



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020



Coronavirus - As community transmission levels increase we may find ourselves in the position of a staff or pupil testing positive and closing a class bubble to prevent further cases of coronavirus.

If someone in your child's class or bubble develops coronavirus symptoms they will:

- be sent home
- be advised to self-isolate
- need to book a test

Members of their household should also self-isolate until the individual has received their test result.

If the test is negative and they feel well enough, they may return to school.

What happens if there is a positive test in a class bubble?

If the test is positive parents or the staff member must inform school immediately

office@southridgefirst.org.uk . .

School then contacts the North Tyneside Public Health team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment to identify who has been in close contact with the person during the period they were infectious and advise on the actions required.

Staff and pupils identified as close contacts will be contacted via Teachers2Parents and may be sent home and advised to self-isolate for up to 14 days. (Other members of these people's households will not need to self-isolate, unless the person isolating develops symptoms.)

In addition, to ensure there is clear communication across the school we would also contact the parents of those children NOT affected (i.e. NOT close contacts) and advise them their child can attend school

Remote / Home Learning - When a whole class bubble has to close children will switch to remote/home learning.

If your child is in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 the class teacher will contact parents via Teachers2Parents.

If your child is in Year 2, 3 and 4 children will access learning via Google Classroom. The children in these year groups have been given log in details for NTLP - (our learning platform) where they can access Google Classroom. Class teachers in these year groups will be setting some simple homework tasks to help children familiarise themselves with the process in the event they have to switch to remote learning.



Curriculum - Our children have returned successfully to school and engaged very well with our recovery curriculum - the first priority being to ensure our children feel happy and safe, then to 'catch up', to teach the missed learning / curriculum objectives from the summer term (sometimes reinforced via homework consolidation tasks e.g. in maths) This is important, as there are key building blocks that need to be in place to ensure literacy and numeracy skills develop progressively and securely through First School. This is being done alongside the mental health and wellbeing support for the children.

Our children have been and are always well supported at home. We anticipate quickly moving to a more 'blended learning' approach as staff teach the curriculum objectives on this year's curriculum plan.

We have all been so proud of how well the children have adjusted to life in school under new restrictions and we continue to review the curriculum provision so that we are responsive to what the children need on a daily basis. There has already been some super learning taking place to excite and engage the children. Whilst restrictions do not facilitate external visits currently, we are doing our best to provide the children with experiences in school to inspire learning and ensure that our children remain 'safe, happy and learning'.



Thank you - for your generous donations for Harvest -today Whitley Bay Food Bank collected our donations and on Jeans for Genes day we raised £333.96.



Free School Meals - have your circumstances changed?

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all automatically receive the Government Funded Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). We encourage anyone, who believes they are eligible, to register for FSMs, even if your child would normally bring a packed lunch or qualifies for UIFSM, as this allows the school to claim additional much needed and valuable funding.

If you have not thought to apply before or your circumstances have changed, you can check if you are eligible and apply using their online portal via the below link. Just select How to apply, click 'Apply for free school meals', register or log in and just follow the instructions:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>

If it is confirmed that your child is entitled to free school meals, they will remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling they are in. There will be no need to inform your school or the council if your personal circumstances change.

Infant free school meals

Regardless of benefits or household earnings your child will be able to receive free school meals if they are in: Reception class, Year 1 or Year 2, however it is still worth notifying us if you meet the above criteria using the link above as the school will receive additional funding (Pupil Premium).

Also, if it is known that your child is eligible whilst in infant classes, they will continue to receive free school meals after they have left Year 2 even if by then your personal circumstances have changed.

If you are eligible for free school meals please apply online to:

<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>



Parents Evening -

Parent consultations will be taking place this half term via telephone conversations.

This is a chance to have a 10 minute conversation to find out how your child has settled into school this academic year. Dates and more information will follow next week.

Staff will endeavour to contact you on the date you are given and if necessary can follow up any missed telephone calls after half-term.

If you have changed your primary contact number recently, please email the school office with your new number.

Key Stage 2 Sports Festivals - Children in Year 3 and 4 will be unable to take part in inter-school sport festivals at external venues due to covid restrictions.

Instead, Year 4 will receive Archery coaching and Year 3 Tri-Golf coaching in school from Access Coaching over the next 4 weeks within their class bubbles. The coaches will be able to score the children comparing them against other schools and create a virtual school festival.

Diary dates -

October 12th /13th - Parent Consultations begin this week (via telephone)

October 19th /20th - Parent Consultations continue this week (via telephone)

October 23rd - Year 4 Egyptian Day (dress up as an Egyptian).

October 23rd - Year 1 Pirate Day (dress up as a Pirate).

October 23rd - Break up for half-term

November 2nd - Return to school