



SOUTHRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,



Newsletter 1: 19th January 2018



Happy New Year - Happy New Year, I hope that you and your family have enjoyed the Christmas and New Year holiday. Last week it was lovely to hear all the Christmas and New Year stories from the children.

Curriculum Information - Please check your child's school bag for details of the topic being taught and a letter from the teacher. We hope this gives you an overview of your child's learning. 'Book Looks' and Pupil Progress Meetings take place later in the term, however if you have any queries you are welcome to make an appointment with the class teacher at any time.

After School Clubs - Thank you for all the replies for the After School Clubs at the end of last term. It is wonderful to see all the additional activities which started this week - thank you to Mrs Reilly and Mrs Lee in the office for organising these. If you are unsure, or have any queries, please see the office staff.

'Little Rescuers' - Last term a group of Year 4 children took part in a First Aid after school club with an instructor called Ruth. Little Rescuers empowers young children to be able to keep themselves and others safe, and equips them with first aid skills, for sometimes life challenging situations! It gives them the confidence to help themselves, family and friends in an emergency situation. In Assembly last week our children shared their new skills and knowledge with Year 3 and 4. We hope to run this club again for Year 4 next year.

LITTLE
RESCUERS



Faith and Diversity Workshops - Last Friday the children took part in a variety of activities looking at different faiths and cultures. They worked in mixed groups across the year groups exploring our shared values which compliments work they do in R.E. lessons and assemblies.



E-Safety Session for Parents and Carers - Thank you to those parents who this morning attended an interesting and informative session from Claire Graham our I.T. Adviser.

Arts Festival Week - After half-term we will be holding an Arts Festival for the children. We have a wide ranging timetable of activities going on around the school. Children in each year group will take part in a dance workshop and work with a visiting artist as well as enjoying watching our choir, violinists and recorder players in action. This week the children have been completing a piece of art work that will be framed and on **Tuesday 20th February each class will be holding an Art Exhibition after school. You are welcome to visit the classrooms from 3.30pm - 5.30pm, view all the children's work and purchase your own child's framed artwork -on sale for £5.** (Thank you to our PTA who are helping to frame them all.)

KS1 SATs presentation for parents - On Tuesday 13th March Mrs Myers and Miss McIntyre will deliver a presentation to parents on the new SATs tests which Year 2 children will sit in May. They will be offering a 9am session and repeating it at 5pm.



Our Playground Zones – Mrs McIntosh has been working with our Sports Leaders to help organise activities for the children at lunchtime. They have split our playground in to zones at lunchtime to try and encourage the children to be active and play collaboratively through a wider range of different activities. We have used our Sports Premium Grant to



purchase some sports equipment for lunchtime use and the children love playing active games with Ross from Access Coaching as well as using the cars / trains on the activity tables. We will ask our Sports Leaders to monitor this and 'tweak' it as the term progresses and when we have access to the field in the summer term.

YARD LUNCHTIME GAME'S TIMETABLE

	Supervised Football/mini games (Ross/access coach)	Supervised hockey game/dribbling	Hoops/balls and scoops	Imagination Box / Dressing up/ free play /climbing frame	Skipping ropes and ankle ball skipping
Monday	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1	Reception
Tuesday	Reception	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1
Wednesday	Year 1	Reception	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2
Thursday	Year 2	Year 1	Reception	Year 4	Year 3
Friday	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1	Reception	Year 4

Can you help? Last term we asked for donations of fancy dress items for the 'Imagination Box' on the playground. The children have had a fantastic time dressing up on the yard and engaging in imaginative play at lunchtime - it brings a smile to our faces watching Spiderman or a Princess run around the yard! Many of you kindly donated some fabulous costumes which fit our younger children well - thank you. **If you have any fancy dress costumes / items which would fit our older children we would be very grateful - our Year 3 and 4's are keen to join in but can't quite squeeze in to many of the costumes!**

Governor Visits - Last half-term our governors visited classrooms and talked to the children about Numeracy and Humanities as part of their monitoring. One of our governors also joined the Reception trip to Richardson Dees Park last term to gain an insight into their outdoor learning opportunities. Governors also monitor our dedicated funding for Pupil Premium and Sports Premium and liaise with staff to ensure that this meets the children's needs. They are also responsible for our building and have organised work to be completed during half-term to upgrade our internal doors in the school hall to meet fire safety regulations. We are also looking to replace our existing dining tables with folding dining tables and stools which should be helpful for Mr Bell when setting up the school hall for lunch every day.



Friends Of Southridge

'THANK YOU' to the PTA for all their fundraising efforts last term which will make a contribution towards the new lunch tables and help invest in our outdoor space - we are very grateful for their support.

Reminders:

Book Look - 6th and 7th February. Invitations will be in school bags inviting you to visit school so your child can show you their books. They have some wonderful work to be admired and shared with you. Please complete the reply slip and return to school.



Friends of Southridge - G - Force Disco - 22nd March. The P.T.A. are organising a disco that will be held in the school hall at 5 - 6pm for Year 1 and 2 and 6.15 -7.15pm for Year 3 and 4. Entry is £3.00 on the door.



The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - takes place on 27th -28th January. 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/>



Recording Pupil Absence - Please remember to telephone the school office if your child is absent so that the office staff can keep our registers up to date.

Diary Dates - Some diary dates for this half- term are set out below and will be added to as the term progresses. A full list of dates for the term have been sent out in school bags and placed on the calendar on our school website. I hope that this helps you plan your diaries for the term and gives you advance notice of activities and events. More information will be sent out over the coming weeks.

Contact Details - If you have changed your mobile phone number or moved house please notify the school office of your new contact details.

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	
23 rd	Zoo Lab Visit in school - Year 1 morning and Year 4 afternoon
24 th	Violin Performance 9.10am
26 th	Year 4 Fencing (3)
27 th - 29 th	RSPB Birdwatch weekend
31 st	Recorder Performance in Assembly - Year 2
FEBRUARY	
2 nd	Year 4 Fencing (4) am then Fencing Festival for a group of Year 4's - Monkseaton High (pm) Nursery - letters issued allocating places for September 2018
6 th	'Book Look' - KS1 9am and 3pm. Come along to the school hall, and have a look at your child's work. Safer Internet Day
7 th	'Book Look' - KS2 9am and 3pm. Come along to the school hall, and have a look at your child's work.
8 th	Skipping Festival - for a group of Year 2's 9.30 -12
9 th	Break up for half-term

