



Southdale Newsletter

October 2026



HELLO FROM MRS FISH!

Welcome to our October Newsletter! As we come to the end of a busy and successful Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, families and staff for all of their hard work and support. It has been wonderful to see our pupils settling into their new classes, embracing new learning opportunities and demonstrating our school values each day. We have already celebrated many achievements both in and out of school, from sporting successes and wider achievements to the fantastic learning taking place in our classrooms. I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown by our children. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break and has the chance to rest, relax and spend time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term filled with learning, opportunities and successes.



SOUTHDALE SHOUTOUTS

Our next Pupil Shout Out will take place at the end of October, so if you would like to nominate your child and share an achievement we can celebrate together, please complete the short form below. We can't wait to hear more of the amazing things our pupils have been up to! ✨

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/hHTGbWxiPS>





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RESPECT



At Southdale Primary, we are proud of the positive relationships we have with our families and wider school community. Our staff work hard every day to provide the best possible support and learning experiences for our children, and we ask that all communication with staff is respectful and courteous. We will not tolerate abusive, aggressive or threatening behaviour towards any member of staff, whether this occurs face to face, over the telephone, via email or through social media.

We recognise that, from time to time, parents and carers may have concerns or questions. We encourage you to contact the school directly so that we can listen, work together and resolve issues in a positive and constructive way. In the spirit of our school values, expectations and positive relationships, we ask that you continue to be kind, respectful and empathetic towards everyone in our school community.

While we understand that the school cannot control personal or informal social media groups, we kindly ask that individual children, families and staff are never named or discussed online. This is rarely helpful and can cause considerable distress for those involved. By working together with kindness, respect and understanding, we can continue to create a safe, positive and welcoming environment for everyone. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.





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October

FINANCIAL EDUCATION SESSIONS

This month, our P6, P6/7 and P7 classes will be taking part in a series of virtual financial education workshops delivered by Money Advice Scotland. Funded by the Scottish Government, these engaging sessions help children develop important life skills and build their understanding of money management. Topics include budgeting, shopping offers, bills, and making payments, all presented in a fun and age-appropriate way. We look forward to our pupils taking part and developing their confidence and knowledge around financial wellbeing. 💰✨



DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

In Scotland, Dyslexia Awareness Week 2026 will take place from 28 September to 4 October 2026, led by Dyslexia Scotland. During Dyslexia Awareness Week, we will be celebrating the many strengths, talents and achievements of children with dyslexia. This week provides an opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of dyslexia, challenge misconceptions and promote an inclusive learning environment where every child can thrive. We encourage our school community to learn more about dyslexia and recognise the different ways people learn and achieve

LEARN AND GROW



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PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Our first Parent Consultation evenings of the session will take place in November. This is a valuable opportunity to visit the school, meet your child's class teacher, and discuss their progress, achievements, and next steps in learning. The school office will shortly send out a link for families to book appointments online. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend and find out how their child is getting on at school.

We are also delighted to be hosting our Scholastic Book Fair during Parent Consultation week, giving children and families the chance to browse and purchase some fantastic new books while supporting the school. We look forward to welcoming you to Southdale! 📚✨

NYCOS MUSIC SESSIONS

We are delighted to welcome NYCOS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) back to Southdale this term. Our P4 and P5 pupils will be taking part in a block of six weekly music sessions, where they will have the opportunity to develop their singing skills, build confidence, and experience the joy of making music together. We are looking forward to hearing the children's wonderful singing and seeing their enthusiasm grow throughout the programme! 🎵✨

HALLOWEEN DISCOS

Our Parent Partnership will be organising our annual Halloween Discos at the end of the month. This is always a fantastic event and a great opportunity for children to have fun with their friends and celebrate together. We are delighted that this event will be free of charge for all children. Further information, including dates, times and arrangements, will be shared with families shortly. We would like to thank our Parent Partnership for their continued support in making events like this possible for our school community. 🧡❤️



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DYW WEEK

We are delighted to be celebrating Developing the Young Workforce Week from Monday 12th to Friday 16th October and would love the support of our parents, carers and wider community.

Throughout the week, we are inviting parents, family members and friends to visit classes and share information about their profession or career journey with our pupils. This is a fantastic opportunity to inspire children and help them make real-life connections between their learning and the world of work.

We will round off the week with a Partnership Coffee Morning on Friday 16th October (9.30am - 10.30am), where local businesses, employers and community partners will host information stalls showcasing their work. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for a coffee, browse the stalls and find out more about the opportunities available within our local community before visiting their child's classroom for a Sharing the Learning session (11.00am-11.45am).

To add to the fun, on Friday 16th October, children are invited to come dressed as their "Future Me", showcasing a career they may be interested in pursuing. Staff are also invited to join in by dressing up as what they would have chosen to be if they weren't teachers, PSWs, kitchen staff etc! We look forward to an exciting week of inspiration, aspiration and community partnership.

If you are able to visit the school at any point during the week to speak to the children about your career, we would be delighted to hear from you. Whether you work in business, healthcare, construction, retail, public services, the arts, technology or any other field, your experiences can help inspire our young people and broaden their understanding of future career opportunities. Please complete the short form below and a member of staff will be in touch closer to the time to arrange your visit. We greatly appreciate your support in helping make our Developing the Young Workforce Week a memorable and inspiring experience for all.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/eRG6U5K2U5>





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UNCRC OCTOBER FOCUS



In October we will be focusing on 2 UNCRC articles

Article 16 – I have the right to keep some things private. This means children have the right to their own thoughts, feelings, personal information and belongings being respected. We discussed how privacy helps us feel safe, valued and trusted, while also understanding that there are times when trusted adults may need to help keep us safe. By respecting each other's privacy, we show kindness, respect and consideration for everyone in our school community.

