



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Newsletter 4: 23rd October 2015

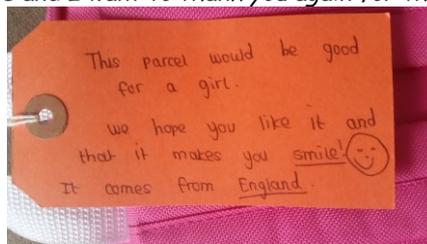


Thank you - As we approach the end of a busy half-term I would like to say thank you for joining us in school for the Autumn Assemblies and Harvest. The children performed a range of songs and poems and enjoyed sharing their work with you. Your very generous donations of tinned goods etc. were gratefully received by the Whitley Bay Foodbank - we filled the van that came to collect them!



Thank you also - for sending in items / backpacks for the 'Pack a Backpack' appeal to help child refugees who have fled Syria. We had a tremendous response - thank you for your kindness. Barbara Cornfoot, a Reception parent has kindly co-ordinated this appeal and sent the following message of thanks:

'101 backpacks and contents were donated by the parents and children. People have been very, very kind. Some of the children drew pictures and wrote letters to go in their backpacks which is particularly heartwarming. I delivered the backpacks to the care of a group called Refugee Aid Network based in Newcastle. They are working with a charity called Community Against Poverty charity number 1150092, whilst their own charitable status is being progressed. The backpacks are being taken to Kos (apparently the need is greater there with more women and children at this site than Calais) on November 27th where they will be distributed. 300 backpacks were collected in total meaning Southridge collected over a third of the total being taken. In some small way we will have made a huge difference to a child's life and I want to thank you again for the opportunity of doing so.'



School Council, Local Democracy Event - our Year 3 and 4 School Councillors attended a Local Democracy Event at Cobolt with Mrs Rosario where they discussed the importance of the school councillor role, wrote an action plan and took part in a variety of meet and greet games. They also worked with other schools on an anti - bullying project and created their own shield/crest.

North Tyneside's Got Talent - well, Southridge certainly has! Miss Walker, Miss McIntyre and Mrs McSwiney accompanied the Year 3 children to this event at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. Our children sang a medley of songs and were fantastic.

Year 2 - Trip to the Watch House Museum at Tynemouth - our Year 2 children looked at arrange of artefacts in the museum, completed art work and acted out a role play task. They also enjoyed a coastal walk.



Year 3 - Trip to Victoria Tunnel /Ouseburn Farm - On Monday Year 3 enjoyed a successful trip to Ouseburn Farm and the Victoria Tunnel. They were able to imagine being an evacuee in the countryside by helping on the farm, feeding the goats and sheep and rounding up the flocks. They participated in a 'Dig for Victory' workshop, making pots out of recycled newspaper and planting peas. The walk through the Victoria Tunnel enabled

them to experience first hand what a public shelter was like and the workshop helped them to delve in to the tunnel's history. When asked if they had enjoyed themselves the answer was a resounding YES! The teachers were proud of the children's behaviour, their questioning skills and their knowledge.

Year 4 - have embraced their **Egyptian** topic this term. Last Thursday they enjoyed a Dance Workshop with Laura Prince, Advisory Teacher for Dance. (www.lpdanceineducation.com)

On Friday Patrick Holland and Ross Wilkinson, Historians from the Museum's Department of Durham University came and delivered a range of activities as part of our Egyptian Day bringing the topic to life in the classroom. They were very impressed with our children, who certainly looked the part in costume.



Congratulations - to our Rugby World Cup team. 10 Year 4 pupils (6 boys and 4 girls) represented our school in the Whitley Bay Schools World Cup Tournament. The team were impressive, winning every match and returned to school with a fabulous gold trophy as overall winners. Mr Merryweather was delighted with the result but also impressed by the children's positive attitude and sportsmanship.

Staffing Update - Miss McGinty, our Nursery teacher will be leaving us at the end of term. We wish her every success as she moves on to new opportunities and thank her for her contribution to Southridge over the last 5 years. We will be advertising the post after half-term. Last week we appointed Mrs Jo Waller as a full time teaching assistant in Nursery and Mrs Deborah Scott will continue on a part-time basis.

Reminders:

Playground Safety - We are delighted to see an increase in the number of children travelling to school on their bikes and scooters following Bikeability sessions for Year 2 and Scootability training for Year 1. Our children are very careful in the mornings, pushing their bikes and scooters across our busy playground. Please ensure they follow the same procedure after school and **only ride bikes and scooters once they have left the playground.**

Parking - a reminder that there are parking restrictions in Cranleigh Place and Earnshaw Way which are being enforced by regular visits from traffic wardens, the camera van and Community Police Officer. Please be considerate of local residents when parking and if it is possible to walk to and from school please do so. It is very busy at the beginning and end of the school day and I know you will share my concern that we have recently had a number of 'near misses' with children and moving vehicles.

Finally, I hope that you have an enjoyable half-term break. The children have certainly worked hard in their new classes for the last eight weeks and are ready for a break. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd November when we return to school. After - School Clubs start immediately (2nd November) and run for a 5 week block.

Yours sincerely,

S. E. Hall.

'THANK YOU' to our PTA and parent helpers for an enjoyable disco.

Mrs S. Hall
Headteacher



Dates for your Diaries:



NOVEMBER	
2 nd	Return to School Clubs start this week for 5 weeks Year 1 – Scooter Skills – Mrs Aitken’s Class
9 th	HIGH BORRANS RESIDENTIAL MEETING for Year 4 parents – 5.30pm in school hall
12 th	Bags to School Collection – PTA – to be confirmed FILM CLUB – YR 3 and 4
13 th	CHILDREN IN NEED
16 th	Anti-Bullying Week begins
20 th	VE Day – Year 3 – children to come dressed as an evacuee /WW2 child
24 th	Year 1 & 2 Flu Vaccination Programme – all children eligible. Further information and consent forms to follow.
DECEMBER	
3 rd	CHRISTMAS DISCO 5 – 7.15PM
3 rd	Yr 4 Christmas Performance 2pm
4 th **	Christmas Fayre 4pm -6pm
8 th	Yr 3 Performance 2pm
9 th	Yr 2 Performance 2pm
11 th	Early Years Performance - Reception and Nursery – joint performance at 9.30am and 2pm. Reception parents may attend either the morning or afternoon performance. Nursery parents attend the performance when their child is usually in Nursery e.g. morning or afternoon.
15 th	Year 1 Christmas Performance
16 th	CHRISTMAS LUNCH
17 th	PARTY DAY
18 th	BREAK UP

January 4th – Staff return to School – Teacher Training Day

January 5th – Pupils return to school

**** New date added**