Charity delivers free tennis equipment to Tees Valley primary schools

Friday 6 November, 2026

Tees Valley Tennis Foundation has delivered free tennis equipment to an initial 12 primary schools across Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar through its First Serve project.

Each school received a mini tennis net, four junior rackets and suitable balls for use in PE lessons, playtimes and before and after school activities. Further deliveries across the Tees Valley are planned over the coming months, including early 2027.

First Serve aims to give more children the chance to pick up a racket, try tennis and play regularly. Schools have already identified uses for the equipment, from supporting pupil Sports Leaders organising playground games to adding activities to wraparound care.

Lisa Lowe, trustee of Tees Valley Tennis Foundation, said: "We've had a really encouraging response from schools, with staff already identifying ways to use the equipment. We hope First Serve will help more children discover tennis and give them opportunities to keep playing."

The project extends the charity's work supporting young people and their families where cost is a barrier to tennis or padel. Funding from Karbon Homes and an equipment donation from Net World Sports have helped the Foundation reach more local schools.

Alongside First Serve, applications remain open for the Foundation's individual support. This is available to young people aged 8–18 living in the TS postcode area where cost is a barrier to starting or continuing tennis or padel.

Depending on individual circumstances, support can include help with coaching, equipment, travel and competition costs. Parents and carers can find out more and apply at https://www.tvtf.org.uk/apply/.

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