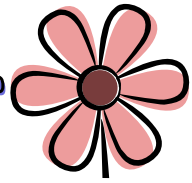




Southridge First School Whole School Newsletter



September 2026

A New Page in the Book

Welcome back to Southridge!

It has been lovely to see all the children coming into school looking so smart and with big smiles on their faces this week - as well as some relieved parents. Everyone has come back with their batteries fully charged and bags of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

A particular well done to our new Reception and Nursery children who have taken their first steps on their Southridge journeys this week - we are very proud of you!

Dropping off and picking up

A reminder that drop off in the morning is between 8.40 - 8.50am.

Collection is at 3.20pm.

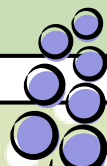
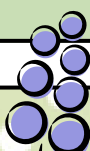
We know that sometimes unexpected incidents come up, but please try and be punctual as it can be unsettling for children if you are late at either end of the day. It also puts significant pressure on Mrs Charlton in the office at what is already a very busy time.

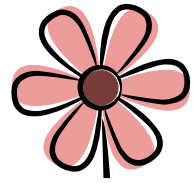
If you have children in Year One, you can come onto the school site via either entrance, but for all other year groups we ask that you use the entrance next to Nursery to come in. This helps us to maintain a one-way flow of people from the main yard, round to the front of school and Year 1. The reason we ask this is to help prevent collisions around the blind corner between Year 1 and Year 4.

Please also help us by reminding your children that we ask them to push bikes and scooters until they have left the school site. It helps to keep everyone safe.

New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Miss Wilson to our teaching team in Year 2 and Mr Winter, Mrs Buck and Mrs Bridges to our support staff team. We are sure that you will help them to feel welcome and part of the Southridge family.





School Communications

We use two different methods of sharing information with families. For short text-style messages we use the School Gateway app as this can be set up to have push notifications which will appear on mobile phones in the same way that a SMS or Whatsapp message might.

Please ensure that you are logged into the Gateway App at all times - our system shows that while 99% of parents/carers have it installed, only 70% are currently logged in and receiving messages.

For longer messages, or where an attachment is needed, we use emails. These will appear in your inbox as being sent by Southridge First School, but come from an online portal, rather than the school office account.

Staff try hard to ensure that all communications say which year groups or classes it is for, as we appreciate it can be confusing if you have more than one child in school.

So, an email with "Reception-Year 2" at the start would only apply to children in those year groups - we hope this helps.

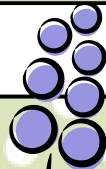
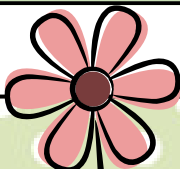
We appreciate that, with so many things happening in school, there can sometimes be a large number of communications being sent out, and that the start of terms can be particularly busy.

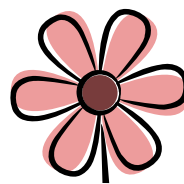
Thank you for your patience and support.

If you are experiencing issues with accessing School Gateway or turning on push notifications, please pop into the school office where Mrs Charlton and Mrs Lee will always try and help.

Beach Clean Invitation

As everyone knows, we really value making a Positive Impact here at Southridge and to this end, we would like to invite you to join us down on the sea front, next to the Rendezvous Cafe at 3.45pm on Tuesday 15th September. We have litter pickers and bags, but feel free to bring your own - along with enthusiasm and a smile!





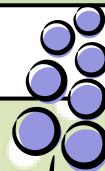
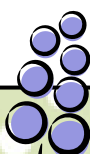
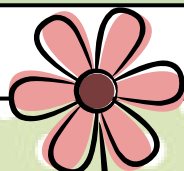
Friends of Southridge PTA - AGM Invitation

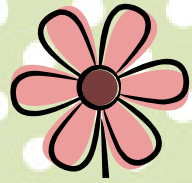
We are incredibly fortunate to have a fantastic Parent-Teacher Association, Friends of Southridge, which organises and runs a wide range of activities throughout the school year. Their hard work raises valuable funds that enable us to provide opportunities and resources for our children that would not otherwise be possible.

These include much-loved events such as our Christmas and Summer Fairs, Pantomime Visits, and Mother's and Father's Day Gift Shops, as well as larger projects including our amazing climbing frame equipment, nature pond, Reception garden, and bespoke computer suite.

To continue running these wonderful events, we rely on the support of volunteers. Whether you can help out on the day of an event or assist with planning and organisation beforehand, every contribution makes a real difference. Without enough volunteers, we simply will not be able to run as many of these enjoyable events, which in turn means less funding available to benefit our children.

If you would like to support our fantastic Friends of Southridge PTA, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch at friendsofsouthridgepta@gmail.com. You are also warmly invited to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 11 September at 2:15pm. Further details can be found in the flyer below. We look forward to welcoming new members and volunteers and working together to support our school community.





