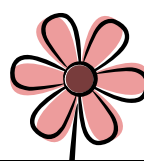
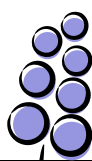
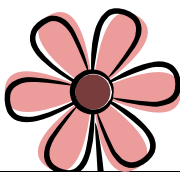
Fantastic Friends of Southridge

Another big thank you, this time to Jess and wonderful army of volunteers who did such an incredible job organising the Fathers' Day Giftshop this week. They really do work so incredibly hard, not only to fundraise for the school, but also to provide lovely experiences for the children. We hope that all you dads out there enjoy getting spoiled on Fathers' Day. Make the most of this special time while your children are young and full of enthusiasm!

After-school Care

Our onsite after-school care offer here at Southridge is provided by Kids Planet Southridge (recently voted in the top 20 offers in the region [see here](#)), but we are aware that they can become fully booked at peak times. As such, the office is collating a list of local childminders who you could also reach out to if the need arises.

So, please contact us if you have need of a childminder and we can pass on their details. Also, if you are a local childminder and would like us to share you contact details, please get in touch.





Classes for 2026/27

We are excited to let you know which teachers your children will have next academic year.

Miss Flitcroft's class will move to Miss Cassidy.

Mrs Gendler-Watson's class will move to Mrs Pringle.

Miss Cassidy's class will move to Miss Wilson.

Mrs Pringle's class will move to Mrs Dunn.

Mr Price's class will move to Mrs Burton.

Mrs Dunn's class will move to Miss Young and Mrs Statham.

Mrs Burton's class will move to Mr O'Hara.

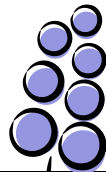
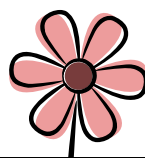
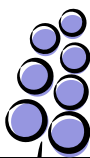
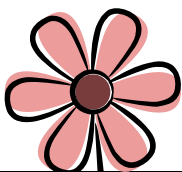
Miss Young and Mrs Statham's class will move to Miss McIntyre.

Please remember to come along to the Meet the Teacher evenings - see calendar dates below (or last Whole School Newsletter for more information).

Road Safety

We have had reports of a man riding a black e-bike along the paths and pavements near the school without consideration for our children and pedestrians. This was reported to Northumbria Police (via their online portal) yesterday afternoon and the school was called by a police officer this afternoon to say that they had had similar reports from Whitley Bay High School and would be putting extra police officers on streets around the schools to hopefully put an end to it.

We would recommend anyone who sees antisocial behaviour like this to report it (www.northumbria.police.uk) as soon as possible, particularly when it poses such a potential risk to our children. I would also like to thank Mr Bell as when he was working on the pedestrian crossing, he approached the young man in question and explained very clearly to him that it was not safe for him to be anywhere near the school when the children are arriving and leaving. Hopefully this message will have sunk in.





Summer Fair Fun

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Summer Fair on Friday 3rd July.

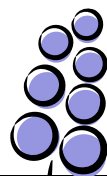
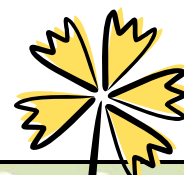
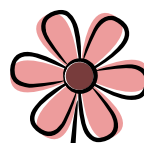
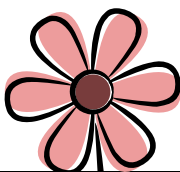
In preparation for the event, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform this Friday (26th June) in exchange for bringing a chocolate donation for our Chocolate Tombola stall. It does not need to be anything large or extravagant—every contribution is greatly appreciated.

Practical Arrangements for the Day (Friday 3rd July)

- Children should be collected at the usual time of 3.20pm, and we kindly ask that all families vacate the site by 3.25pm (preferably via the front of school next to the School Office). **Please ensure you are punctual.**
- Re-entry to the site will begin at 3.30pm, allowing staff a few minutes to prepare for a prompt start.
- Entry to the fair will be via the Nursery gates and the small gate halfway up the side of the playground (next to Earnshaw Way). Please note that entry will not be via the Main School Office or Year 1 area.
- The School Office will close at 3.40pm.

