



Southdale Newsletter

August 2026

WELCOME

HELLO FROM MRS FISH!

Welcome all of our staff, children and families for what promises to be an exciting and memorable year ahead. A very special welcome is extended to the new families and our new P1s joining our school community—we are thrilled to have you with us.

We also welcome 3 new members of teaching staff to the team - Mrs Thomson in P1b, Mr Kerr in P4 and Miss Thomson in P6. They are delighted to be joining our school community! We also welcome back Mrs McLaughlin from her secondment and Mrs Buchanan from her career break.

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs Black welcomed a beautiful baby daughter during the summer holidays. Mum and baby are both doing well and enjoying this very special time together as a family. We know our whole school community will join us in sending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Black and her family on the arrival of their new little girl. 💖👶☀️

This year, we will be launching our SHINE school values, ensuring they are at the heart of everything we do as we continue to learn, grow and achieve together. There is so much to look forward to, with a wide range of enriching experiences, memorable events and opportunities for our children throughout the year. Most exciting of all, we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of Southdale opening its doors—a wonderful milestone that gives us the chance to reflect on our journey so far and look ahead with pride and ambition for the future. Here's to a fantastic year filled with success, happiness and unforgettable memories for everyone in our Southdale family.





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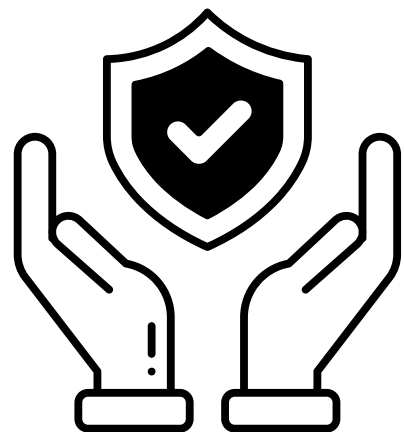
OUR SOUTHDALE EXPECTATIONS

A Reminder of Our School Expectations

At our school, we encourage all children to follow our three simple school expectations: Ready, Respectful and Safe.

- Ready – Ready to learn by arriving on time, being prepared and giving their best effort in lessons.
- Respectful – Showing kindness and consideration to everyone in our school community, and taking care of our school environment and property.
- Safe – Making sensible choices that help keep themselves and others safe both in the classroom and around the school.

These expectations help to create a positive, happy and successful learning environment for everyone. We would be grateful for your support in reinforcing these messages at home and celebrating when your child demonstrates them. Together, we can help all our children to be Ready, Respectful and Safe every day. 🌟





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INTRODUCING OUR NEW SHINE VALUES

Following lots of consultation and feedback from parents, staff and children, we are excited to launch our new SHINE School Values!

Self-belief
Honesty
Integrity
Nurture
Equity



At Southdale we "SHINE" together and reach for the stars!

These values have been chosen by our whole school community and represent the qualities we want to encourage and celebrate every day. We will introduce one SHINE value every fortnight and spend time exploring it through assemblies, class activities and discussions. This will help children understand what each value looks like in practice and how they can demonstrate it both in school and at home. We are looking forward to sharing this journey together and thank you for your continued support in helping our children to shine! ✨

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

At the start of each school year, we create our School Improvement Plan (SIP) based on careful self-evaluation and reflection on the previous session. The plan helps us build on our strengths and identify areas where we can continue to improve, while also reflecting both local and national priorities in education.

For 2026/27, our main priority is to continue developing an inclusive and engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all our learners and supports every child to achieve their full potential.

You can find our full School Improvement Plan on the school website, along with our Standards and Quality Report, which provides an annual overview of the school's achievements, strengths and key areas for further development. We encourage families to take a look and learn more about the exciting work taking place across our school. ✨



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SOUTHDALE IN THE PARK

☀️🎉 It's that time of year again! 🎉☀️

Our much-loved annual Southdale in the Park is just around the corner -
Saturday 29th August - 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Our amazing Parent Partnership Team is busy behind the scenes organising another fantastic day packed full of fun, laughter, and great memories for everyone to enjoy.

📅 Wristbands are on sale now and can also be purchased at school pick-up from our usual spot in the school office. £5 per person.

Be quick though — this event is always incredibly popular and sells out every year!

🍷 Bottle Stall Donations Needed! 🍷

We're also looking for donations for a new stall at the event. We would be grateful for any bottles you can spare, including shampoo, sauce, juice, alcohol, or any other bottled items. No opened or empty bottles please

Donations can be dropped off at the school office during the first two weeks after we return to school. Every donation helps and is hugely appreciated!

As always, thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see you there!





