



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

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Final Newsletter 1 – July 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter our final few days of this school year we have looked back to March and reflected on those feelings of uncertainty as school closed and children began 'home learning'. We are very aware of the challenges faced by our children, their families and our staff team. We are very proud of all our children's efforts and thank you for supporting them in schoolwork and most importantly emotionally as they developed new routines at home. We are also very grateful to our staff for their commitment, hard work, flexibility, resilience and desire to help us to do the best for your children; even when managing their own family circumstances during this time. Thank you also to all of our volunteers, helpers and PTA members, who have given up their time to support us throughout the year. Governors have been kept up to date and have provided support throughout the pandemic, so a heartfelt thank you to them too.

This half-term school opened to certain year groups based on government guidance and our school risk assessment. After half-term we were delighted to welcome back Reception, Year 1 and Year 4. This week Year 2 and 3 have returned for two transition days with their new teachers in September. Our children have been fabulous, and we have been so impressed with them.

Goodbye and Good Luck to Year 4: They have been a fantastic year group in their time with us and we have already told the middle school how delightful they are and to expect great things when Southridge children arrive in September! The children have worked incredibly hard and have all developed into kind, sociable and positive individuals with many talents. For the last few years one of our school priorities has been to build resilience in our children - we just didn't realise how much Year 4 would need it when faced with the challenge of ending their first school years and thinking about a move to middle school in a pandemic!

Reports: The children's annual reports have been posted out to home addresses today. We hope you enjoy reading them. We are unable to offer a drop-in session with classteachers this year, however if you wish to contact classteachers you can email them or ring the school office and ask them to ring you before we break up on Friday.

Summer holiday: The government will not be asking schools to open over the summer holidays. However, if you would like to book a place in the Holiday Club run by Children's Choice email Childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com

The Free School Meal voucher scheme: This will continue this term and over the summer holiday. Parents eligible (benefits based free school meals) will be issued with one voucher prior to the summer holiday which will cover the entire six week period.

Returning to school in September:

On Thursday 2nd July, the government announced and published new guidance about the full opening of schools which will apply in the autumn term. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children back in September including our new Nursery and Reception children. We have reviewed all the latest government guidelines to ensure that risk assessments and protective control measures are in place to keep both children and staff as safe as possible. We have updated our risk assessment from this term and the Department of Education have produced a parent's guide for further information on what all schools should be doing [Parent's Guide for the Autumn term](#)

Please note that the government expect all children to return to school from September and we are preparing on that basis. If you feel that your child will need support, please do let us know and we will help you in every way that we can.

The new guidance requires lots of measures to be in place but it has less constraints on numbers and social distancing and



gives schools much more flexibility in each unique school environment.

Organisation of the School Day:

The Government guidance states that schools need to minimise the number of contacts and mixing of children during the school day to minimise potential for contamination from COVID 19 so far as reasonably practicable. We already have robust risk assessments and systems in place and we have reviewed all these for the return of all year groups and full classes of 30 children e.g. how best to keep classes separate at break and lunch times and at the start and end of the day, the organisation of space in the classroom and corridors, as well as lunchtime arrangements, handwashing facilities and cleaning routines.

To reduce mixing and transition, we will still have a **staggered start and end to the day** and the timings are below:

Drop Off- one parent/carer only.

Surname A - K - 8.40am - 8.50am

Surname L - Z - 8.50am - 9.00am

Please maintain a 2m distance from staff at drop off. If you have any queries or concerns please email the school office and the classteacher will respond.

Pick Up - one parent / carer only

Surname A - K - 3.00pm - 3.10pm

Surname L - Z - 3.10pm - 3.20pm

Please adhere to your allocated time slot and leave the school site immediately after collecting your child.

We have a **one way system** on the school site which will continue in September - please enter the playground via the Nursery gate and follow the one way system around the building and drop off at your child's classroom, then leave via the front gate next to the school office. To maintain social distancing please do not gather at the school gates.

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and areas of the yard/field zoned to allow for separation of class groups.

Control measures which promote good hand and respiratory hygiene as well as cleaning regimes will remain in place. We have additional outdoor handwash stations. Our cleaning staff will do additional cleaning routines in the middle of the day.

We will be using **class bubbles** for the majority of the day **but also using some whole year group bubbles** for parts of the day e.g. breakfast club and wraparound, out of school club. Maintaining distinct class groups/bubbles makes it easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate.

In the event of one positive test we will need parents to support us in reducing the possibility of an outbreak by engaging in the **NHS Test and Trace** process. Parents will need to be ready to book a test if their child develops symptoms and self-isolate if they are contacted by Test and Trace. Please inform us immediately of the results of a test. The Public Health Protection Team will then direct school to take the appropriate actions.

School Meals - we have chosen a **hot school meal** option (plus a vegetarian option if required). We plan to stagger lunches and use a mixture of the dining hall and classrooms to keep year group bubbles separate. Follow the link to see the menu:

[Hot Menu](#)

School Uniform - children will need to wear school uniform (including flat, black school shoes) and bring their P.E. kits to school.

Wraparound / Out of School Club will be operating from 2nd September for those parents requiring childcare before and after school. Booking forms for Breakfast Club have been sent out. If you have any queries please contact

Childrenschoicesouthridge@hotmail.com - for Breakfast Club and Wraparound

Southridgeoutofschoolclub@hotmail.co.uk - for Out of School Club in the mobile with Maureen and Darren.

On August 11th the government will do a final review of plans for full opening on 2nd September based on the infection rate in our local authority. If there are any further changes we will contact parents via Teachers2Parents.

In September staff will develop plans to **enhance home learning** (in the event of localised lockdowns such as the one in Leicester or partial closure in the event of confirmed cases within the school). We will also be developing **catch up programmes** for individual pupils, group or classes that may need this.



September Class organisation: A reminder that on our school website you will find information for new starters in [Reception](#) and [Nursery](#).

In addition on the '[Meet the Teacher](#)' page there are presentations which give you and your child information about their new class in September.

We will email a final reminder with the information above just before the return to school. We have had a successful partial return to school for most year groups and have implemented the procedures detailed above with bubbles of 15 children. We are confident that these arrangements will enable all children to return to school in a positive way in September. As a staff team we are really looking forward to the fresh start of a new school year!

As we end another busy school year I hope you all have an enjoyable break this summer holiday and time together as families. On behalf of the staff and governors I would like to thank you all for your support this year and for your patience and understanding. Thank you also for all your efforts in home learning - I am sure you will appreciate the break as well during the forthcoming summer holiday.

School will open again on Wednesday 2nd September for children and we look forward to seeing all our children in their new classes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hall

