



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

April 2021



It is time to say a very special "Thank you" but not quite "Goodbye" to our dear friend and colleague Mr Colin Bell who finishes his role as caretaker here at Southridge today after 26 years of faithful service. In that time he has seen many different members of staff come and go, as well as over 1,000 of our pupils move onto the next stage of their education. He has even some former pupils return many years later with their own new additions to the Southridge pupil roll! In this time he has always held the wellbeing, happiness and safety of the children here as a central tenet of his role. While Mr Harper will be taking over Mr Bell's role as caretaker after today, I am glad that Mr Bell will continue to work for us as a lunchtime supervisor, so he can still get his daily dose of "Good morning Mr Bell!"

We wish him every future happiness and have no doubt that he will find things to fill the extra time he will have at his disposal.



Growing! -

You may well have noticed that the children are growing, but they are not the only things in school. In classes, from Nursery all the way up to Year 3, there has been a flurry of planting and potting. Nursery have taken the brave step of planting "mystery" seeds, so if you see a huge beanstalk growing out of school on Tuesday morning - you will know why! In addition, Year 2 have been making instruments to measure the windy weather, including anemometers and weather vanes.



National Mile-a-day

All our children from Reception through to Year 4 took part in today's National Mile-a-day designed to promote fitness and positive mental health. Some ran, some jogged, some 'enjoyed' a brisk walk, but all completed it and felt all the better for it!



After School Clubs

There has been excellent take-up of our after school clubs with football in Year 2, 3 and 4, multi-skills in Year 1 and yoga in Reception. It has been most gratifying to see this little bit of normality return to school. And while there are additional protocols for the staff delivering the sessions to ensure covid compliance, we recognise the huge benefits it brings to the children. We are also happy to have been able to fund the clubs with some of school's allocation of Sports Premium funding.

Moving through the yard at pick-up and drop off.

Please can we ask that if you have children accompanying you through the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times that you keep them within your eyesight at all times.

We also ask that all of our school age children push their bikes and scooters while in the school grounds.

Our Core Values

There was a small incident on Monkseaton Drive yesterday where a child fell from their scooter near the crossing on their way to school. A member of our staff happened to be passing and was able to support the girl as she recovered. However, there were also two of our former pupils who stopped and gave wonderful help and support. They demonstrated all of our Core Values in the way they selflessly helped and supported their injured school mate. It was lovely to see our 'alumni' carrying those wonderful values as they progress through life. The more people like this there are in the world a better place it will surely be.

Respect

Kindness

Honesty

Responsibility

Friendship

Polling Day

School will be open for all children on Thursday 6th May despite local election polling taking place in the mobile classroom currently used by Playgroup (there will be no Playgroup on this day). The Out of School Club that also runs from the mobile classroom will be going ahead, but in the main school building. Although the Local Authority have advised voters to try and avoid 8-9am and 3-4pm they have to make the polling station available during these times. As such, there will be a short "contra-flow" against our one-way system that voters will be able to use to access the polling station by entering via the main front entrance. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and additional staff will be on duty to try and ensure this runs smoothly. It was decided that this was worth putting in place to avoid any other part of school having to be closed and children missing school as a consequence.

Diary Dates

Monday 12th April: Return to school

Week Beginning 19th April: Clubs begin

Monday 3rd May: Bank Holiday

Thursday 27th May: Children break up for halfterm

Friday 28th May: Teacher Training Day

Monday 7th June: Children return to school

Friday 16th July: End of summer term.

Summer Uniform Reminder - After the holidays we move in to the summer term.

Our school colours are maroon and grey

Blouse/Shirt or polo shirt	White
V-neck Sweater or cardigan	Maroon
Sweatshirt	Maroon
Trousers	Grey
Skirt/pinafore	Grey
Shoes - flat	Black
Socks	Grey or white
Summer Dress -optional	Blue stripe
Shorts	Grey
Hairbands - plain, slim line headbands in dark colours.	

Earrings should not be worn in school

Uniform is available to purchase from Anne Thomas Workwear in Whitley Bay.