



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

February 2022



The Half-Way Mark

It always comes as something of a surprise when we get to this point of the year and are reminded that we are already at the halfway point and start to see just how far the children have already grown and progressed. With songs about spring time echoing around school and the mornings and evenings becoming lighter, (as well as our crocus bulbs emerging into full bloom at the front of school) it feels positive to start the second half of the academic year surrounded by the promise of warmer days and new life.

Attendance

Southridge has an excellent record for pupil attendance and has been in the top three schools in the Local Authority in the years before Covid struck. We recognise the difficulties that the past two years have brought to everyone and the desire to enjoy holidays and time with loved ones - this has been felt keenly by staff in school too. However the other strong feeling that the pandemic underlined for all parents and staff was that school is the best place for children to be during term time, and that when children are well enough to be in school, that is exactly where they should be. As such, we urge you not to take holidays during term time. Some of the impacts that term time holidays can have are: disrupting your child's learning; setting an example to your child that rules do not matter; demoralising school staff who constantly strive to give your child the best educational experience they can; lowering Ofsted's grading of the school if it is considered to be impacting the children's learning and education.

As such, towards the end of this term we will be returning to the system that existed pre-covid whereby if your child's attendance has dropped below 92% you will receive a letter warning you of this and reminding you of the implications that it can have. We will also be awarding celebratory certificates to those children who have particularly high attendance.

We are committed to helping you to have your children in school as much and as often as is possible.

World Book Day

World Book day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 to celebrate books and authors and encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading. To this end we have had author visits this week (both virtual and in person) to further inspire the children and fuel their enthusiasm for reading, writing and illustrating. We have also used Charlie Mackesy's wonderful book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" as a focus to help the children recognise our school's Core Values in others; a theme and resource that we will be revisiting in Arts Week later this month. We were bowled over by the children's potato book characters that they produced - they showed wonderful imagination, skill and resourcefulness.

Staffing

We are delighted to have appointed Mrs Lucy Statham as our new Deputy Headteacher who will be joining us in the summer term. She brings with her considerable teaching experience and knowledge, as well as a desire to see the school continue to move forward.

We will also be welcoming Mr Gavin Foster as our new caretaker. He will join us when Mr Harper leaves later this halfterm.

Children's Achievements

As well as the excellent achievements made by the children in school representing Southridge, we also love to hear about their personal and team achievements outside of school. We have children representing many local sports teams and activity clubs, with some of them performing (acting, dance and music) for audiences and others already representing the region in their favourite sports. We always love to hear about these achievements and have the opportunity to celebrate them with the children in school. If your child has something to celebrate, please encourage them to share this with their class teacher.

Pupil Progress Meetings

Thank you for attending the meetings before and after the half term break. We hope you found them informative and that they gave you a clear insight into the progress being made by your child(ren). If you have questions or queries following the meetings, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher either directly, or via the school office (office@southridgefirst.org.uk).

After School Clubs

Clubs continue this half term for the first five weeks with a range of different activities including lacrosse, yoga, French, cookery, choir, art, multi-skills, cricket and football. We hope that there is something within this offering to appeal to your children. If you have any ideas for other clubs that you would like to see offered, please let us know at office@southridgefirst.org.uk and we can investigate their viability. Last half term Mr Price ran a podcast club that children in Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed. It culminated in the children producing some lovely short podcasts about why they think Southridge First School is so special. Please do visit the school website in the School Office, After School Clubs section and have a listen to some examples.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 8th February, the school focussed on staying safe online. While this is a constant feature of our Computing curriculum, it was still helpful to have it reinforced with the day's focus and allowed the children to reflect on how they use various forms of technology both in school and at home. Through class discussions the following findings came out:

When in school, children know to tell an adult if they come across something on a computer that makes them feel uncomfortable or frightened. As they get older, they also begin to recognise that what they do on computers leaves a digital 'footprint'.

At home, the vast majority of children in Years 1-4 access internet enabled devices at home. These devices are commonly tablets, computers and games consoles. When playing on these devices children are mainly playing games with someone in their family. While playing games online, children explained that they communicate with friends from school or other friends that they know. With specific games such as Roblox some children highlighted that they were able to talk to and communicate with people they didn't know. Encouragingly, children explained if somebody who they didn't know spoke to them, they would speak to a grown up and let them know this had happened. In terms of popularity, Roblox, YouTube, Minecraft and Mario Kart were the most frequently played games or websites visited.