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PUPIL LEADERSHIP

August

At Southdale, we believe that pupil leadership plays a vital role in helping children develop confidence, responsibility and a sense of belonging within our school community. We are passionate about ensuring that children have meaningful opportunities to share their ideas, influence decision-making and make a positive difference to school life. We greatly value the contributions of our pupil leaders and use their views and experiences to help shape the future direction of our school.

Through our leadership opportunities, we aim to nurture the leaders of tomorrow – young people who are ready for work, ready for the world and ready to make a positive impact in their communities. We strive to develop confident, articulate learners who can express their opinions to a range of audiences and apply their leadership skills in real-life situations.

The purpose of our Pupil Leadership Groups is to give children the opportunity to develop leadership skills, take on responsibilities and ensure that their voices are heard. Pupils from Primary 2 to Primary 7 will have the opportunity to contribute to our school improvement journey by participating in a Pupil Leadership Group once a fortnight.

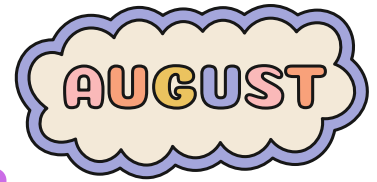
Our pupils helped us to decide on our Pupil Leadership Groups for this year, which will be:

- Equity Group (Dalebay)
- Outdoor Learning
- Inclusion Group
- 1+2 (French)
- Literacy - Reading Schools Award
- HWB
- Road Safety
- Sports Leaders





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P7 LEADERSHIP

Our P7 Lead Learners, House Captains and Vice House Captains play an important role in helping to lead and represent our school. These pupils are excellent role models who demonstrate our school values every day through their positive attitude, responsibility and commitment to school life. Throughout the year, they will take on a range of leadership opportunities, including supporting school events, leading assemblies, welcoming visitors and encouraging younger pupils. They will also work closely with staff and their peers to share ideas, gather pupil voice and help make Southdale the best it can be. Our Lead Learner, House Captains and Vice House Captains for this next years are:

Lead Learners - Lacey D
Stags House Captain - Sarah B
Stags Vice House Captain - Cailyn C
The Falcons House Captain - Oscar V
The Falcons Vice House Captain - Greg M
The Owls House Captain - Emmy D
The Owls Vice House Captain - Ben H
The Wolves House Captain - Ben C
The Wolves Vice House Captain - Jessica F

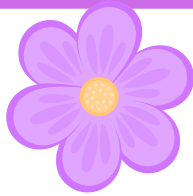


In addition, all other P7 pupils will have the opportunity to take on a leadership role within the school. Some of these roles include Class Ambassadors, Peer Mediators, Lunch Ambassadors and a range of other responsibilities that help support our school community.



By providing leadership opportunities for every P7 pupil, we aim to build confidence, develop important life skills and ensure that all of our learners have the chance to make a meaningful contribution to school life. We are incredibly proud of our young leaders and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make across the school community this year. ✨





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PARENT PARTNERSHIP

We are always looking for ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school, and we would love to welcome new members to our Parent Partnership Group. Our Parent Partnership Group is a friendly and supportive group of parents and carers from across the school who work together with staff to support school improvement, share ideas and help organise fundraising activities that benefit all of our children. Joining the Parent Council is a great way to become more involved in school life, meet other parents and have a voice in helping shape the future of our school.

Meetings take place once each term, following our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and everyone is welcome. Whether you can attend regularly or simply want to find out more, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Parent Council Meeting Dates:

- AGM - Tuesday 1st September - 6.30pm
- Meeting 1 - Thursday 19th November - 6.30pm
- Meeting 2 - Tuesday 12th January - 6.30pm
- Meeting 3 - Tuesday 9th March - 6.30pm
- Meeting 4 - Wednesday 26th May - 6.30pm

We look forward to welcoming new faces and working together to continue making Southdale a fantastic place for our children to learn and grow. 🌟

DYW WEEK

As part of our commitment to helping children learn about the world of work, we will be hosting a Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Week beginning 12th October. Throughout the week, we hope to provide our pupils with opportunities to learn about a wide range of careers and be inspired by the different pathways and experiences that lead to them.

We are looking for parents, carers and family members who would be willing to volunteer some time to speak to classes about their job, career journey or area of expertise. Whether you work in healthcare, construction, business, hospitality, emergency services, technology, the arts, or any other profession, we would love to hear from you. You are welcome to bring along any props, equipment or small displays that would help bring your role to life for the children.

We will be sending out an email asking you to sign up if you are able to support in any way. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Opportunities like these help broaden our children's horizons and inspire them to think about the many exciting possibilities for their future. 🌟



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UNCRC AUGUST FOCUS



In August we will be focusing on 2 UNCRC articles

Article 15 – I have the right to meet with friends and join groups

Article 27 – I have the right to have a proper home, food and clothing

Through assemblies, classroom discussions and learning activities, we will be helping children to understand the importance of belonging, friendship and being part of a positive community where everyone feels valued and included. We will also explore how basic needs such as a safe home, nutritious food and appropriate clothing help children to thrive, while encouraging empathy, gratitude and an awareness of how we can support others. By focusing on these rights, we aim to strengthen our school values and help our pupils become caring, respectful and responsible citizens.