Absence and Attendance

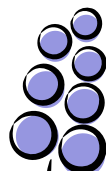
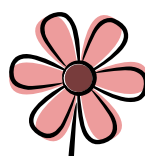
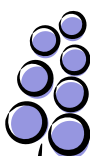
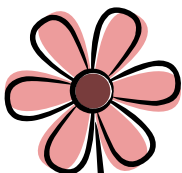
At Southridge, we know that good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. We greatly appreciate parents keeping us informed whenever their child is unable to attend school. If you know in advance that your child will be absent during term time, please complete a Leave of Absence Request Form as early as possible. This allows us to consider requests fairly and ensure our records are accurate.

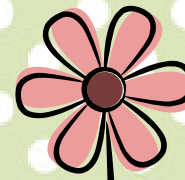
We would also like parents to be aware that the forms, letters and correspondence linked to attendance and leave of absence requests are provided by the Local Authority and follow national guidance. These documents are used across many schools and are therefore generic in nature. They are not bespoke to Southridge and do not reflect a judgment on individual circumstances. The school can only authorise leave of absence in exceptional circumstances, in line with government guidance.

A penalty notice (often referred to as a "fine") is not issued by the school. Where a child's unauthorised absence reaches the threshold of 10 sessions (5 school days) within a rolling 10-school-week period, the school is required to refer the matter to the Local Authority, which then decides whether to issue a penalty notice in accordance with national regulations.

We value our partnership with parents and thank you for your support in helping every child attend school regularly, arrive on time, and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Our Attendance Policy can be found on the school website [<here>](#).





Signposting Parent Carer Event

Thursday 24th September at 9am

The poster features the North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum logo and the NHS North East and North Cumbria logo. The main title is 'SIGNPOSTING PARENT CARER EVENT' in large, bold letters. Below it, a subtitle reads: 'Come along to meet the North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum, find out about SEND services in North Tyneside, meet other parent carers and have a cuppa.' The event is hosted at 'SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL'. The date and time are 'THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER' at '9AM'. A small icon of a cup of tea is shown. A note states: 'Open to any parent or carer who has a child/children who experiences difficulties or struggles in their lives or who has any Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)'. A star icon and the text '**No diagnosis required to join us**' are also present. The bottom of the poster has a row of colorful hands reaching up.

North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum

NHS
North East and North Cumbria

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

SIGNPOSTING PARENT CARER EVENT

Come along to meet the North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum, find out about SEND services in North Tyneside, meet other parent carers and have a cuppa.

HOSTED AT

SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

THURSDAY
24th
SEPTEMBER

9AM

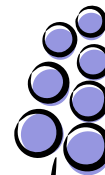
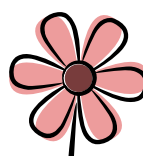
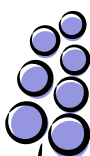
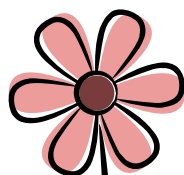
Open to any parent or carer who has a child/children who experiences difficulties or struggles in their lives or who has any Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

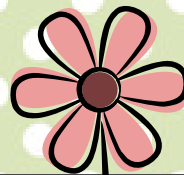
☆ **No diagnosis required to join us**

We are delighted to host a **Signposting Parent Carer Event** delivered in partnership with North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum who work within NHS North East and North Cumbria. The event is open to any parent or carer whose child experiences difficulties or struggles in their lives, or who has Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) – no diagnosis is required to attend.

It will be a friendly opportunity to meet other parent carers, find out more about SEND services and support available locally, and enjoy a cuppa together. This will be the first of a series of four workshops designed to provide practical support around some of the challenges families can face, including co-regulation, sleep difficulties and transition.

We hope the sessions will give families useful ideas, information and opportunities to connect with others who understand their experiences.





FRIENDS OF SOUTHRIDGE **AGM**

Find out more about what we do, the events and activities we organise and how you can help!

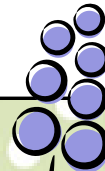
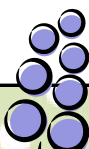
Your support makes all the difference, whether it's an hour here and there, helping to get raffle prizes or running a stall at the fair. We couldn't do it without you!

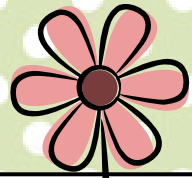
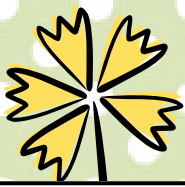
 Please sign in at the school office upon arrival.



