



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter 2: 27th January 2017



Faith and Diversity Day - Last week there was a real 'buzz' around school as the children explored other faiths and cultures. They worked in year groups and moved between the classrooms. This was an excellent way for them to develop their understanding, respect and tolerance of others and to appreciate the similarities and differences of other faiths.



Computing Workshops - Children in Mrs Schierig's class have taken part in a Computing workshop led by Claire Graham the I.T. Adviser. They will use and apply their new skills in their work across the curriculum and it is part of our transition preparation for middle school.

Pupil Targets - All children have individual targets in writing and mathematics in their books. Each child's progress is carefully assessed and monitored against year group expectations in the National Curriculum. There will be an opportunity to meet with the teacher and review these targets later this term during our Parents Evening.

Internet Safety Session - thank you to those of you who attended the Internet Safety workshop led by Claire Graham (ICT Adviser)

Children in school have regular lessons relating to e- safety and the safe use of all technology and on February 7th it is Safer Internet Day. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre are offering advice to parents regarding internet safety. To find out more, information is available at: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents. Other useful websites are <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents/> which has a range of activities for younger children to get involved in with their parents. <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide> provides advice and guidance to parents on using devices, such as smart phones and gaming devices safely and responsibly. The NSPCC website has information on the 'Share Aware' campaign which gives information on social networks and tips on how to speak with young people. The campaign targets parents and carers of children aged 8-12 and aims to encourage them to understand online safety and to have conversations with their children about keeping safe online. A copy of our E-Safety policy can be found on our school website.

Crystal Conundrum Day - A Maths Problem Solving Day - Year 3 and 4 had an exciting



The Crystal Conundrum day this week as part of an inspirational and motivating puzzle event delivered by Liz Bailey. The children worked in pairs to solve a series of logic activities, puzzles and spatial problems, earning crystals along the way. Finally the crystals were placed into the crystal fountain enabling a large floating crystal to be rescued, thus solving 'The Crystal Conundrum'.



Laing Art Gallery – this week it was 'Marvellous Monday' as we welcomed staff from the Laing Art gallery for an Assembly on the work of artist John Martin. The Year 3's followed up the assembly with a workshop on Roman Frescos.

Year 1 – access to the building. In February the two Year 1 classrooms will have external doors fitted to enable them to access the playground directly from their classrooms. This will reduce congestion in the corridors and cloakroom area and particularly at the end of the day when the children are handed over to their parents. At the moment it is very busy around the Library entrance and mobiles when Year 1, 3 and 4 all leave at the end of the day. It will also be easier for Mr Willcock and Miss Hepworth to liaise with Year 1 parents at the end of the day - they will let you know when to collect your child from the new doors.

Tax Facts session – thank you to Mrs Hughes (a Reception parent) who visited school with one of her colleagues from HMRC last week. They worked with Year 4 and delivered a simple workshop designed for primary pupils to explain our tax system. They heard about which goods are taxable and which services are paid for by the tax payer e.g. Health and Education. She also explained how when they start earning part of their wages fund these services.

Fencing in Year 4 – our Year 4 have also been working with Ross from Access Coaching to learn a new skill of Fencing. This has improved their co-ordination and concentration skills as well developing our school values of friendship, respect and kindness through the skills of fencing. A group of pupils will go on to take part in a Fencing Festival later this half-term with other schools in the Whitley Bay Partnership.

Gymnastics in Year 2 – Gail, a specialist coach, has been working with Year 2 on a Thursday afternoon to develop their gymnastic skills this term. After Easter some of our children will represent the school in the Key Steps Gymnastics Tournament.

Road Safety – a local resident contacted school this week having had a fright when reversing out of her drive near Valley Gardens with children passing by quickly on their bikes and scooters. Please take care on your journey to school.

Reminders:

Illness at school – If your child has sickness or diarrhoea he or she should not return to school until 48 hours after they were last ill. This reduces the spread of infection to other children and staff.

 **'Once a Week, Take a Peek'** – Please check your child for head lice on a regular basis. Within most schools at any time there will be a small number of children infected with head lice. We currently have reported cases in school but if you could inspect your child's hair at least once a week we can keep numbers to a minimum. If you think your child has head lice, please seek advice/treatment from your pharmacist, tie long hair up and continue to check for eggs regularly.

RSPB Birdwatch – The children may enjoy watching the birds in your garden for one hour during this Birdwatch weekend. More information can be found at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/>

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.



SPRING TERM DIARY DATES

January 28 th -30 th 30 th	Chinese New Year – Year of the Rooster RSPB Birdwatch
February 6 th 7 th 17 th 28 th	Year 1 and 4 – Zoo Lab Visit Safer Internet Day Break Up for half-term HALF – TERM Year 3 trip to Segedunum
March 1 st 2 nd 6 th and 8 th 9 th 10 th – 19 th 15 th 16 th 21 st or 22 nd 21 st 23 rd 24 th 29 th 30 th 30 th 7 th April 24 th April 24 th - 28 th April	Year 3 sing at The Lawns Care Home Mrs Rosario’s Class World Book Day – children are invited to come dressed as a character from their favourite book Pupil Progress Meetings / Parents Evening 3.45pm – 5.45pm Reception – Year 4 Morning Nursery – 9.30 to 11.15 am and 3.45pm to 5.45pm Afternoon Nursery – 1.00 to 3.15pm and 3.45pm to 5.45pm Reception Class – Church Visit (TP) British Science Week Dance Festival (Year 4) – Whitley Bay Playhouse Reception – Church Visit (HM) Be Safe Workshop – for Year 4 Afternoon – Mother’s Day Gift Shop Morning – Mother’s Day Gift Shop Red Nose Day – Comic Relief Easter Assembly – Reception, Yr 1 & 2 - 9am Easter Assembly – Year 2, 3 & 4 – 9am Please note only one adult per child as we have limited space in the hall. G Force Disco Yr 1 -2 5pm -6pm and Year 3 and 4 6.15pm -7.15pm Break up for Easter holidays SUMMER TERM Return to school for the Summer term Year 4 High Borrans Residential Visit PLEASE NOTE: 4th MAY SCHOOL OPEN FOR RECEPTION TO YEAR 4 ON 4th MAY (Election day) SCHOOL CLOSED FOR NURSERY 26th MAY – TEACHER TRAINING DAY SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ALL PUPILS (including Nursery)