



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter 1 - 28th April 2017



The children have returned refreshed following the Easter holidays. We have a busy diary this term and look forward to talking to the children about all the exciting activities and events planned for this term.

Dodge Ball - Congratulations to Year 3. A group of Year 3 children took part in a Dodgeball Festival before the Easter holidays and came second. Zac was even the last man standing in a knockout game! They all played extremely well and were a credit to the school.

Easter Assemblies - The children performed to a packed hall, sang spring songs and shared Easter traditions and poems. The children were fabulous - it was a lovely end to the spring term.

After School Clubs - (Block 1) are running for 4 weeks this half-term before we break up. Letters allocating places have been sent out in school bags so please look out for them. A big thank you to Mrs Reilly in the office who does a fabulous job of all the associated paperwork and allocating places - it's a big job!

High Borrans Residential Visit - Our Year 4 pupils visited High Borrans this week for their annual residential visit - this was a fantastic opportunity for our oldest children and they had a wonderful time sampling new activities e.g. canoeing, ropes course, rock scrambling, mini peak walks etc. My sincere thanks go to Mrs McIntosh for organising the visit and to all our additional staff who leave their own families to accompany the children and enable this visit to go ahead.

E-Safety - a copy of our updated E-Safety policy is on the school website www.southridgefirst.org.uk and all the children are reminded of our E-Safety rules on a regular basis.

Healthy Schools - this term our school council will be leading a project to review our healthy school status. They will be encouraging everyone to drink plenty of water in the warmer, to bring healthy snacks for break time and also to make healthy choices at lunchtime. They will also be helping class teachers to organise our 'mile a day' campaign and helping our Sports Leaders to organise sports on the field at lunchtimes.

STEM Week - will take place on 12th - 16th June. The children will be 'off timetable' and taking part in projects based on science, technology, engineering and maths with lots of cross-curricular practical activities planned. To prepare for this week we will have a visit from 'Technology Tom' in assembly on Friday 9th June.

Local and General Elections - 4th May and 8th June - Last year when school had to close for two days during the Local Elections and European Referendum I requested a meeting with the council to look at us providing an alternative solution to the whole school closing on a polling day as this is very disruptive to the children's learning and for parents.



However, our school site is a designated polling station so we agreed that in future the Nursery only would be closed on an election day and used as the polling station and the rest of the school will be open and continue as normal. **However, please note on a polling day pupils will need to arrive and be collected via the front entrance** as the entrance to our main playground via the Nursery gate will be locked to ensure that voters can go in to Nursery to vote but not access the school site. Thank you for your understanding with this change to our normal procedures.

Class Photographs - On Monday 5th June Michelle Fowler will be in school taking class photographs. There will be no obligation to purchase these photographs but please notify your child's class teacher if you do not wish your child to be included.

Governor Update - during last half-term the governors continued monitoring teaching and learning in school, health and safety and were preparing for the new financial year by budget setting etc. and making improvements to the premises. Governors on the staffing committee also recruit staff. This term Mr Harrington returns to complete his teacher training, working across KS2. I am delighted to advise you that he will be joining the team as a member of the teaching staff in September.

Keeping Safe - in the sun. Hopefully the weather will improve soon as the children have returned this week in their winter coats! Once the good weather arrives please ensure that children have water bottles and sun hats in school. It would be helpful if all day sun screen protection could be applied before the children arrive at school.



Diary Dates - for the term are listed below to enable you to plan the term ahead. They will be added to as the term progresses and staff book trips etc. Please check them in the fortnightly newsletters.

Yours sincerely,

S. E. Hall

Mrs S. Hall
Headteacher

Please remember to name your child's school uniform and P.E. Kit - it helps us to return sweatshirts etc. to the correct child.

SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES

	May
1	BANK HOLIDAY - school closed
2	After School Clubs start
4	LOCAL ELECTIONS - School open to Reception, Year 1,2,3,4. CLOSED for Nursery and playgroup
8	Year 4 Skipping Festival (pm) Nursery Meeting for new parents 5pm (Nursery children starting September 2017)
11	Reception - Church Visit
15	Parents Maths Afternoon - current Year 2 and Year 3 parents. More information to follow.
16	Year 3 and 4 Tennis Tournament - Monkseaton High School 2 teams of 8
18	Year 1 Medieval Day Reception - Church Visit
19	Year 4 Handball Competition
24	Dental Screening - Reception and Year 1 who are 5 years old
25	Break up for Half-Term



26	TEACHER TRAINING DAY -
5	Return to school Class Photographs - Michelle Fowler
7	Year 3 Rugby Sessions start for 5 weeks Year 1 Trip to Newcastle - cathedral and castle t.b.c
8	GENERAL ELECTION - School open to Reception, Year 1,2,3,4. CLOSED for Nursery and playgroup
9	STEM LAUNCH -Technology Tom Assembly to launch STEM week the following Monday
12	Skipping Festival - Year 4 STEM WEEK
13	Year 1 Phonics Test Father's Day Gift Shop (afternoon)
14	Year 1 Phonics Test
15	Father's Day Gift Shop (morning) DISCO - Reception 3.30pm -4.30pm - Reception children may come to school in their disco clothes. Year 1 and 2 5.00pm - 6.00pm Year 3 and 4 6.15pm -7.15pm
19	'New to Reception' Meeting 5pm (Reception children starting September 2017)
22	Year 3 Trip to Victoria Tunnel
23	Year 3 VE Day Year 4 Trip to Beamish
26	SPORTS WEEK
29	Sports Day - 2pm - Reception, Year 1, afternoon Nursery
30	Sports Day 10.00 - Morning Nursery and Wraparound 2pm - Year 2,3, and 4

July	
4	Year 4 - Transition Day at Middle School Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 'Move Up Day' to visit new classes
5	Year 4 - Transition Day at Middle School
7	Annual Reports sent home
10	Year 3 Tag Rugby Festival Year 4 - Meet the Teacher Meeting - 5pm
11	Year 3 - Meet the Teacher Meeting - 5pm
12	Year 1 Meet the Teacher Meeting 5pm
13	Year 4 - Leaver's Service 2pm Year 2 - Meet the Teacher Meeting - 5pm
14	Summer Fair 3.30pm
17	Year 4 Activity Week
18	Year 4 Leavers Disco 6pm - 7.30pm
21	BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