 **FRIDAY 11
SEPTEMBER**
School Meeting Room
2.15 pm

 Follow us on Facebook at: 
The Friends of Southridge First School





Upcoming Dates

September

Tues 1st - Teacher Training Day

Weds 2nd - First Day of Autumn term

~~Tues 15th - Individual Photographs~~ MOVED

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

Thurs 17th - Individual Photographs

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

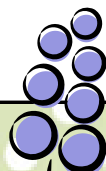
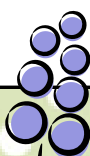
April

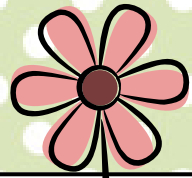
Mon 12th - First Day of Summer term

May

Thurs 27th - Last Day of Summer 1 half term

Fri 28th - Teacher Training Day





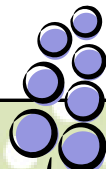
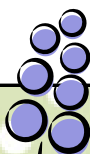
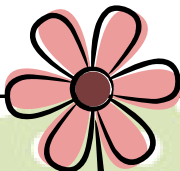
Upcoming Dates Continued

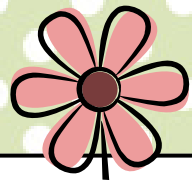
June

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.

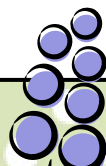
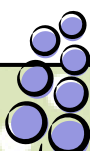
Things we currently need:

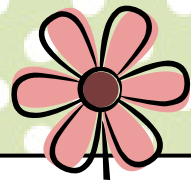
- dressing up clothes (these don't have to be specific costumes, but could be old hats, or pieces of material to make cloaks etc with)
- lego and/or duplo
- plastic milk/beer bottle crates
- bean bag seats
- old "safe" kitchen utensils (~~pans~~, ladles, spoons etc) that could be used in a mud kitchen

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@southridgefirst.org.uk





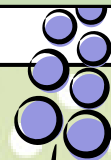
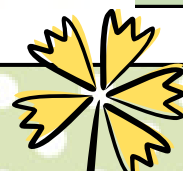
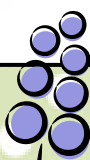
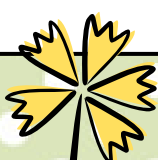
Free School Meals Applications

Due to a high volume of Free School Meals applications, the North Tyneside Student Support Service is currently experiencing significant processing delays. Many recent applications have been unnecessary, as the team already holds sufficient information to assess eligibility without a new application being submitted. To help reduce delays and ensure that applications requiring further information can be processed more quickly, parents are asked to contact the Student Support Service at student.support@northtyneside.gov.uk before submitting an application. The team can often advise whether an application is needed and, where appropriate, carry out an eligibility check using information already on record. This is particularly important following changes to the Free School Meals eligibility criteria from September.

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. The header is blue with navigation links: f, X, @, HOME, NEWS, RESOURCES (with a dropdown arrow), Cool Milk logo, PARENTS, SCHOOLS, EARLY YEARS, and a search icon. Below the header is a large image of two hands clasped together. Underneath this image are three blue buttons: 'REGISTER YOUR CHILD' with a family icon, 'PAY FOR YOUR CHILD'S MILK' with a stack of coins icon, and 'MANAGE YOUR DETAILS' with a person and gear icon. Below these buttons is a section titled 'Parents' with the heading 'DID YOU KNOW?'. The text states: 'Milk is the ideal mid-morning drink for your child and for many it's absolutely free.' followed by three bullet points: 'FREE for children under the age of five', 'FREE to children receiving or entitled to statutory free school meals*', and 'Subsidised for all other children in primary education'. To the right of this text is an illustration of a milk carton and a glass of milk. At the bottom, a small note says '*In selected schools - please check with your child's school first'.





NORTH TYNESIDE SEND LOCAL OFFER

Information for children and young people
(0 to 25 years) with Special Educational Needs
and/or Disabilities (SEND), and
their families.

Scan the code to
view the North Tyneside
SEND Local Offer



The SEND Local Offer is an online resource
that helps families find support and services
in the local area.

Including information on:

- Education
- Social Care
- Health
- Leisure



Visit www.northtyneside.gov.uk and
search 'North Tyneside SEND Local Offer'
or scan the QR code.



To help develop our Local Offer, we want to ensure that your views and experiences are
used to improve the services we offer. Tell us what you think on the Local Offer home page.



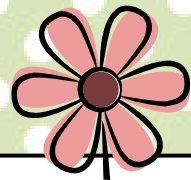
North
Tyneside
Council



North Tyneside SEND Local Offer



local.offer@northtyneside.gov.uk



NEW SCHOOL YEAR, CONFIDENCE STARTS HERE!

Success starts with small steps

Kumon helps children believe in themselves, develop independence and enjoy learning through individualised maths and English programmes.

FREE REGISTRATION

1 September - 15 October

Whitley Bay Study Centre

07974 246255

Whitley Bay Customer First Centre, York Road,
Whitley Bay, NE26 1AB

This centre is Ofsted Registered

Terms and conditions apply. Fees vary. Participating centres only.
Please refer to your local study centre. Subject to availability.

KUMON

MATHS ENGLISH