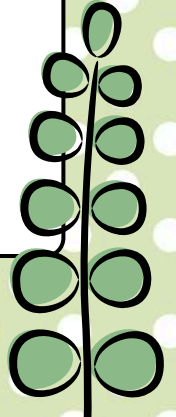
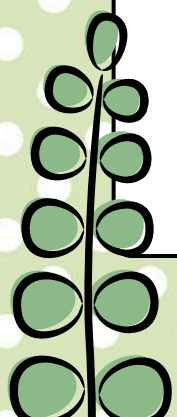
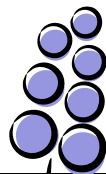
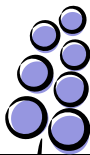
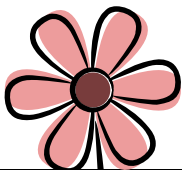
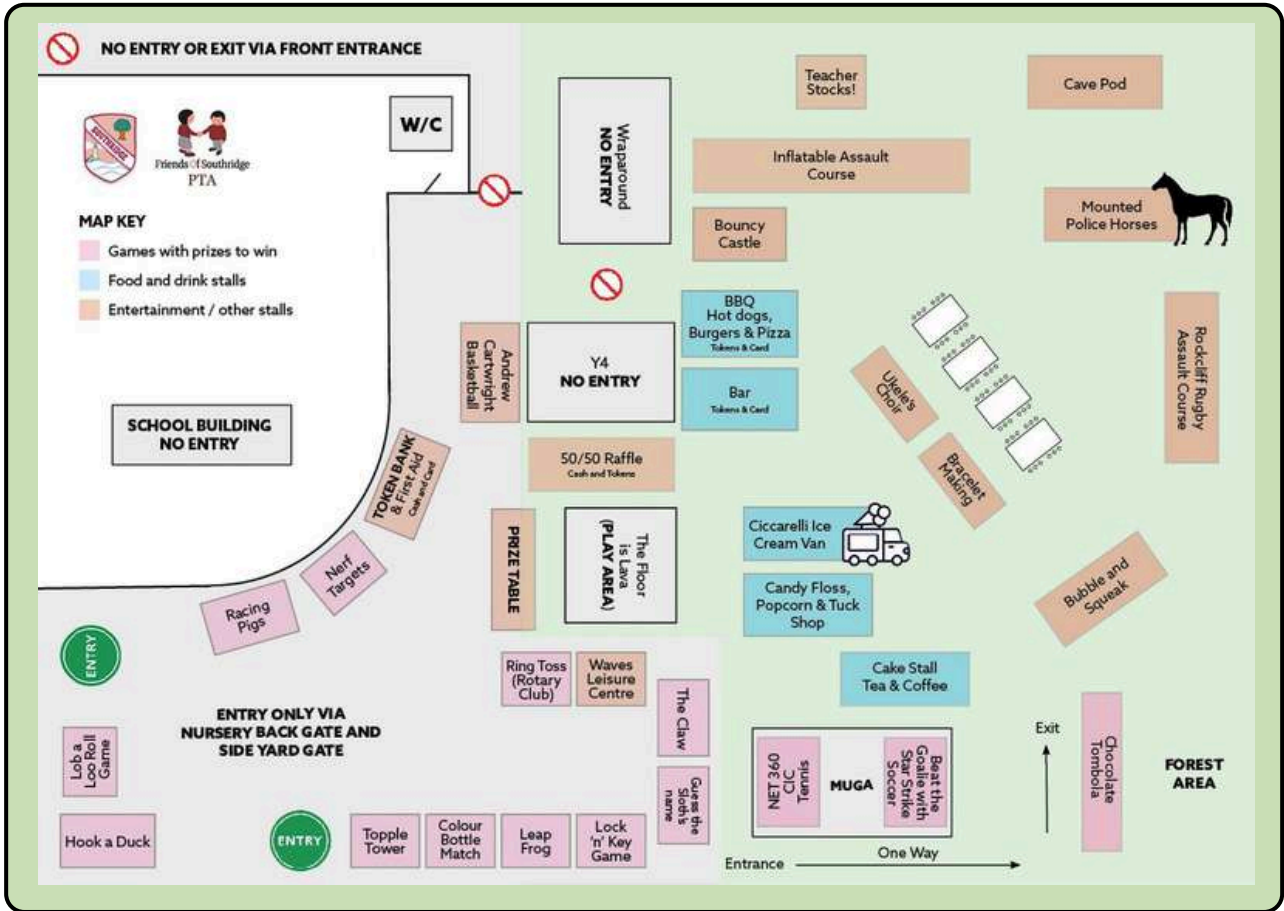
As always, the weather can be unpredictable, so contingency plans have been put in place should conditions be unsuitable for a fully outdoor event. In the event of poor weather we may move to a hybrid with some events remaining outside while others will move into the Year 2 and Year 3 classrooms.