HWB AUGUST FOCUS

This month, our whole-school GIRFEC wellbeing indicator focus is INCLUDED.

We will be working with our classes to help them understand the importance of overcoming inequalities and ensuring that everyone feels accepted, respected and valued. Through our learning, assemblies and wider school experiences, we will explore how we can create a community where every child feels a sense of belonging within their family, school and wider community. We will encourage children to celebrate differences, show kindness and respect, and recognise that everyone has an important part to play in making Southdale a welcoming and inclusive place where all can thrive.

NON PRESCRIPTION SUNCREAM

As we hope to continue to enjoy the warmer weather, we kindly ask parents/carers to refer to West Lothian Council's guidance on the use of non-prescription sun cream in schools, available here:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/78753/Guidance-for-use-of-Non-Prescription-Sun-Cream-Soaps-and-Hand-Lotions>

To help keep children protected during sunny days, parents/carers who wish their child to use non-prescription sun cream during the school day should complete and return Appendix 1 – Request for the Use of Non-Prescription Sun Cream. Thank you for your support in helping us ensure children can enjoy outdoor learning and play safely. ☀️



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FAMILY LEARNING

We are looking forward to offering a range of exciting Family Engagement opportunities throughout the year. These events provide a wonderful chance for parents and carers to join their child in school and gain an insight into the learning experiences taking place across Southdale.

We will send out a Family Learning Calendar with more information about each event later this term. In the meantime, please save the dates below in your diary.

- Thursday 3rd September - Meet the Teacher - 6.00pm-7.00pm
- Friday 16th October - DYW Sharing the Learning - 11.00am - 12.00pm
- Wednesday 11th November - Parent Consultations - 4.00pm - 7.00pm
- Thursday 12th November - Parent Consultations - 3.30pm - 6.00pm
- Tuesday 19th January - Sharing the Learning Jotters - 2.15pm - 3.00pm
- Wednesday 28th April - Parent Consultations - 4.00pm - 7.00pm
- Thursday 29th April - Parent Consultations - 3.30pm - 6.00pm

COMMUNICATION

To keep up to date with what is happening in school, like our school Facebook page here

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567378604187>

Can we ask that you ensure that the school office has an up to date email address for you to ensure you do not miss any important communication. Any questions or concerns, please contact the class teacher through the school office first. If you need to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team then please contact the member below for your child's class

School Office Telephone - 01506 284300

N - P3 - Mrs Fish
P3/4 - P7 - Mrs Stewart

EMAIL ADDRESS:

wlsouthdale-ps@westlothian.org.uk

WEBSITE:

<https://southdaleprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567378604187>





AUGUST

- 10th - Inservice 1 - school and ELC closed
- 11th - Inservice 2 - school and ELC closed
- 12th - Back to school for school and ELC
- 14th - Assembly - Welcome Back
- 20th - SLT drop in
- 21st - Assembly - Introduction to Value 1
- 27th - Nursery Blether
- 28th - Dress Down Day
- 28th - Pupil Leadership Groups
- 29th - Southdale in the Park

SEPTEMBER

- 1st - 6.30pm - Parent Partnership AGM
- 3rd - Meet the Teacher
- 4th - Assembly - Introduction to Value 2
- 7th - 9th - P7 @ Camp
- 11th - Pupil Leadership Groups
- 18th - Assembly - Introduction to Value 3
- 21st - Holiday for school and ELC
- 22nd - Maths Week Scotland
- 25th - Dress Down Day
- 25th - Pupil Leadership Groups
- 30th - 6.00pm - HWB Family Champ Meeting

OCTOBER

- 2nd - Introduction to Value 4
- 9th - House Day
- 12th - ELC Photographs
- 12th - DYW - My Future Me week
- 15th - S1 Open Evening @ Armadale Academy
- 16th - 9.30am - DYW Coffee Morning
- 16th - 11.00am - DYW Sharing the Learning
- 19th - 25th - Holiday for school and ELC
- 26th - Inservice day - school and ELC closed
- 29th - 2.00pm - ELC stay & Play
- 29th - 5.00pm - 6.15pm - P1 - P4 Halloween Disco
- 29th - 6.45pm - 8.00pm - P5 - P7 Halloween Disco
- 30th - Dress Down Day
- 30th - P7 @ Armadale Academy
- 30th - Assembly - Introduction to Value 5