



# SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



The excitement of Christmas has been building this week as our parties and Christmas lunches begin. Our staff have thoroughly enjoyed a sense of normality and our younger children have been truly fabulous this week.

Next week celebrations continue -

**Wednesday 16th December - Year 3 Christmas Lunch and Party Day**

**Thursday 17th December - Year 4 Christmas Lunch and Party Day**



Children are asked to bring their own party plate of food (on a named disposable plate)

The children will not share food so please don't send in items / packets for a shared buffet (so that we remain Covid and allergy safe).

On Party Day the children can come to school wearing their party clothes. They will have Christmas activities in their classrooms and at lunchtime they will have their Christmas Lunch in the hall. In the afternoon they will also have party games in the hall and lastly a small party tea before home time.



**Friday 18th December - Christmas Jumper Day - non-uniform**

**Christmas Crafts morning** - our PTA have very kindly funded some Christmas craft resources enabling each class to have a craft morning next week. This is a lovely activity in the final week and we send our thanks on behalf of the children and staff.



**Last day of school will still be Friday December 18th at Southridge** - I am sure that you have seen in the news the education minister stating that schools can finish a day early on December 17th to help with track and trace timescales. As a school, we always plan our teacher training days well in advance and you will be aware that as we have had one at the start of this term and have one planned for January 4th, and 28th May we do not have any other training days that can be rescheduled. I also take into consideration that to only give parents just over a week's notice to try and arrange childcare in the current climate would put great stress and anxiety onto our school community. **Therefore, our school will continue as planned and be open on Friday 18th December. On this day children can come to school in non-uniform and wear their Christmas jumpers.** I hope that you understand the decision and thank you for your continued support during these ever changing and difficult times.

**Key Stage 2 sports activities** - Children in Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed competing in a North Tyneside School Games Pentathlon event, completing the following: a speed bounce, shuttle run, standing long jump, and a standing high jump. Our school results have been forwarded to the School games organisers. Today they have also completed a Virtual Cross - Country event as part of the National Santa Dash. WELL DONE Year 3 and 4!

**After-School Clubs** - Thank you for returning your reply slips. In January Multi-Skills Club (Year 1) and Football Club (Year 2,3,4) will commence after school. Please remember, Mr Bell will open the gate and you must follow the one-way system at pick up time - 4.15pm.

**Active Travel** - we are delighted that so many of our children are walking, cycling or scooting to school. We have ordered some additional bike/scooter sheds that will be delivered in the New Year for outside of Year 3 and Year 2.



On behalf of all the staff and governors, I would like to thank you for the support you have given to us during this very challenging term. The staff have really appreciated your understanding as we have adapted our routines and worked within class bubbles.

It is with great sadness that I write this last newsletter of 2020 and think about saying my final goodbyes next Friday. My Headship at Southridge has been incredibly rewarding, working with a fabulous staff team and such gorgeous children. Our school has gone from strength to strength and it is a very happy place to work and play - for all of us!

Despite the many challenges this unique year has brought, I am exceptionally proud of everyone in our school community - the children, our parents whose support has been continuous in the pandemic, the hard working PTA, the wisdom and generosity of governors giving their time and our amazing staff team who have continued to welcome our children every day with a positive smile and work tirelessly to ensure that everyone continues to feel safe.

I think that next term may bring a few more challenges but I am sure that all of you can look forward to returning to a more normal routine in the summer. Southridge is a very special school and I know that our staff and children will continue to live out our core values so that it remains so.

To our wonderful children - you all hold a very special place in my heart and I will continue to smile with pride as I hear the Southridge news. Keep working hard and enjoy every day.

Mr Willcock will lead our school next term as Acting Headteacher, until a new Headteacher is appointed. He is an experienced Deputy Head, who is also proud of our unique school ethos and will be ably supported by a strong staff team and we can be confident that the school will continue to thrive under his stewardship.

I would like to wish you and your children a very Happy Christmas and let's hope for a more peaceful New Year!

Best wishes

Mrs Hall

#### **CONTACT TRACING -**

**End of term 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> December - YOU MUST CONTACT SCHOOL** by emailing the school email account [office@southridgefirst.org.uk](mailto:office@southridgefirst.org.uk). if your child has a positive Covid test following symptoms that **developed over the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December**.

The email will be checked daily at midday and school would then liaise with Public Health England and the appropriate action taken if required.

You DO NOT need to contact school if symptoms develop from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December as this is over 48hours since your child had contact with the other children in their class bubble.

Reminder - Children return to school on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.