Please refer to the alternative site maps below.



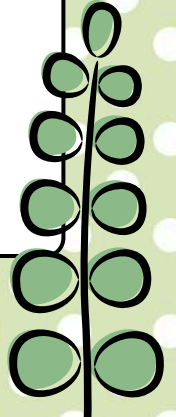
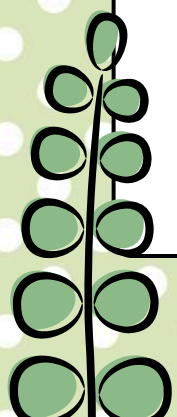
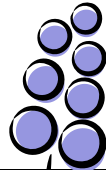
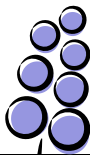
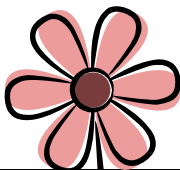
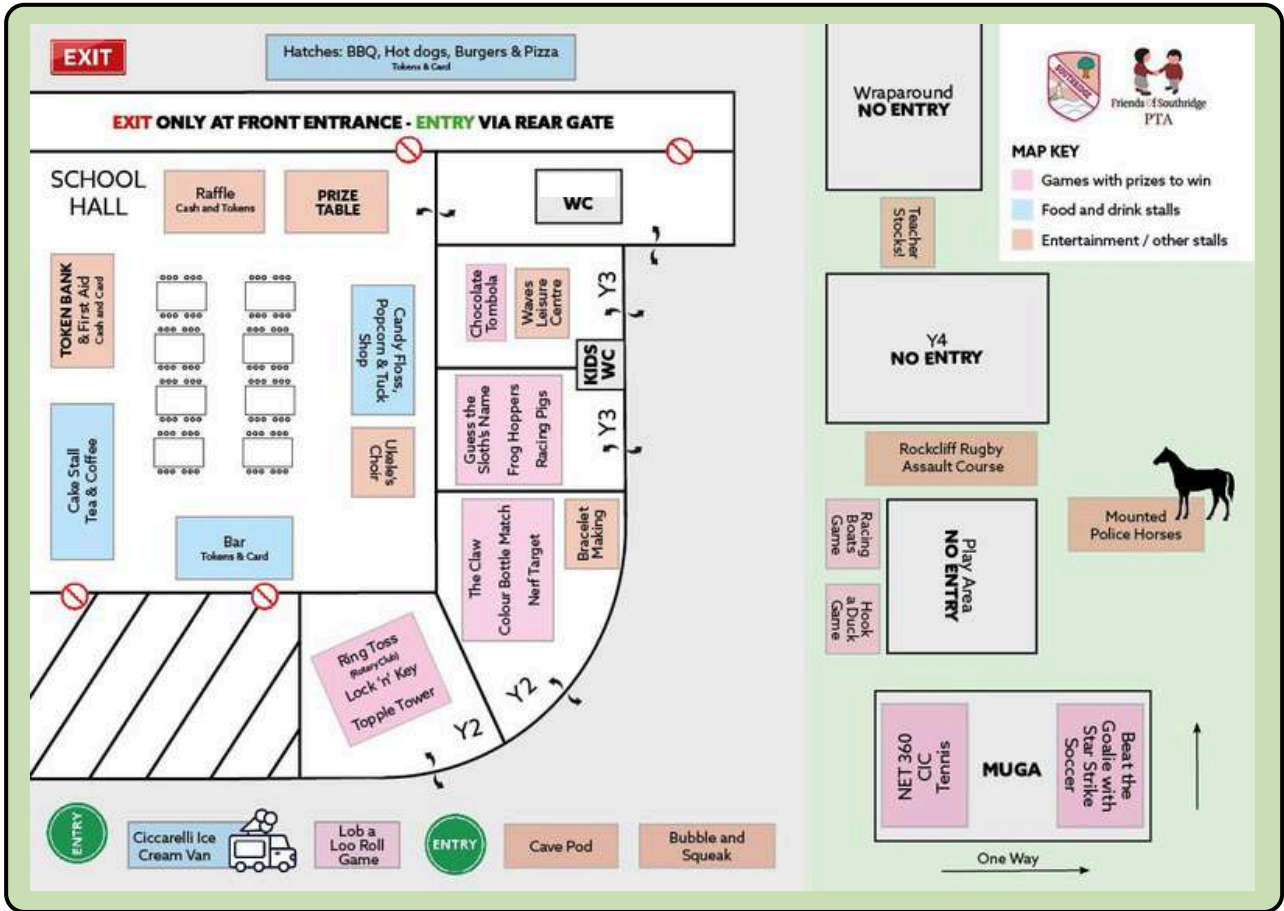