Claire Graham, a Local Authority School Advisor, will be holding an Online Safety Session for parents **here in school** on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 9am, to which all parents and carers are invited.

Attendance -Spring Term

Attendance Cup Winners



Week 1: Mrs Pringle's
& Mr Price's Classes

Week 2: Mrs Pringle's
& Mr Price's Classes

Week 3: Miss Smith's Class

Week 4: Mrs McIntosh's Class

Week 5: Miss Flitcroft's Class

Week 6: Miss Smith's Class

Week 7: Mrs Pringle's Class

Attendance Stars



Week 1: Year 2

Week 2: Year 3

Week 3: Year 1

Week 4: Year 4

Week 5: Year 1

Week 6: Year 1

Week 7: Year 1

Special Education Needs and Disability Co-ordination

As Miss Koratzitis has now left Southridge, Miss Cassidy has taken over the SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-Ordinator) role until Mrs Statham joins us in the summer term. If your child is on the school's Special Needs register and you have a concern or enquiry regarding this, please contact either your child's class teacher or Miss Cassidy (Catherine.Cassidy@ntl.org.uk).

Disco

We are pleased to let you know that we have booked Starlight Party disco to come into Southridge on Thursday 31st March.

4.30-5.30pm: Key Stage 1

5.45-6.45pm: Key Stage 2

Entry is £3 (Exact money for the door is very helpful and speeds up getting everyone in)

Tuck shop - please do not send more than £1

Harbour - Safeguarding resource for domestic violence in North Tyneside

As both local and national levels of domestic violence have risen in recent years, we have been asked by North Tyneside Council to share the important skilled support that Harbour offer to victims. Please visit <https://www.myharbour.org.uk/about-us/our-services> for more information.

Diary Dates – Spring Term 2022

please see the updated Teacher Training dates and Bank Holiday highlighted at the bottom of the page

MARCH	
3 rd	World Book Day
18 th	Comic Relief Day
21 st	KS2 Book Look – a chance to come in and share a look at your child's books with them. 9.10-9.40am – Y4 SMC 9.50-10.20am – Y4 AH 2-2.30pm – Y3 SOH 2.40-3.10pm – Y3 IP
22 nd	KS1 Book Look – a chance to come in and share a look at your child's books with them. 9.10-9.40am – Y1 CC 9.50-10.20am – Y1 KP 2-2.30pm – Y2 LS 2.40-3.10pm – Y2 NMC
23 rd	AM – PTA Mother's Day Gift Shop (tbc)
24 th	PM – PTA Mother's Day Gift Shop (tbc)
25 th	9.10am – Reception Classes' Spring Assembly
WB 28 th	Last week of afterschool clubs
29 th	Easter Assembly – Year 1 9.10-9.35am Year 2 2.45-3.10am
30 th	Easter Assembly – Year 3 9.10-9.40am Year 4 2.40-3.10am
APRIL	
4 th -6 th	Year 4 Mrs McIntosh's Class at High Borran
6 th -8 th	Year 4 – Mr Harrington's Class at High Borran
8 th	Last day of Spring term
9 th -24 th	Easter Holidays
25 th	Teacher Training Day
26 th	Children return to school

SUMMER TERM

Return to school for the summer term:

TTD – Monday 25th April Children return – Tuesday 26th April

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

5th MAY – ELECTION DAY (SCHOOL OPEN); 27th MAY – TEACHER TRAINING DAY;

6th JUNE – Additional Jubilee Bank Holiday;

21st JULY - TTD

Covid Update

Following the recent government announcement to remove the remaining legal restrictions for COVID-19 as we learn to live with the virus, please find some further information about what these changes mean for your child in school.

Please be assured that school continues to implement good infection, prevention, and control measures to provide protection against infection and associated education disruption.

Routine Testing

Children in our school are not required to undertake asymptomatic LFD testing.

Symptomatic children

While the legal requirement to self-isolate has been removed if your child has any of the main COVID symptoms or a positive test result they should not attend school. The public health advice remains unchanged which is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a PCR test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. Children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Close contacts

Contacts of positive COVID-19 cases are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests and contact tracing has ended. If your child is a close contact of a confirmed COVID case, they should attend school as usual.

For more detailed information please see What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Many thanks for your continued support and adherence to the public health advice which helps to reduce the disruption to all our children and young people's education.

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.northtyneside.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.