Article 31 – I have the right to rest, relax and play. At Southdale, we recognise that play is an important part of children's learning, wellbeing and development. Through opportunities to play, be creative, spend time with friends and enjoy hobbies and interests, children build confidence, develop new skills and learn about the world around them. We encourage all children to make time for fun, rest and activities that help them feel happy, healthy and balanced. 🌟🎨⚽📚

HWB OCTOBER FOCUS

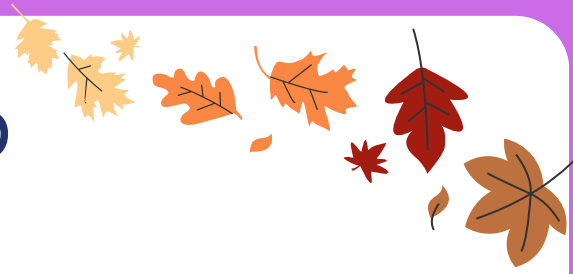
This month, our whole-school GIRFEC wellbeing indicator focus is **HEALTHY**.

At Southdale, we want all children to be Healthy. This means looking after both our physical and mental wellbeing, making healthy choices and knowing where to go for support when we need it. We encourage children to stay active, eat well, get enough rest and talk about their feelings. Through learning, play and positive relationships, we help children develop the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy, happy and safe lives both now and in the future. 🌟🏃🍎😊





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OUR CARPARK

The safety of our children is always our highest priority. We would like to remind all parents and carers that the school car park is not available for nursery or school drop-off and pick-up, unless this has been arranged directly with the school. We are fortunate to have an agreement with Asda, allowing families to use their car park and walk the short distance to Southdale Primary School. This helps to keep traffic away from our school grounds and ensures a safer environment for all children and families.

Recently, our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) have been working alongside Mr McGowan to monitor road safety around the school. They were shocked by the number of vehicles unnecessarily entering and parking in the school car park, creating avoidable risks for pupils arriving at and leaving school.

We kindly ask all families to support us by using alternative parking arrangements and avoiding the school car park unless prior permission has been granted. By working together, we can ensure that Southdale remains a safe place for all of our children.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.



ELECTRIC SCOOTER SAFETY

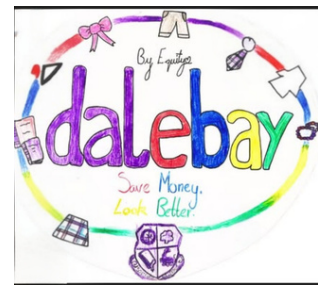
We would like to ask for the support of all families regarding the use of electric scooters. A number of our older pupils have been seen riding electric scooters in an unsafe manner on the school grounds and on the roads surrounding the school. We know that children enjoy using scooters to travel to and from school; however, safety must always come first. Unsafe use of scooters puts not only the rider at risk, but also other children, families and members of our community. To help raise awareness and promote safe choices, we will be working closely with the Community Police over the coming weeks. Together, we will be reinforcing important safety messages and supporting our children to understand their responsibilities when using scooters and other wheeled transport. We would appreciate parents and carers discussing this with their children to help ensure that everyone can travel to and from Southdale safely. 





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DALEBAY



We are delighted to share that Dalebay will be open every Wednesday from 3.10pm to 3.45pm. There is a fantastic range of dress-up costumes available for children to browse and enjoy, just in time for Halloween.

Our recent Together Time provided the perfect opportunity for members of the Equity Group to model some of the fabulous costumes on offer, much to the delight of the children. We look forward to welcoming families along and hope everyone enjoys exploring the wonderful selection available!

Our Equity Improvement Group is delighted to be hosting a Dalebay Car Boot Sale on Sunday 11th October 2026 from 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Come along and browse a fantastic selection of pre-loved bargains, including clothes, books, toys and home goods. This is a wonderful opportunity to shop sustainably, save money and support our school community at the same time.

If you are interested in selling your own items, stalls are available for £15. To book a stall, please email
eileen.mcconnell@westlothian.org.uk.

We hope to see lots of Southdale families there for an enjoyable afternoon of shopping, reusing and supporting our community! ♡🛒♻️





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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
P4 - 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>



OCTOBER

- 1st - P7 Bikeability
- 8th - P7 Bikeability
- 9th - House Day
- 12th - ELC Photographs
- 12th - DYW - My Future Me week
- 14th - P7 Bikeability
- 15th - School Photographs
- 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
- 28th - P4 & P4/5 - NYCOS
- 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

NOVEMBER

- 4th - 9.00am - SLT drop in
- 4th - P4 & P4/5 - NYCOS
- 9th - Culture Week
- 10th - Flu vaccinations
- 11th - P4 & P4/5 - NYCOS
- 11th - 4.00pm - 7.00pm - Parent Consultations - Book Fair in school
- 12th - 8.00am - ELC Blether
- 12th - 3.30pm - 6.00pm - Parent Consultations - Book Fair in school
- 13th - Diabetes Day
- 16th - Road Safety Week & Anti-Bullying Week
- 17th - Numeracy Mini Champs Meeting
- 18th - P4 & P4/5 - NYCOS
- 19th - 6.30pm - Parent Partnership meeting
- 20th - Leadership Groups
- 25th - P4 & P4/5 - NYCOS
- 25th - P1 & P7 BuddyTime
- 26th - Financial Education Workshops for P6, P6/7 & P7
- 27th - Dress Down Day