Summer Fair - Plan A - Fair Weather





Summer Fair - Plan B - Poor Weather





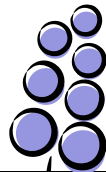
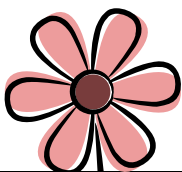
A Musical Celebration to Remember

On Wednesday evening, our choir and children learning to play the violin, viola and cello performed to a packed hall filled with an eager and enthusiastic audience. The event marked the culmination of a year's worth of practice and dedication—and it certainly did not disappoint.

Mrs Critten's violin and viola students, alongside Mrs Bland's cello players, demonstrated just how much their hard work had paid off. Their performances were confident and engaging, with the audience tapping their feet in appreciation as the children played and bowed beautifully. Alongside the musicians, our choir—made up of children from Years 2, 3 and 4—performed a wide selection of songs in rounds, parts and as a whole group. The Year 4 children were particularly impressive, leading several of the songs and demonstrating the maturity and responsibility that will no doubt see them thrive when they move on to middle school in September.

While Mrs Bland will continue to work with the children at Southridge next year—offering her excellent choir club, private cello lessons and enriching the music curriculum (Year 1: singing; Year 2: glockenspiels; Year 3: ukuleles; Year 4: recorder)—we are sad to say that Mrs Critten will be leaving us. Due to the high number of students continuing their violin and viola studies as they progress to middle and high school, she no longer has the capacity to continue teaching at Southridge.

Mrs Bland is currently assisting us in finding a suitably skilled replacement, and we hope to have this in place for September.





Ofsted Inspections - 2026

It is now almost four years since our last Ofsted inspection and, as such, a reinspection is likely in the coming months. As some of you may be aware, the framework used by Ofsted inspectors to evaluate schools was completely redesigned earlier this year. As part of this change, previous overall grades such as "Good" and "Outstanding" are no longer used. Instead, schools are now assessed across eight separate areas, each with its own judgement. The middle grade—"Expected"—is the most commonly awarded.

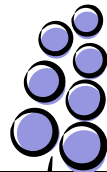
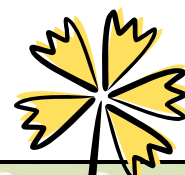
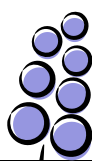
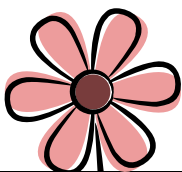
Following recent inspections of first and primary schools under this new framework, it is clear that the standards expected of schools have become significantly more rigorous. Inspectors now place greater emphasis on the depth of pupils' learning, the quality and coherence of the curriculum, the consistency of teaching, and the outcomes achieved by all groups of pupils.

As a result, achieving the "Expected" standard is now a far more demanding benchmark than in previous years. It reflects not simply basic attainment, but secure understanding, strong progress over time, and the ability for children to apply their knowledge confidently across a range of contexts.

In this context, reaching the "Expected" standard should be recognised as a notable and meaningful achievement in its own right. It indicates that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and are developing the knowledge and skills appropriate for their age under increasingly high national expectations.

When we are notified of an upcoming inspection, we will share a Parent View link with you. This allows you to give inspectors your views about Southridge and what we provide for your children. Your feedback forms an important part of the inspection process, and we would strongly encourage as many of you as possible to respond promptly.

We are confident that inspectors will see the care, commitment and professionalism of our staff, and recognise the dedication that goes into ensuring your children receive the very best possible start to their education.





