



# SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020



### Thank You -

Firstly, on behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for supporting a positive return to school. The first two weeks have been successful and almost every child has returned to school. Our children have been absolutely fabulous, arriving at school sensibly and they have adjusted and adapted to new routines extremely well. However, they will be tired after school and need some 'down time' having listened carefully and followed the many instructions linked to our new routines.

Also, a huge thanks to staff and parents/carers for establishing and conscientiously following the new routines. We continually review how things are working with feedback from staff and parents/carers. Drop off and collection arrangements are working well and special thanks to Mr Bell who is on gate duty and maintains a steady flow around our one-way system. Please continue to help us by remembering the following as the term progresses:

- Please time your arrival to drop off and collect your child to minimise the amount of time you are on the school site. Staff have the children organised for the two 10 minutes slots so please stick to your allocated time. **Once you have collected your child from their classroom door, please keep moving** and leave promptly via the front gate by the school office. Our staff will also do their best to organise all 30 children and adhere closely to the timings.
- To keep numbers in the yard as low as possible, it is very important that **only one adult enters the schoolyard** to drop off and/or collect your child.
- Picking up other children - we appreciate that parents may need to ask another parent to occasionally collect their child - the classteacher/ school office should be notified in advance and **parents should only collect other children if they are in the same class bubble.**
- Please minimise any non-essential conversations with staff especially close to the classroom doors at drop off and collection because this can cause congestion and delays. Our contact details are on the website so if you have any queries please email and we will always try and help.
- Please **socially distance from staff and other parents.** We have all been eager to catch up with each other following the holidays but must not become complacent about the importance of social distancing.
- Parents must make every effort to **avoid bringing forgotten items to the school office** - e.g. school bags P.E. kit and lunch boxes. Please ensure you are organised to avoid this.
- School bags - should be reading folders and a **SMALL P.E. bag.** We do not have space for bigger rucksacks (particularly in the Year 4 mobile whose staff emphasised this in their 'Meet the Teacher' powerpoint in advance of the school year.)
- Jewellery - a reminder that our school uniform list states **NO jewellery.** Children should not be wearing earrings to school and they can NOT be worn in P.E. lessons. This information was given to parents in July via the 'Meet the Teacher' information on our website.
- **Reading books will be sent home in the next few days** - establishing reading routines at home is an important part of our 'catch-up' plan. When books are returned to school they are placed in a box and **quarantined for 48 hours** before they are put back in to our reading system.
- A few of our children have already developed colds - a usual occurrence at this time of year as children return to school. **If your child has a cold they CAN come in to school.** However if they have any of the following symptoms - high temperature, new and persistent cough, loss of sense of taste or smell, you must keep your child at home and book a [coronavirus test](#). Once booked please notify school of the test date and following the test notify us of the result. If the test is negative they can return to school but if it is positive they will need to self-isolate for 10 days (the rest of the household for 14 days).

We really appreciate your support and cooperation with all of these measures which maximise the safety and well being of the whole school community.

**Welcome Back** - we are delighted to welcome Miss Hepworth back as part of our staff team until Easter. She will be helping to support 'catch up learning'.

**School Photos** - individual school photographs are due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with Tempest Photography. Children will be taken in to the hall in their class bubbles for their photographs and the photographers will be required to wear coverings. Permission is given on your recently completed GDPR form - (please return as soon as possible if you have not already done so)

**Wellbeing** - all the children have been looking at how we keep ourselves happy and healthy in our body and mind following the return to school. They will be sharing their thoughts in class with each other during this half-term.

**Packed Lunches:** please remember '**NO NUTS**' in packed lunches (which includes Nutella chocolate spread) to protect children with allergies.

**Attendance** - School attendance is now compulsory. DfE advice is 'that it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.'

We are monitoring Attendance on a weekly basis in each class and year group - our children are doing very well!

If your child is absent due to illness or displaying symptoms of coronavirus please notify school immediately by leaving a message on the school answerphone 0191 9776665 or email [office@southridgefirst.org.uk](mailto:office@southridgefirst.org.uk)



We appreciate that many families are planning and looking forward to seeing family and friends after the national lockdown. However, please plan these visits for weekends and October half-term to avoid missing days in school, (and remember the new restrictions from 14<sup>th</sup> September of only 6 people for a social gathering).

**After School Clubs** will commence next term in Spring 2021.

However, if you require childcare / wraparound cover before or after school we are running Out of School Club / Wraparound and Breakfast Club. Please see contact details below to book your place.

Breakfast Club / Wraparound with Children's Choice - [childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com](mailto:childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com)

Out of School Club with Maureen and Darren - [Southridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Southridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk)

**Harvest** - we are unable to hold large gatherings in our school hall for Harvest or Christmas performances. Instead this year the children will have a Harvest assembly in their classrooms with their classteachers.

We will however still collect donations for the Whitley Bay Food Bank - they are grateful for our support, this year more than any other.

During the week 28<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October we will leave a box outside of the office for donations of tinned goods. Please drop any donations in the box as you exit the school site.

**Friends of Southridge** - our PTA usually meet regularly to plan events. This term we will be unable to hold some of the events usually planned e.g. school discos, Christmas Fair. However, they are co-ordinating Christmas Cards and the children will be designing their own soon. We are very lucky to have the support of the PTA Committee and on behalf of the staff I would like to thank them for all of their hard work last year.



### Diary dates -

Sept 18<sup>th</sup> - Jeans for Genes Day (children can come to school in non-uniform and make a small donation).

September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Individual School Photos

September 28<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Harvest donations can be dropped in the box at the front of the school office

October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Year 4 Egyptian Day (dress up as an Egyptian).

October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Year 1 Pirate Day (dress up as a pirate).

October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Break up for half-term

November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Return to school