



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

November 2021



Something to look forward to in the Spring...!

On Thursday 11th November all the children in school came, in their class groups, to the front of school where they each helped to plant 2000 crocus bulbs (kindly purchased by the PTA) which will hopefully form a lovely herald of spring for anyone walking past school or coming across the zebra crossing once winter begins to loosen its grip.

In conjunction with discussions around Remembrance and COP26, we discussed how one small crocus on its own (rather like one small voice) could easily be overlooked or lost, but by all working together towards a common goal we will hopefully produce something unmissable. Everyone planted their bulbs carefully to follow the design that the School Council had produced and one small voice wondered whether it would really look like that when the flowers finally come out. A friend was quick to point out that you do not always know if your ideas will be successful or not, but that it shouldn't stop you from trying - wise words for one so young. The design, when it finally shows itself, should have a large heart, with five stars surrounding it. The heart shows that the children at Southridge care for each other, the planet and themselves, while the five stars represent our Core Values of **Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Responsibility and Friendship**. Hopefully they will show themselves for many years to come.



Review of Education at Southridge

As you may be aware, in September the government announced that schools with a current 'Outstanding' judgement would no longer be exempt from Ofsted inspections and that they would aim to prioritise visiting those schools who had waited longest since their last inspection. As Southridge was last inspected by Ofsted in 2007, we can expect to be a priority for a visit. Since our last inspection, Southridge has implemented a rigorous system of school improvement through both the Local Authority and private sector. This has helped us to ensure that we have not stood still and that we have constantly aimed to improve the educational provision and experience for all of our children. During a recently commissioned review of our Quality of Education by an educational consultant and former HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools) the feedback highlighted our ambitious curriculum, the rapid pace of learning and high achievement relative to the age and ability of our children.

While our school's governing body, senior leadership team and staff recognise that the school has continually challenged ourselves, moved forward and striven for excellence, we are aware that the criteria by which Ofsted grades schools have changed considerably since our previous inspection. Since the routine inspection of 'Outstanding' schools recommenced last half term, nationally almost 75% of those schools have seen their judgement lowered and only one primary school has retained their outstanding judgement

(www.schoolsweek.co.uk). As such, we are realistic that while we expect any inspection team to see the strength of our children, staff and school community, that the margins separating 'Outstanding' and 'Good' are extremely fine. We can assure you that we will always strive to ensure your children have the best possible start in education and are given a school experience that allows them to be the very best that they can be.

Our Amazing Athletes

Before the half term break we were able to send four teams of runners from Year 3 and Year 4 to a Cross Country Race event for schools across the North East's Local Authorities. Each team of six raced against approximately 150 other children from private and state schools across the region.

The children did amazingly well with individuals recording top ten finishes in all four categories. A special mention must go to Noah and Ada Penfold who both won their respective races for Year 4 boys and Year 3 girls, and also for the Year 3 girls team who finished in first place overall for their category. Considering the strength and depth of the competition these represent amazing accomplishments. We hope you join us in extending our congratulations to all of the boys and girls who did such a wonderful job in representing Southridge.



This year, we held an Odd Socks Day on **Monday 15th November** to raise awareness of Anti-Bullying Week. There was no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes - all the children needed to do to take part was to wear odd socks.

Why Odd Socks?

It was an opportunity for the children to express themselves and celebrate what makes them unique. It helped to raise awareness and much needed funds for the Antibullying Alliance. Our Odd Socks Day was organised by the Southridge School Council and is closely aligned with our Southridge Core Values and with our PSHE curriculum.

Amazingly, the children raised a whopping £214 to support the Antibullying Alliance - a most worthwhile cause.

Returning to school after half-term

Thank you for supporting a smooth return to school. The children have been excellent at settling back into their routines and all staff are very proud of the progress they are making and the attitudes they are displaying.

We were very gratified by the take-up for parent's evening consultations that took place around half term. Please remember if you have any concerns, queries or worries please contact the class teacher. Our children are clearly thriving and enjoying school. Even though there have understandably been some unavoidable absences due to self-isolation, gastro bugs and heavy colds we appreciate your support in ensuring children are in school to learn at every possibility.

Children in Need Friday 19th November

The children can come to school in fancy dress or wear spots and are asked to bring a small donation towards Children in Need.