Request from Dame Rachel De Souza

Children's Commissioner "Big Future" Survey

We would like to invite all parents and carers to support an important national initiative led by the Children's Commissioner.

The "Big Future" survey aims to gather the views, experiences and aspirations of children and young people from across the country and we are keen to ensure our students' voices are represented.

This is a valuable opportunity for children to share what matters to them and help shape decisions that affect their future. Their input will contribute directly to national discussions and policy making at government level.

We kindly ask parents to encourage their child to take part using the link below:

👉 Complete the survey here:

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Thank you for helping us ensure that all young people have a voice and are included in this important national conversation.

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.northridgeside.sps.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

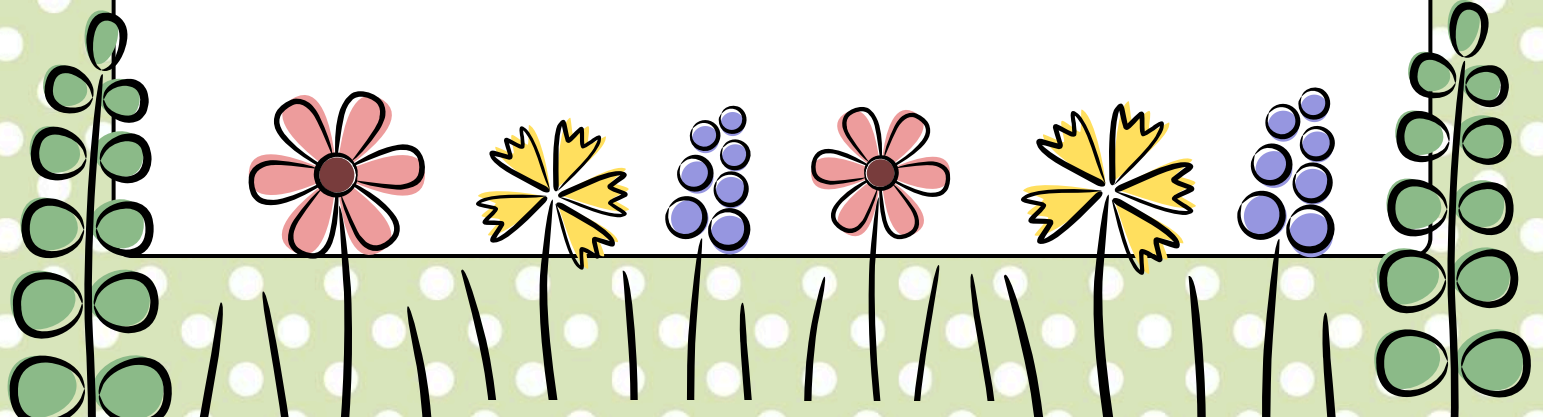
Entitled to apply:
If your child is a free school meal recipient, you will need your 10 numbers to your North Ridgeside register.

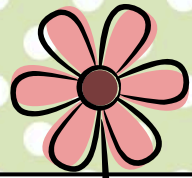
Savings for your family:
You could save over £127 per year for every child that qualifies for free school meals.

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.





Upcoming Dates

June

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

Fri 26th - Non-Uniform Day (Chocolate Tombola donation)

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 In-School Transition Day

Weds 1st - Summer fair token collection 3.30pm (school yard)

Thurs 2nd - Summer fair token collection 9am (school hall)

Fri 3rd - Summer Fair (3.30-5.30pm)

Thurs 9th - Y4 Leavers' Assembly

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

Fri 10th - Whole School Booknic (2pm)

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

Fri 17th - Last Day of Summer term

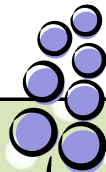
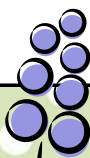
September