Ink Cartridges

As we try to do our bit for the environment, especially in light of COP26, we are collecting empty inkjet printer cartridges to be recycled. Hopefully, this will play a small part in helping to reduce landfill waste, while also raising a little money for charity. To see a list of wanted cartridges please use the QR code below.



Attendance -Autumn Term

Attendance Cup Winners



Attendance Stars



Week 5: Miss Cassidy's & Mrs Pringle's Classes
Week 6: Mrs Pringle's & Mrs McIntyre's Classes
Week 7: Mr Price's Class
Week 8: Miss Cassidy's & Mrs Pringle's Classes
Week 9: Mrs McIntosh

Week 5: Year 1
Week 6: Year 4
Week 7: Year 3
Week 8: Year 1
Week 9: Year 3

Parent Governor Elections

Our Parent Governor elections have now finished and we are pleased to announce that Laura Davies received the greatest number of votes and is looking forward to joining our governing body at the next Full General Meeting in the Spring. We would like to offer our thanks to Claire Ritson, Philippa McIver and Rob Clark for entering the election and putting themselves forward to support the school as parent governors and ensuring it was a rigorous and competitive process. It is very reassuring to know that the school has such a skilled and supportive parent body.

Curriculum Information

Building a spirit of enquiry Our Geography and History curriculum are based around an **Enquiry** approach where the children are encouraged to pose questions about their learning and then use, adapt and develop their skills as they work together to find the answers. This aims to develop a deep and rich understanding of the curriculum knowledge and skills that build throughout their time here at Southridge and provide an excellent foundation as they move up to Middle School. This curriculum learning begins in an integrated form in the Early Years and while the children in Reception were enjoying their Autumn ramble before half term they were taking first steps along a journey in Geography which will take them, before they leave Southridge, to all the different continents of the world, as well as a greater understanding of their local area.

Year 1 were kindly invited to visit St Mary's Church. They impressed their teachers, helpers and hosts with their impeccable behaviour, interesting questions and depth of knowledge. Well done!

Reception impressed everyone with their very grown up sensible walking when they went out to explore Beaumont Park's 'backtrack' on their Autumn Ramble. Then afterwards used the experience to take their first steps in map making.

Staffing Update

Unfortunately, due to personal reasons, Miss Koratzitis will be leaving us in the Spring term. We are currently running a recruitment process to appoint a replacement Deputy Head Teacher.

Friends of Southridge

DISCO - Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Disco booked for December 14th December, but we do have it booked to come into school again in the Spring Term on Thursday 31st March. This will be for Year 1 and 2 at 4.30pm -5.30pm and Year 3 and 4 at 5.45pm - 6.45pm.

As always our PTA are working very hard behind the scenes to ensure the children have some fun and magical Christmas experiences towards the end of this term.



Safeguarding Update from iNEQUE

Don't believe in Evil Santa this Christmas

A viral post is circulating on social media about a child accidentally stumbling across a video called 'Evil Santa' on YouTube Kids. The video allegedly features Santa telling the child to harm themselves and others to get more presents. **This post is a hoax** - we have not been able to find evidence of these videos online.

•Read their Safeguarding Update to find out more [<link to article - click here>](#)

Please remember to check the device's security settings if your child is accessing apps and websites unsupervised at home.

Diary Dates

Discos (Year 1-4):

~~Tuesday 14th December~~ CANCELLED

Children in Need:

Friday 19th November

Christmas Carols and Songs **Year 1-4 please note the later start time when compared with original planned performances**

Year 4 - Thursday 2nd December - 2.30pm (Reserve date Friday 10th - 2.30pm)

Year 3 - Monday 6th December - 2.30pm (Reserve date Monday 13th - 2.30pm)

Year 1 - Tuesday 7th December - 2.30pm (Reserve date Tuesday 14th - 2.30pm)

Year 2 - Wednesday 8th December - 2.30pm (Reserve date Wednesday 15th - 2.30pm)

Early Years #1 (Miss Flitcroft & Morning Nursery): Thursday 9th December 9.30am (Reserve date Thursday 16th - 9.30am)

Early Years #2 (Miss Parker & Afternoon Nursery): Thursday 9th December 2.30pm (Reserve date Thursday 16th - 2.30pm)

Christmas Fayre (children only): Friday 3rd December

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 10th December

Flu Vaccines in school: Friday 10th or 14th December

Christmas Dinner Day: Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Holidays: Saturday 18th-Monday 3rd January

Teacher Training Day: Tuesday 4th January

Children back to school: Wednesday 5th January