Tues 1st - Teacher Training Day

Weds 2nd - First Day of Autumn term

Tues 15th - Individual Photographs

Tues 15th - School Community Beach Clean 3.30-4.30pm





Upcoming Dates Continued

October

Thurs 22nd - Last Day of Autumn 1 half term

Fri 23rd - Teacher Training Day

November

Mon 2nd - Teacher Training Day

Tues 3rd - First Day of Autumn 2 half term

December

Fri 18th - Last Day of Autumn term

January

Mon 4th - Teacher Training Day

Tues 5th - First Day of Spring term

February

Fri 12th - Last Day of Spring 1 half term

Mon 22nd - First Day of Spring 2 half term

March

Thurs 25th Last Day of Spring term

April

Mon 12th - First Day of Summer term

May

Thurs 27th - Last Day of Summer 1 half term

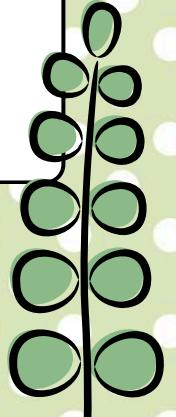
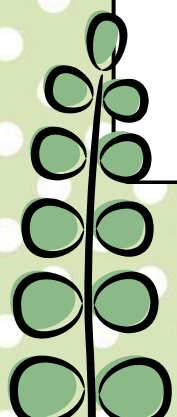
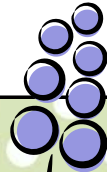
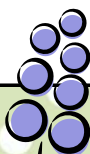
Fri 28th - Teacher Training Day

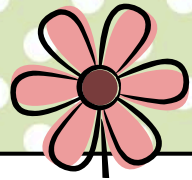
June

Mon 7th - First Day of Summer 2 half term

July

Weds 21st - Last Day of Summer term





Outdoor Play Donation Wishlist

Thank you all again for the donations we have recently received. The Mud Kitchen we have planned for next term now has pots and pans ready to cook with - and we even have some lovely new yard brushes and rakes to clean up afterwards!

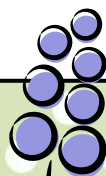
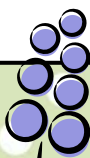
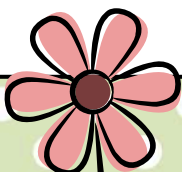
Things we currently need:

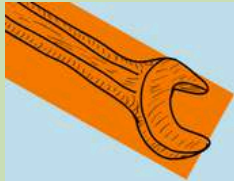
- lego and/or duplo
- plastic bottle crates
- bean bag seats
- old "safe" kitchen utensils (pans, ladles, spoons etc) that could be used in a mud kitchen

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@southeridgefirst.org.uk





ST MARY THE VIRGIN
MONKSEATON
CLAREMONT GARDENS, NE26 3SF

REPAIR CAFE

SATURDAY 18 JULY

10AM TO 2PM



A COMMUNITY FIXING EVENT

BRING YOUR LOVED ITEMS FOR REPAIR

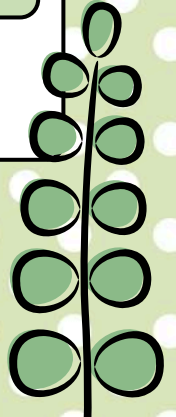
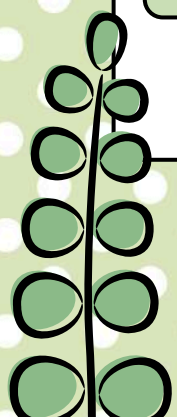
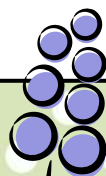
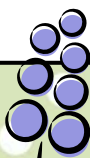
TEXTILES, ELECTRICALS
WOODWORK, BIKES
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS
ENERGY ADVICE
TEA, COFFEE, CAKE

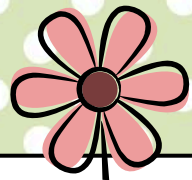


office@stmarysmonkseaton.org.uk



REPAIR CAFE





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.

The screenshot shows the 'Cool Milk' website. At the top is a blue navigation bar with social media icons (Facebook, X, Instagram), menu items (HOME, NEWS, RESOURCES), the 'Cool Milk' logo, and other menu items (PARENTS, SCHOOLS, EARLY YEARS). Below the navigation bar is a large image of a child's hand being held by an adult's hand. Underneath this image are three blue buttons: 'REGISTER YOUR CHILD' with a person icon, 'PAY FOR YOUR CHILD'S MILK' with a stack of coins icon, and 'MANAGE YOUR DETAILS' with a person and gear icon. Below the buttons is a section titled 'Parents' with the heading 'DID YOU KNOW?'. This section contains text stating that milk is free for children under five, for those on free school meals, and subsidised for all other primary school children. To the right of this text is an illustration of a milk bottle, a jug, and a glass. At the bottom of the section is a small footnote: '*In selected schools - please check with your child's school first'.

